

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2014

TITLE OF PAPER : **SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

COURSE CODE : **SOC301**

TIME ALLOWED : **THREE (3) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS:
TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM
SECTION A, AND TWO (2)
QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.**
2. **ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL
MARKS**

TOTAL MARKS: 100

**THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS
BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

MAIN EXAMINATION – MAY 2014

SOC 301: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SECTION A:

Answer TWO questions from this section

1. Critically discuss the view that the development of sociological theory was a mix of Enlightenment and counter-Enlightenment ideas.
2. Evaluate Auguste Comte's formulation of sociological methods with specific reference to experimentation, comparison, and historical method.
3. Drawing on Emile Durkheim's analysis of social facts, explain how social phenomena can be investigated scientifically. Provide appropriate examples to support your arguments.
4. Define the term rationality, and critically discuss the different types of rationality according to Max Weber.

SECTION B:

Answer TWO questions from this section

5. Provide an assessment of the main assumptions of the functionalist theory of stratification.
6. To what extent would you agree with Ralf Dahrendorf's central thesis that social conflicts are always caused by the differential distribution of authority?
7. Discuss the symbolic interactionist view that human beings' capacity for thought must be shaped and refined in the process of social interaction.
8. Using appropriate examples, critically discuss Jean Baudrillard's view that contemporary societies are characterized by loss of symbolic exchange and an increase in simulations.