

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER – JULY 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE : SOC301

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS:
TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM EACH
SECTION.**

**2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL
MARKS**

3. TOTAL MARKS: 100

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

SOC301: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SECTION A

Answer TWO questions from this section.

1. How did the conservative reaction to the Enlightenment contribute to the rise of sociology as an academic discipline in the nineteenth century?
2. Distinguish between materialism and idealism, and critically discuss Karl Marx's use of the term dialectic in his analysis of the historical development of society.
3. Define the term *verstehen* and critically discuss the steps involved in conducting a sociological analysis of social action according to Max Weber.
4. In his book, *The Rules of Sociological Method*, Emile Durkheim asserts that the first and most basic rule is to consider social facts as things. Discuss this statement using examples.

SECTION B

Answer TWO questions from this section.

5. Using examples, discuss the relationship between the cultural system and the social system in Talcott Parsons's general action system.
6. Critically discuss the sociological significance of conflict with specific reference to Lewis Coser's analysis of the functions of social conflict.
7. Define Harold Garfinkel's concept of accounts, and explain why ethnomethodologists are interested in analysing people's accounts and the ways these accounts are presented to others.
8. Discuss Jean Baudrillard's view that simulation has replaced production and that contemporary culture has gone beyond the classical Marxist *use value/exchange value* distinction.