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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0056 ZA

BSc degrees and Diplomas for Graduates in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences, the Diploma in Economics and Access Route for Students in the External Programme

Comparative Social Structures and Institutions

Tuesday, 6 June 2006 : 10.00am to 1.00pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** of the following **FOURTEEN** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

PLEASE TURN OVER

1. Account for and critically assess Wittfogel's contention that agrarian despotisms were free of class conflict.
2. Discuss the reasons why limited forms of democracy emerged in some city states.
3. Could any of the 'great revolutions' have been predicted in advance?
4. How can we explain the development of feudalism in the West and its eventual decline?
5. Critically evaluate the view that nationalism 'invents' nations.
6. How can we explain the resurgence of ethnic politics today?
7. Why does religious fundamentalism appear to be expanding so rapidly today?
8. Critically evaluate Marx's theory of capitalist development.
9. Assess the main causes of the demise of **either** ancient slavery **or** modern plantation slavery.
10. To what extent is the caste system a unique form of social stratification?
11. How important is class to understanding social inequality today?
12. Critically assess the effects of industrialisation on the family. Illustrate your answer in relation to **any one** society.
13. How useful is it to distinguish between 'modern' and 'traditional' forms of society?
14. What are the main similarities and differences between capitalist and socialist industrial societies?

END OF PAPER