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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0057 ZB

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

Social Policy

Tuesday, 16 May 2006 : 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **FOUR** of the following **THIRTEEN** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

PLEASE TURN OVER

1. What reasons are usually given to support the argument that Social Policy is not an academic discipline? How valid do you find them?
2. “‘Absolute” theories of poverty may prevent destitution but “relative” theories encourage greater equality’. Discuss.
3. ‘Social citizenship should not be about obligations, just social rights’. Discuss.
4. If welfare states are ‘about’ meeting universal human needs for shelter, income, health care and so on, to what extent could attention to this ‘collectivist’ understanding of welfare risk ignoring the claims of ‘difference’?
5. ‘Though once thought to be outdated, social democratic ideologies of welfare are now showing signs of renewal’. Discuss.
6. ‘Recent history appears to confirm that New Right thinkers were right about welfare’. Discuss.
7. It is generally agreed that feminist thinking had made a key contribution to our understanding of the role and nature of welfare states. What is this contribution and why has it been so influential?
8. Why does it seem to be the case that minority ethnic populations are treated less fairly by welfare state institutions than majority populations?
9. ‘The term “postmodern”, when applied to welfare states, essentially means the fragmentation of state welfare structures into a “mixed economy of welfare”’. Discuss.
10. Why are liberal residual welfare regimes held to have higher levels of poverty than other welfare regime types?
11. ‘Social democratic welfare regimes are thought to be more egalitarian than Conservative Corporatist regime types.’ Discuss.
12. ‘The role of the family in East and South East Asian welfare systems has been exaggerated’. Discuss.
13. ‘When considering the needs of developing countries, it is inappropriate to think in terms of Western forms of welfare’. Discuss.

END OF PAPER