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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0033 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

Organisation Theory

Wednesday, 7 June 2006 : 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **FOUR** of the following **SIXTEEN** questions: **ONE** from Section A, **ONE** from Section B, **ONE** from Section C and **ONE** from Section D. All questions carry equal marks.

PLEASE TURN OVER

SECTION A

Answer **one** question from this section.

1. Has it been the case that scientific management principles have been adopted more completely in some countries than in others? If so, why? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What are the characteristics of 'Fordist' mass production? What problems do these characteristics generate and how can these be addressed?
3. 'As a way of understanding the behaviour of people in organisations, the concept of organisational culture is more of a hindrance than a help'. Discuss.
4. Are effective organisations always those that achieve a fit between their structure and the environment?

SECTION B

Answer **one** question from this section.

5. What was distinctive about Braverman's account of work relations, and what prompted early scepticism of his thesis?
6. What part do sexual stereotypes play in gender discrimination within organisations?
7. In what ways has the growing interest in discourse and subjectivity increased our understanding of organisations and how change occurs within them?
8. The analysis of organisations through multiple paradigms is more likely to result in confusion than improved understanding. Discuss.

PLEASE TURN OVER

SECTION C

Answer **one** question from this section.

9. Drawing on theories introduced in the course, especially those from economics, discuss the main advantages of markets over hierarchies and networks.
10. According to population ecologists, why do some organisations in a community survive and others die out?
11. Do some national business systems result in higher economic performance than others and if so why? Give reasons for your answer.
12. How have institutional theorists sought to understand change and transformation within organisational fields?

SECTION D

Answer **one** question from this section.

13. What guidance does the theory and research into national culture offer managers working around the world for global, multinational corporations?
14. How far should we agree with the view that economic globalisation is an unstoppable force that will ultimately lead to the full convergence of human resource management practices around the world?
15. Reports of Japan's economic liberalisation and moves to adopt American-style management practices are greatly exaggerated. Discuss.
16. What is distinctive about the Italian model of flexible specialisation? How transferable is this model to other national contexts?

END OF PAPER