

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.A.

MES P110: Problems of Social Explanation

COURSE CODE : MESTP110

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 06-MAY-03

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

MES P110 PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL EXPLANATION

- Answer **TWO** questions.
- Do **NOT** answer a question on the topic of your assessed essay.
- Do **NOT** draw substantially on the same material for more than one question.

1. *Either* (a) Is Mill right to compare the social sciences to the ‘inexact’ natural sciences?

 Or (b) Can human actions be explained in the same way as other events in the natural order?
2. ‘Understanding a social phenomenon may be compared to learning a language, grasping the rules of a game, or interpreting a literary text.’ Discuss.
3. Do decision theory and game theory provide an adequate basis for social explanation?
4. What distinguishes functional explanation in social theory? What, if anything, legitimates it?
5. *Either* (a) Can social explanation achieve value-freedom?

 Or (b) ‘To suggest that social science should aim at human freedom is to confuse its goals with those of moral and political theory.’ Discuss.
6. Can facts about social groups be reduced to facts about individuals?
7. Are there cases in which the understanding of an alien culture requires that we attribute to it standards of rationality inconsistent with our own?
8. ‘The aim of the historian is to determine what really happened.’ Is this view too simple?

END OF PAPER