



MASENO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2012/2013

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY
(HOMA BAY CAMPUS)

ASO 801: PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Date: 20th July, 2013

Time: 9.00 – 12.00 noon

**ASO 801: PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER
(HOMA BAY CAMPUS)**

Answer any THREE questions.

1. Discuss the descriptive and prescriptive aspects of the philosophy of social sciences. **(20 Marks)**
2. Drawing examples from **TWO** social sciences of your choice, discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the view that social sciences uncover facts and identify mechanisms. **(20 Marks)**
3. Outline the naturalist argument of the unity of the scientific method and discuss in detail and with examples whether or not any **THREE** social sciences of your choice are scientific. **(20 Marks)**
4. Discuss by referring to a social science of your choice the extent to which you agree or disagree with the view that there are law-like causal regularities that govern social phenomena. **(20 Marks)**
5. 'Value neutrality in the social sciences is impossible'. Explain the extent to which you agree or disagree with this observation using sociology and political science. **(20 Marks)**
6. Discuss, basing on any **TWO** social sciences, whether or not the social sciences unearth facts about individuals or social entities. **(20 Marks)**