

The  
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**UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**  
**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**  
**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**BDS 101: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND CHANGE**

**DATE: 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026**

**DURATION: 2 HOURS**

**MAXIMUM MARKS: 70**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

## QUESTION ONE

**Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

Kisiwa has been described by different observers in incompatible ways. To some, it appears stable: family names still matter, land is passed down along familiar lines, and social obligations continue to organize everyday life. To others, it feels unsettled. Young people move frequently between rural homesteads and urban peripheries, combining short-term employment, digital work, and informal trade. Education is widely valued, yet its returns vary sharply across households and social groups.

Public institutions are present, but their influence is uneven. Schools expand literacy and credentials while quietly sorting students through language, discipline, and expectations. Religious organizations offer moral frameworks that emphasize solidarity, even as they accommodate widening differences in income and lifestyle. Local governance structures coexist with informal systems of mediation, reputation, and sanction, which are often more immediate in shaping behaviour than formal rules.

Patterns of interaction reflect cooperation and conflict in shifting combinations. Collective action emerges during moments of crisis – water shortages, land disputes, political mobilization – but recedes once immediate pressures ease. Competition over employment, recognition, and resources intensifies, yet rarely breaks social ties entirely. Gender and age shape access to voice and authority in subtle ways, often justified as custom rather than constraint.

External forces intersect with these arrangements without producing uniform effects. New technologies alter communication and work patterns, but do not erase existing hierarchies. National development policies introduce new opportunities while reinforcing older forms of exclusion. Global markets influence consumption and aspiration, even where livelihoods remain locally grounded. Change is visible, but its direction is contested, its pace uneven, and its consequences distributed asymmetrically.

Within Kisiwa, continuity and change do not appear as opposites. Instead, they coexist, overlap, and sometimes reinforce one another, producing a social landscape that resists simple classification as either traditional or modern.

**Required:**

- a) Analyze how social structure operates in Kisiwa as both an organizing and constraining force. Your analysis should account for continuity and variation across social positions. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Examine how interactional processes contribute to the reproduction or reconfiguration of social arrangements in Kisiwa. **(10 Marks)**
- c) Appraise the extent to which observed changes in Kisiwa can be interpreted as transformation rather than adjustment. **(5 Marks)**

**QUESTION TWO**

- a) Analyze social change as a multidimensional process. **(8 Marks)**
- b) Critique the explanatory limits of linear models of social change when applied to contemporary societies. **(7 Marks)**

**QUESTION THREE**

- a) Examine how does tension between structure and agency drives social outcomes and action? **(9 Marks)**
- b) Differentiate analytically between conformity, resistance, and adaptation as modes of social action. **(6 Marks)**

**QUESTION FOUR**

- a) Analyze the role of social institutions in stabilizing society while simultaneously enabling change. **(5 Marks)**
- b) Critically examine how systems of stratification persist even under conditions of formal equality. **(10 Marks)**

**QUESTION FIVE**

- a) Analyze social mobility as both an outcome and a process. **(8 Marks)**
- b) Evaluate the claim that development necessarily expands opportunities for mobility. **(7 Marks)**

#### QUESTION SIX

- a) Examine globalization as a restructuring force rather than a uniform process. How does this perspective alter our understanding of social change? **(9 Marks)**
- b) Assess the implications of technological innovation for future patterns of inequality and power. **(6 Marks)**