JANUARY 2012

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

MODULE CODE: SA4863

MODULE TITLE: Youth in Africa

EXAM DURATION: 3 hours

EXAM INSTRUCTIONS

Candidates should answer THREE questions
Do not overlap your answers to different questions.
Ethnographic examples should be used to illustrate all your answers

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THIS EXAM PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.
1. ‘To imagine youth and to imagine the concept relationally is to imagine the ground and forces of sociality’. (Durham). Discuss.

2. ‘The ultimate aim of mimetic activity is paradoxically the transformation of the object of mimesis’. (Argenti). Discuss Argenti’s statement in relation to power and intergenerational relations in Africa.

3. Education in Africa has always had a strong emotional significance because of its potential for emancipation, liberation and social mobility. Discuss.

4. Assess the role of associations for the construction of youthful identities and subjectivities and for the making of public life in Africa.

5. Child soldiers have agency. Discuss.

6. In what ways does studying gender in Africa help us understand ideas about care and intimacy?

7. ‘There are many different masculinities, some of which support violent and exploitative gender relations, others which accept such gender relations, and still others which oppose them’. (Morrell). Discuss.

8. ‘African popular cultures are not merely pure folklore or superficial adaptation of imported western cultures but express the originality of the popular, reinscribe and reintegrate the collective memory of the social group, reflect upon the preoccupation of daily life and are deeply engaged in the search for collective identification’. (Fabian). Discuss.