SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

MODULE CODE: SA4864
MODULE TITLE: Melanesian Anthropology
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. What options are there for representing Melanesia as a region? Discuss the merits and failings of these options.

2. Do yams, or indeed, persons grow ‘naturally’ in Melanesia?

3. ‘[P]restige is always relative and in the end must always be in the eyes of others’ (Strathern). Discuss this statement with reference to warfare AND/OR exchange in Melanesia.

4. ‘One man is the same as many men and women’ (Strathern). Discuss.

5. Are ‘descent’ and ‘biology’ suitable terms with which to describe Melanesian descriptions of kinship?

6. In what ways does ‘flow’, as an innate quality of the world, help us to understand the aesthetics of Melanesian sociality?

7. ‘Contemporary life in the region, e.g. new opportunities for paid employment, and Christianity, present important new challenges for anthropology’s understanding of Melanesian sociality’. Discuss.

8. How might *kava* or *masi* help us understand Melanesian responses to historical change in Vanuatu gender relations or Fijian relations to *Vanua*?

9. In what ways do compensation claims in response to mining in Papua New Guinea question ‘western’ assumptions about environmental and social relations?

10. What insights are offered by the New Melanesian Ethnography and what problems have its critics focused upon?