“Civil society is an intermediary phenomenon, standing between the private sphere and the state.” (Diamond 1999:221). Discuss the differing conceptions of civil society and whether it can play a role in advancing and deepening democracy.

“Whatever the framework used to explain the rise of the voluntary organizations as service providers, the fact remains that in designing the delivery of public services, the contribution of the voluntary sector is a factor which cannot be excluded from an analysis of the development of modern delivery systems” Parsons (1995:500). Critically discuss how the legislative and policy framework for the inclusion of civil society in policy processes in South Africa can enhance or constrain their goals and objectives.

“If delivery mixes continue to use the voluntary sector as a service-providing instrument, their role in acting as means of ‘citizenship’ and ‘empowerment’ or ‘social learning’ and their critical function in society may well be put at risk.” (Parsons 1995:502). Discuss this statement in the context of community-based public policy.

“Participation and pluralist consultation are not simply features of effective policy processes; they are integral elements of democracy itself. Throughout the developing and transitioning world over the past decade or so, citizens have increasingly organized to expand their influence in policy debates, to pressure their governments to be more responsive and accountable, and to demand a greater role in governance.” Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2002:51). Discuss the conceptions, objectives, types, management, mechanisms, constraints and opportunities of public participation in public policy processes.
Question 5

Discuss when and how social capital facilitates public/not-for-profit private partnering. What are the limits and strengths of social capital?

Question 6

“Managing policy partnerships leads to an expanded set of linkages that connects government to other public agencies, private firms, NGOs, community associations, and so on.” Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2002:86). Discuss some of the variables that constrain partnerships with civil society organizations for policy reform. What are the effective mechanisms, processes, strategic management techniques and tools for supporting cooperative action around policy issues.

Question 7

Collaborative policy networks have both benefits and pitfalls for policy development and implementation (de Leon and Varda 2009). Discuss.