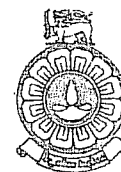


THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL 3
 FINAL EXAMINATION – (2007)
 SSU 1202 - SOCIO-LEGAL PERSPECTIVES OF COMMUNICATION



DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 05th October 2007

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 noon

Answer five (05) questions only. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. “Co-regulation minimises disadvantages of state regulation and strengthens advantages of self-regulation”. Discuss in relation to the Sri Lanka Press Council and the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka.
2. “Humans depend on mass media for various functions”. Discuss in relation to the role of mass media.
3. Impartiality in media disseminations is greatly affected by partisan interests of journalists as well as media proprietors. Discuss.
4. Respecting the privacy of individuals is more important than public’s right to know. Do you agree? Discuss.
5. Write short notes on any two (02) of the following:
 - (a) Journalists accepting freebies
 - (b) Undercover reporting
 - (c) Accurate reporting vs. misrepresentation by journalists in news gathering
 - (d) Confidentiality of sources
6. It is important for journalists to identify defamatory content and see whether they have a defence against defamation before publishing/broadcasting such content. Discuss in relation to law of defamation.
7. Copyright is an intellectual property which grants monopoly to those who own literary, artistic and scientific works. Discuss.
8. What are the key elements that you would focus on, if you are mandated to draft a code of ethics for journalists?
9. What institutional characteristics make the Press Complaints Commission a unique body for journalists?

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