



**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL III
FINAL EXAMINATION - 2007/2008
SSU 1202 – SOCIO LEGAL PERSPECTIVES OF MASS COMMUNICATION**

DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 27th September 2008

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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

1. What are the characteristics of an Information Society? Explain with reference to attributes of Information Workers.
2. It is fundamental that Journalists who wish to be considered as professionals be mindful of the principles of objectivity and social responsibility. Discuss.
3. It is in the best interest of national development that mass media channels transmit values that enhance national development objectives. Discuss.
4. "Although functional democracy demands that journalists maintain confidentiality of sources, Third World journalists face enormous constraints in doing so". Discuss its importance with reference to realities faced by Sri Lankan journalists.
5. Laws relating to Copy Rights are created to encourage individuals to bring out their best possible creative talent through original work. Discuss.
6. Defaming the character of another has nothing to do with freedom of expression in a democracy. Discuss what constitutes libel and slander in defamation.
7. Public interest and fair comment are sacred principles in strengthening democracy in a country. Discuss.
8. What constitutes contempt of court? Discuss with reference to the position taken by the courts in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom.
9. It is only through independent monitoring bodies acceptable to the media profession that standards relating to professional journalism be enforced. Discuss.

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