



**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES - LEVEL 3**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION (2009)**  
**SSU 1202: SOCIO-LEGAL PERSPECTIVES OF COMMUNICATION**

**DURATION – 3 HOURS**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

**Answer five Questions Only. Each question carries 20 marks.**

1. An Information society is very much dependent on a vibrant culture of democratic communication where access to information is not restricted. Discuss.
2. Mass Communication in a free society needs to be inspired by concepts such as objectivity and social responsibility. Discuss.
3. What type of values should mass media propagate if it is to play a catalytic role in nation building? Discuss with reference to local realities.
4. Why is confidentiality of sources vital for the practice of professional journalism. Discuss critically.
5. The law of copy right encourages original, creative and innovative products of human intellect. Discuss what this law strives to do.
6. Defaming the character of another has nothing to do with freedom of expression. Discuss with reference to types of defamation.
7. Public interest and fair comment are vital for the sustenance of democracy. Discuss.
8. Explain the positions advocated by the judiciary in our country and England with regard to Contempt of Court.
9. It is in the best interest of professional journalism in a democracy that practitioners are not regulated by monitoring bodies responsible to the government. Discuss.