

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES & BA IN SPECIAL
NEEDS EDUCATION PROGRAMME – (2015/2016)
FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL 3 (SEMESTER 2)
SSU1202 – SOCIO-LEGAL PERSPECTIVES OF MASS COMMUNICATION



DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)

Date: 20^h March 2016

Time: 09.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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

1. The printed word revolutionized the society in many ways. Explain
2. “State regulation and self-regulation are not governed by the same political ideology”. Which type of regulation do you consider more democratic and helpful to professional journalists? Give reasons.
3. Explain the nature of internal and external organizational pressures that impact on the work of journalists in Sri Lanka.
4. The Contempt of Court seeks to balance the competing interests of freedom of expression and fair administration of justice. Discuss.
5. “Piracy and plagiarism threaten intellectual property in the present day world”. Explain with examples.
6. Explain the law of defamation with regard to the following:
 - (a) Definition
 - (b) The requisites for liability.
 - (c) Defenses that a person accused of defamation can claim.
7. Undercover reporting plays a useful role in a democratic society. Explain with examples.
8. “The media is supposed to be custodians of the facts and watchdogs of government. But they have, for the most part, neglected to be either of those things”. Discuss the statement in relation to Sri Lanka.

9. Write short notes on any two (02) of the following:
- (a) Public's right to know
 - (b) Objectivity in media reporting
 - (c) Freebies and their impact on journalism
 - (d) Journalists and their sources
 - (e) Characteristics of an information society

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