THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES

BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES - LEVEL V

FINAL EXAMINATION 2025/2026 (SEMESTER I)

DSU5327- MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

DURATION: THREE HOURS (3 HOURS)

Date: 28th March 2026 **Time:1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

Instructions:

1. Answer Five questions only. Be descriptive as possible.

2. Each question carries 20 Marks.

3. Ensure that your handwriting can be read easily.

1. "Democracy cannot survive without an informed and active citizenry." Discuss with reference to governance and media.

2. "The media represents the people, not the State." Examine this statement in the context of democratic governance.

3. "Freedom of expression is the foundation of all human rights." Discuss with reference to media freedom and democracy.

4. "Poverty is a violation of human rights." Critically examine this statement from a media perspective.

5. "Media is called the Fourth Estate because it keeps power under constant scrutiny." Discuss with reference to Third World democracies.

6. "Quasi democracies maintain the appearance of democracy while undermining its substance." Discuss with reference to media freedom.

7. "In post-conflict societies, the media can either aggravate divisions or promote reconciliation." Discuss with reference to the Sri Lankan post-war context.

8. "Citizen journalism has emerged as a powerful instrument of democracy in the digital age." Discuss.

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9. "Universities can only fulfill their democratic mission when they are guided by autonomy, liberal values, and a culture of critical inquiry." Critically examine this statement with reference to Sri Lanka.

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