

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
2014/2015 EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: SUPPLEMENTARY

TITLE OF PAPER: MEDIA LAW AND ETHICS

COURSE CODE: JMC 339

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer THREE questions.

Spelling and grammar will count in grading.

Use your own examples to illustrate your answer(s).

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION 1

Discuss in detail any four cases in which the media has been taken to court for defamation between 2010 and 2014. Explain whether the complainants were justified in their actions or not.

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 2

The Parliament Select Committee that was set up to probe the complaints about the Media Council Bill of 1997 made several recommendations to try and resolve the impasse between government and the media.

a) Explain the concerns that were raised regarding the Bill.

(10 Marks)

b) Briefly discuss whether or not there was anything positive about the Media Council Bill.

(5 Marks)

c) Explain whether the recommendations of the Select Committee have been implemented.

(5 Marks)

QUESTION 3

Write a critique of Francis Kasoma's article, "The Foundations of African Ethics (Afriethics) and the Professional Practice of Journalism: the case for society-centred media morality."

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 4

According to Johan Retief (2002), "Reporting accurately is non-negotiable, whatever the cost. Accurate reporting is not the best way of doing things, it is the only way." Discuss this statement, giving examples to illustrate your answer.

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 5

Explain the objectives of the following legislation and their impact on the media.

- a) Proscribed Publications Act
- b) Swaziland Communications Commission
- c) The Books and Newspapers Act
- d) The Swaziland Broadcasting Corporation Bill

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 6

- a) According to Franz Kruger, "Doing ethics offers a set of guiding principles" for journalists. Discuss four principles, giving examples to illustrate your answer.
(12 Marks)

- b) It is often argued that the public interest is the only test that justifies departure from the highest standards of journalism. Discuss, giving examples to support your answer.

(8 Marks)