



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2024-2025

Programme – M.Sc.(MSJ)-2024

Course Name – Media Laws & Ethics

Course Code - MSJ10105

(Semester I)

Library
Brainware University
398, Ramkrishnapur Road, Barasat
Kolkata, West Bengal-700125

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (i) What is the duration of copyright protection for a novel? Classify.
 - a) A novel will not gain copyright protection.
 - b) The day the author dies
 - c) The end of the calendar year in which the author died.
 - d) 70 years from the end of the calendar year in which the author died.
- (ii) Define the key elements that constitute defamation under Article 499 of the Indian Penal Code.
 - a) It must be truthful and damaging
 - b) It must be false and damaging
 - c) It must be public and defamatory
 - d) It must be intentional and private
- (iii) What does 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' Article 19 guarantee?
 - a) Right to property
 - b) Right to freedom of expression
 - c) Right to education
 - d) Right to privacy
- (iv) What is the scope of 'Reasonable Restrictions' under Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution?
 - a) Censorship of foreign media
 - b) Restrictions on press freedom
 - c) Limitations on freedom of speech and expression
 - d) Restrictions on social media
- (v) What is the Press and Registration of Books Act concerned with?
 - a) Establishment of new broadcasting channels
 - b) Registration of newspapers and books
 - c) Licensing of news agencies
 - d) Regulating social media platforms
- (vi) What is the main role of the Editors Guild of India?
 - a) Censoring political content
 - b) Ensuring advertising standards
 - c) Protecting the freedom of the press
 - d) Regulating television news
- (vii) Which organization issues guidelines for advertisements in India?
 - a) Press Council of India
 - b) ASCI

- c) TRAI
(viii) What does the Contempt of Court Act ensure?
a) Fair criticism of judges
c) Public critique of court orders
(ix) What does 'Section 295(A)' of the IPC refer to?
a) Sedition
c) Defamation
(x) Extend the meaning of 'good faith complaint' against a judge under contempt of court laws.
a) A false accusation
c) A public demonstration
(xi) Classify the difference between civil and criminal defamation under Article 499-504.
a) Criminal involves imprisonment
c) Criminal involves fines only
(xii) Compare the provisions of the Working Journalists Act 1955 with those of the Right to Information Act.
a) Both safeguard free speech
c) One focuses on journalism, the other on access to info
(xiii) Appraise the impact of the Press & Registration of Books Act on small newspaper ownership.
a) It encourages ownership
c) It increases competition
(xiv) Choose the correct action when a newspaper's declaration is cancelled under the Press & Registration of Books Act.
a) Appeal to Press Registrar
c) Resubmit declaration
(xv) Compare the criteria for defamation under the Press Council of India guidelines and the Official Secrets Act.
a) Both protect free speech
c) Secrets Act penalizes leaks, Council defends reputation
- d) SEBI
b) Public access to court hearings
d) Judicial independence
b) Outrage of religious feelings
d) Sale of obscene material
b) A legitimate grievance
d) A defamatory statement
b) Civil involves public apology
d) Civil has higher penalties
b) Both protect worker rights
d) Both protect wages of journalists
b) It limits ownership
d) It provides benefits
b) Apply to Supreme Court
d) File for a stay order
b) Both deal with false information
d) Both regulate media ownership

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Explain the concept and limitations of the right to privacy. (3)
3. What is the meaning of civil contempt of court? (3)
4. What is the purpose of the Sedition Act in media regulation? (3)
5. What is the significance of the 'Right to be Forgotten' in media law? (3)
6. How do media ethics address the issue of sensationalism? (3)

OR

What is the importance of ethical guidelines for media coverage of communal disputes? (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Apply the principles of defamation law to a hypothetical case where a journalist publishes unverified information about a public figure. Discuss the potential legal implications. (5)
8. Evaluate the legal framework surrounding false statements in connection with elections under Section 171(G). How does it affect election-related media coverage? (5)

9. Explain the significance of the Official Secrets Act in the context of national security and press freedom. (5)
10. Discuss the civil and criminal aspects of defamation law. How do they affect media organizations and individuals? (5)
11. Estimate the influence of the Press Council of India on improving the quality of journalism. (5)
12. Analyze the implications of media regulations on press freedom. How do regulations affect the ability of media organizations to operate independently? (5)

OR

Evaluate the implications of media ownership concentration on press freedom. How does ownership concentration affect media diversity and pluralism? (5)

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