

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES

MEDIA LAW I: (IJM 1201)

MAY 2004 EXAMINATION

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer the **compulsory question** in Section A and **three** questions from Section B.
2. Quotations in all questions were created for the purposes of this exam.
3. Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised.

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

Question 1

Freedom of the media should never be absolute but should be regulated by laws. To allow the media unlimited freedom would amount to freewheeling and abuse of journalistic privilege. With reference to examples, critically discuss this statement.

[40 marks]

SECTION B (ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS)

Question 2

Discuss three international legal provisions on media freedom and explain how they set an enabling environment for the press. Give examples in your answer.

[20 marks]

Question 3

Discuss the following aspects of the Broadcasting Services Act, 2001:

- a) Ministerial powers [8 marks]
- b) Restrictions on national broadcasting [4 marks]
- c) Content regulations [8 marks]

TOTAL: [20 marks]

Question 4

Which aspects of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) do you think require amendment, and why?

[20 marks]

Question 5

Define the following terms:

a) Defamation

[4 marks]

b) Damages

[4 marks]

c) Reputation

[2 marks]

d) Explain three defences that can be raised by the media against a defamation suit.

[10 marks]

TOTAL: [20 marks]

Question 6

In your opinion, are the media laws in Zimbabwe at present more restrictive than the colonial period? Give examples in your answer.

[20 marks]