

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES

MEDIA LAW I: (IJM 1201)

MAY 2006 EXAMINATION

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Section A is **compulsory**.
2. Answer **any three** questions from section B.
3. Start each answer on a new page.
4. Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

Question 1

Most laws governing the operations of the media in Zimbabwe are necessary. However, there are some undesirable and restrictive sections within these laws. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Give examples in your answer. **[25 marks]**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS

Question 2

The ministry of information has called for recommendations on the possible review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Describe the recommendations you will make and give reasons for your choice. **[25 marks]**

Question 3

Discuss the extent to which the licensing and disciplinary system under the Broadcasting Services Act sustain an unlawful but de facto monopoly. **[25 marks]**

Question 4

The false news provisions in some of Zimbabwe's legislation make it difficult for journalists to report on issues without fear of criminal liability. Critically analyse this statement with reference to the relevant legislation. **[25 marks]**

Question 5

- a) Which aspects of the defences available to a defamation suit require amendment and why?
[15 marks]
- b) Suggest ways in which the defences can be improved so as to result in greater protection of the media.
[10 marks]

TOTAL: [25 marks]

Question 6

Discuss the significance of a constitutional provision guaranteeing the freedom of the press and expression.

[25 marks]