

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
MEDIA LAW II: HUMAN RIGHTS: (IJM 2201)
JULY 2006 SUPPLEMENTARY 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 penalized.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

Question 1

Choose two media in Zimbabwe and in reference to them answer the following questions.

- a) Are there instances where you feel freedom of the media and that of expression have been abused by the media? **[10 marks]**
- b) Does the media concerned treat its readers as citizens with basic inalienable rights or as consumers subject to market forces? **[10 marks]**
- c) Are human rights violations in the domestic sphere given as much coverage as those in the public and political sphere? **[10 marks]**
- d) How effective is the media in its role as a watchdog against human rights abuses? **[5 marks]**
- e) How effective is the media in providing a link between the governed and the governors? **[5 marks]**

TOTAL: [40 marks]

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS

Question 2

“Africans live by values and principles that assume harmony, not divergence of interest...and are more inclined to think of their obligations to other members of society rather than their claims against them.” Is there anything such as an African concept of human rights vis-à-vis a Western one? Discuss. **[20 marks]**

Question 3

Freedom of the media and freedom of expression can never be absolute. Discuss in relation to human rights violations. **[20 marks]**

Question 4

Those who claim to be paragons of liberal democracy and to be the authentic bearers of universal human rights don't practise fully what they preach either at home or in their dealings with other countries abroad. Discuss. **[20 marks]**

Question 5

The media are generally ill equipped to deal with human rights issues. How far true is this statement. Give examples from within and outside Zimbabwe. **[20 marks]**

Question 6

“People in the developing world have more to thank from their own efforts than the United Nations’ treaties in enjoying their human rights” Discuss with reference to the state of the world in 1948 when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was put in place. **[20 marks]**