Summer Examinations 2016

JOU100116N

Module Title: Law and Ethics for Journalists
Level: Four
Time Allowed: Two hours

Instructions to students:

• Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
• Answer three questions: question 1 from Section A, one question from Section B and one question from Section C.
• The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.
• Section A carries 10% of the overall marks
  Section B carries 45% of the overall marks
  Section C carries 45% of the overall marks
• Begin each question in a separate answer book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
• Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.

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Section A

Answer all parts of this section.

1. Explain the meaning of the following legal and ethical terms used by journalists:

   Attorney General
   Public interest
   Fishing expedition
   Concurrent sentence
   Balance of probabilities
   Conflict of interest
   Crown Court
   Privilege
   Honest Opinion
   Majority verdict
Section B

Answer one out of three questions.

2. How does the Human Rights Act (1998) help journalists and why do some politicians want the law to be repealed? Assess the arguments for and against the prospect of this law being abolished or changed.

3. Explain the main legal defences available to journalists and media outlets if they are sued under the Defamation Act 2013. Why are publishers sometimes reluctant to fight libel cases in court?

4. In what circumstances would a court decide to make a Section 11 order under the Contempt of Court Act, ‘banning the publication of a name or any other information’ connected to particular legal proceedings. Give as much detail as possible about these orders in your answer.
Section C

Answer one out of three questions.

5. Explain in detail how the IPSO code defines and underscores the importance of the public interest as it applies to journalists.

6. Give examples of groups and types of vulnerable people given coverage in the news media. What considerations must journalists make when dealing with these people? Give examples where appropriate.

7. Explain the concept and practice of cheque book journalism in the UK and examine the ethical issues that it creates for journalists and publishers.

End of Section C
End of Paper