Examination Period 3: 2016/17

JOU200117N

Module Title Law and Public Affairs for Journalists
Level Five
Time Allowed Two hours

Instructions to students:

- Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
- Answer three questions: one from Section A, one from Section B and one from Section C.
- 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.

No. of Pages 4
No. of Questions 7
Section A

Answer the question below.

Question 1

Explain the meaning of the following legal and governmental terms used by journalists:

a. Indictable offence. (1 mark)

b. District judge. (1 mark)

c. Tort. (1 mark)

d. Secretary of State. (1 mark)

e. Qualified privilege. (1 mark)

f. Injunction. (1 mark)

g. Select committee. (1 mark)

h. Strict liability offence. (1 mark)

i. Second Reading of a public bill. (1 mark)

j. The Queen’s Speech. (1 mark)

(Total: 10 marks)
Section B

Answer one question.

Question 2

What restrictions are placed on journalists reporting crime and criminal trials by the Contempt of Court Act, 1981? Section 5 offers a defence against contempt as a discussion of public affairs. Using case study examples explain how this defence has worked in practice. 

(45 marks)

Question 3

Explain the changes introduced by the Defamation Act, 2013. How will the changes help or hinder journalists when exercising their right to freedom of speech?

(45 marks)

Question 4

What material is covered by the Copyright Act of 1988 and what defences are there for infringement of copyright in both criminal and civil law? Explain the concept of fair dealing as it applies to the Copyright Act using case study examples.

(45 marks)
Section C

Answer one question.

Question 5

What is the role of the Queen in Britain’s constitutional monarchy and what mechanisms allow the government to exercise power in the name of the sovereign? (45 marks)

Question 6

Explain how a political party’s manifesto promise becomes a law. (45 marks)

Question 7

The triggering of Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty is a prelude to a final break with the European Union. Analyse the changes to Britain’s relationship with the EU and what constitutional, legal and cultural impacts the UK can expect to see as a result. (45 marks)