

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE-27
MID-SEMESTER EXAMINATION: AUGUST 2019
BVOC (VISUAL MEDIA AND FILMMAKING) – V SEMESTER
VO5116: MEDIA LAWS AND ETHICS

Time - 1 hour

Max Marks - 30

I. Answer any THREE questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Cobrapost, an Indian news website, recently exposed well known media houses which had agreed to carry, on payment, doctored news against a section of the minority community. Significantly, the sting operation coincided with the just concluded 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

This development raises serious questions about media ethics including its credibility, responsibility, impartiality and, more importantly, the growing menace of paid news.

Explain why it is so important for the media to follow ethical principles? Why has the Indian media suddenly come under the scanner? Also, explain how the Election Commission has taken action against candidates who were found guilty of promoting themselves through paid news.

Words: 300, Marks: 10

2. A US court recently denied copyright to Naruto, a monkey, for a selfie that it had accidentally taken from the camera of David Slater, a wildlife photographer. The court decided in favour of Slater who, it said, had done the intellectual work of fixing the timer, composing and framing the shot while the monkey merely clicked the shot accidentally. Even though several frames were damaged, a few did prove worthwhile and went viral as Naruto's selfies which Slater had published under his name.

PETA, the animal rights group, contested Slater's claim arguing that the copyright should go to Naruto instead. The US court dismissed PETA's plea on the ground that only humans (and not animals) could have the right of copyright.

Would you agree with the US court's order? Also, using the above case as an example, explain the importance, role and the need for Copyright Laws to protect the interest of authors, bloggers, musicians and film makers. **Marks: 10, Words: 300**

3. An Indian politician who was frequenting a house of ill repute found that his escort had filmed him in the act and sold the video to a newspaper. The VIP approached the courts seeking an injunction against the publication arguing that his privacy was being breached.

The newspaper argued otherwise contending that the VIP was a public figure and that he had visited what was considered a public place. Accordingly, the publication could not be restrained.

Give your opinion while explaining the right to privacy and whether it is a fundamental right? What is the difference between private life and public life? **Marks: 10, Words: 300**

4. The laws regarding Contempt of Court and Sedition are too archaic and irrelevant in modern India. Besides, in comparison to other countries the judges and the courts in India take even the slightest of offences, very seriously.

How valid is this reasoning? Argue your case while giving suitable examples to explain the concept of Contempt of Court and Sedition. **Marks: 10, Words: 300**

5. This question is in two parts. Both have to be answered.

Section: A

A. What is Trial by Media and why is it being frowned upon by the Press Council of India and the Indian Parliament, in particular? Explain with examples. **Marks 5: Words; 150**

Section: B

- B. Answer any five with a Yes or No only. **Marks 5**
- i. There is no difference between Civil Defamation and Criminal Defamation.
 - ii. The Press in India enjoys absolute freedom
 - iii. The Press Council of India monitors irregularities in both the print and electronic media.
 - iv. Sedition is not a crime in India
 - v. Facebook has been guilty of compromising the privacy of its users.
 - vi. In India there is no distinction between Slander and Libel.