



Roll No.

# PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

**BENGALURU****End - Term Examinations –MAY 2025****Date:** 26-05-2025**Time:** 01:00 pm – 04:00 pm

<b>School:</b> SOMS	<b>Program:</b> BA(JMC)	
<b>Course Code:</b> BAJ3001	<b>Course Name:</b> ETHICS IN MEDIA AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK	
<b>Semester:</b> IV	<b>Max Marks:</b> 100	<b>Weightage:</b> 50%

CO – Levels	C01	C02	C03	C04	C05
Marks	24	24	24	28	-

**Instructions:**

- (i) Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.
- (ii) Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.

**Part A****Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 2marks.****10Q x 2M=20M**

1.	What is a Public Interest Litigation (PIL)?	2 Marks	L2	C01
2.	What is meant by 'Press as the Fourth Estate'?	2 Marks	L2	C01
3.	What is the legal definition of sedition under Indian law?	2 Marks	L2	C02
4.	How does the law distinguish between morality and obscenity?	2 Marks	L1	C02
5.	What does Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code deal with?	2 Marks	L1	C03
6.	What is the objective of the Official Secrets Act, 1923?	2 Marks	L1	C03
7.	What does the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) do?	2 Marks	L1	C04
8.	What is the function of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA, formerly NBA)?	2 Marks	L1	C04
9.	What is the importance of censor board?	2 Marks	L1	C04
10.	What is the role of ombudsman?	2 Marks	L1	C04

**Part B****Answer the Questions.****Total Marks 80M**

11.	a.	How does Public Interest Litigation strengthen democratic accountability?	5 marks	L2	C01
	b.	What are the relationship between Directive Principles of State Policy and media responsibility? Explain	7 marks	L3	C01
	c.	What happens with the potential misuse of PILs and suggest safeguards? Explain	8 marks	L4	C01

**Or**

12.	a.	What is the concept of the Press as the Fourth Estate and its democratic importance.	5 Marks	L2	C01
	b.	How can press overreach or sensationalism, undermine its credibility?	7 marks	L3	C01
	c.	What are the measures to maintain a balance between press freedom and responsible journalism.	8 marks	L4	C01

13.	a.	Explain is the historical background and purpose of Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC?	5 Marks	L2	C02
	b.	Outline the arguments for and against retaining the sedition law in a modern democracy.	7 marks	L3	C02
	c.	Explain whether criticism of the government, can be equated with sedition? Justify with examples.	8 marks	L4	C02

**Or**

14.	a.	Relate to the cases as how have Indian courts interpreted 'obscenity' in the context of freedom of expression?	5 Marks	L2	C02
	b.	Compare traditional moral standards with contemporary views on media content.	7 marks	L3	C02
	c.	Explain whether freedom of speech override community standards of morality? Discuss with examples.	8 marks	L4	C02

15.	a.	Choose between civil and criminal defamation under Indian law with one example for each.	5 Marks	L2	C03
	b.	Identify whether criminal defamation laws are misused to suppress dissent and journalistic critique.	7 marks	L3	C03
	c.	Select alternative legal remedies to protect reputation without compromising free expression.	8 marks	L4	C03

**Or**

16.	a.	Identify the criteria used by the CBFC under the Cinematograph Act for film certification.	5 Marks	L2	C03
	b.	Apply the challenges in defining 'obscenity' in a culturally diverse society.	7 marks	L3	C03
	c.	Solve the problem of whether, moral policing be legally regulated or left to public discourse? Justify with examples.	8 marks	L4	C03

17.	a.	Analyze the ethical concerns related to privacy and the right to reply in news reporting?	5 Marks	L2	C04
	b.	Examine the rise of sensational and communal reporting in the Indian media.	7 marks	L3	C04
	c.	Examine how can media institutions balance public interest with individual rights?	8 marks	L4	C04

**Or**

18.	a.	Analyze how media ownership patterns affect content diversity and neutrality.	5 Marks	L2	C04
	b.	Analyze the ethical challenges when corporate or political interests influence editorial content.	7 marks	L3	C04
	c.	Examine legal or structural reforms to ensure editorial independence in Indian media.	8 marks	L4	C04