



THE MOMBASA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Faculty of Business & Social Studies

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA & GRAPHIC DESIGN

DIPLOMA IN MASS COMMUNICATION I
(DMR & P)

MC 411: MEDIA LAW & ETHICS

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

SERIES: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- This paper consists of **SEVEN** questions.
- Attempt **FIVE** questions only.
- All questions carry **equal marks**.

QUESTION 1

- a) Explain **FIVE** reasons why a journalist should study Media law. **(10 marks)**
- b) Distinguish between criminal law and civil law. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION 2

- a) Illustrate the structure of the Kenyan courts. **(10 marks)**
- b)
- c) “The High Court is referred to as a court of unlimited powers”. Explain what the statement implies. **(6 marks)**
- d) Explain the function of the court martial. **(4 marks)**

QUESTION 3

Suppose the Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee which investigates the expenditure of public funds has just released a report that implicates a local prominent businessman in corrupt tender deals. It accuses him of supplying substandard computers to a government department where the businessman was overpaid by Kshs. 10 million.

- a) Outline the precautions you take before writing the story so as to avoid possible libel action. **(8 marks)**
- b) The businessman sues you after you have published the story in a local daily. Discuss the relevant defences you would use in this particular case. **(12 marks)**

QUESTION 4

- a) Describe **SIX** functions of the Communication Commission of Kenya. CCK). **(12 marks)**
- b) Explain **FOUR** types of media ownership while giving examples of each. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION 5

The law gives every citizen the right to privacy. However, this right is often used to deny the media access to information on public importance. Discuss the criteria you can use in various circumstances as a journalist to draw a line between one’s right to privacy and the public right to know. **(20 marks)**

QUESTION 6

- a) Piracy of music, books and other copyrighted works is rampant in the country. Suggest the measures that the authors and composers could take to control the Vice. **(14 marks)**
- b) Explain the main defences of copyright infringement. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION 7

State and explain any **FIVE** major concerns raised by those who opposed the New Constitution.

(20 marks)