



**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MOMBASA**  
***Faculty of Business & Social Studies***

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA & GRAPHIC DESIGN

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS FOR DEGREE IN  
BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

**BMC 4217: PRESS LAW, MEDIA ETHICS & REGULATIONS**

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

**SERIES:** DECEMBER 2013

**TIME:** 2 HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- This paper consists of **TWO** Sections **A & B**.
  - Section **A** is **Compulsory**.
  - Answer any other **Two** questions in Section **B**.
- This paper consists of Two printed pages***

---

**SECTION A (Compulsory)**

**QUESTION 1**

- a) Define the following terms:
- i) Law (2 marks)
  - ii) Ethics (2marks)
  - iii) Defamation (2marks)
  - iv) Sedition (2marks)
  - v) Media concentration (2marks)
- b) Distinguish between slander and libel. (4 marks)
- c) 'The backbone of the economy nowadays is the mass media ii is an important instrument for fostering commerce and industry.' Justify this statement. (6marks)
- d) Explain the situations that do not constitute copyright infringement. (5marks)

e) If a publication discredits the personality or integrity of a judge in his personal capacity and not in his official capacity as a judge, which offence can the judge sue for? Justify your answer **(5marks)**

## **SECTION B (Attempt any TWO questions)**

### **QUESTION 2**

- a) Explain 4 factors that limit press freedom. **(8 marks)**
- b) The role of the media in protecting national security of a state cannot be overemphasized. Discuss how media professionals play a hand in ensuring that the state is secure. **(12marks)**

### **QUESTION 3**

- a) Discuss 5 factors the plaintiff has to prove in court in order to have a strong libel case. **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain any 5 defense options the media or individuals can use when sued for defamation. **(10 marks)**

### **QUESTION 4**

- a) List 5 functions of the communications commission of Kenya. **(5 marks)**
- b) Discuss 3 factors that must be satisfied for a publication to be regarded as a seditious publication. **(6 marks)**
- c) Explain 3 defenses that one can use while on trial for sedition. **(9marks)**

### **QUESTION 5**

- a) Discuss the journalistic code of ethics. **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain the three situations under which a journalist can be found to be in contempt of court. **(6 marks)**
- c) Discuss 4 dangers posed by media concentration. **(4marks)**