

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION**  
**2013/2014 EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: MAIN**

**TITLE OF PAPER: MEDIA LAW AND ETHICS**

**COURSE CODE: JMC 339**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Answer THREE questions. At least one question should be from each section.

Spelling and grammar will count in grading.

Use your own examples to illustrate your answer(s).

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN  
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

55

**SECTION A**

**QUESTION 1**

- a) According to Franz Kruger, "Doing ethics offers a set of guiding principles" for journalists. Discuss four principles, giving examples to illustrate your answer.  
**(12 Marks)**
- b) It is often argued that the public interest is the only test that justifies departure from the highest standards of journalism. Discuss, giving examples to support your answer.  
**(8 Marks)**

**QUESTION 2**

Critically discuss how any two arms of government have played a part in stifling press freedom in Swaziland. Suggest practical ways to remedy the situation.

**(20 Marks)**

**QUESTION 3**

Credibility is paramount in the journalism profession. Suggest any five ways in which journalists can ensure that they remain credible and trustworthy in the eyes of the general public. Give examples to support your answer.

**(20 Marks)**

**SECTION B**

**QUESTION 4**

- a) Explain in detail what criminal defamation is, aiding your answer with examples. (4 Marks)
- b) Discuss any four (4) sources of media law in Swaziland. (12 Marks)
- c) Describe Swazi Law and Custom. (4 Marks)

**QUESTION 5**

- a) Discuss in detail the Electronic and Evidence Act of 2009 and its implications on users of social networks. (10 Marks)
- b) Critically assess the impact of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act of 2013 on the media in Swaziland. (10 Marks)

**QUESTION 6**

The Parliament Select Committee that was set up to probe the complaints about the Media Council Bill of 1997 made several recommendations to try and resolve the impasse between government and the media.

- a) Explain the concerns that were raised regarding the Bill. (10 Marks)
- b) Briefly discuss whether or not there was anything positive about the Media Council Bill. (5 Marks)
- c) Explain whether the recommendations of the Select Committee have been implemented. (5 Marks)