Register Number:

DATE: 12-04-2017

****

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BENGALURU-27MA MASS COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM – II SEMESTER**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2017**

MC 8212 Media Law and Ethics

Time-2 ½ hrs Max Marks-70

**This paper contains 1 printed pages and 2 parts**

**Section A answer any three questions (essay type)**

15x3=45

1. What forms of speech and expression are protected under the Constitution? What is the difference between the terms “speech”and “expression”? Why is the difference important?
2. What is the theoretical basis for the law of defamation? What is the difference between criminal and civil defamation? Should there be a law of defamation? Why?
3. How does the Information Technology Act interact with the freedom of speech and expression in India?
4. Do you think the responsibility on media houses is increased when they are reporting issues which may have wide impact, for example, court proceedings, communal riots, news relating to public officers etc.? Why?
5. What is the legality of sting operations conducted by the media in your opinion? Are they covered under media ethics rules? Discuss.

**Section B answer any 5 questions (short notes)**5x5=25

1. Copyright v/s Freedom of Speech and Expression
2. Cyber law
3. privileges of the legislature
4. A news channel in your city runs a sensational story on the forced castration of a man by a group of transgendered people. The news channel runs the story on loop for 24 hours and does interviews with the victims’family and with the victim. The channel says that it has conclusive proof that the transgendered people committed the crime. Subsequently, the group of transgendered people are arrested by the police. Is the media house’s conduct within the scope of freedom of speech and expression? Is it ethical? Give reasons.
5. A former worker for a prominent national political party recently disclosed that the party maintains a large number of social media activists on its payroll. She further disclosed that these activists abuse and attack anyone over Facebook, Twitter etc, who does not agree to their party’s political view or who attacks the government’s policies. Sometimes, these activists go to the extent of abusing in a form which is sexual or extremely communal. Is the same within the freedom of speech and expression? Why?
6. Very recently, the Supreme Court held that it is not permitted for any politician to seek votes in an election on the basis of religion, caste, language or other identity. You are a politician who works for a minority group in Bangalore which is oppressed and traditionally marginalised. The only way you can speak of your community’s problems is through an appeal to the community’s identity. Do you think this judgment of the Supreme Court hinders your right to speech and expression? Is the judgment correct?
7. Short Notes on two of the following
   1. BrijBhushan vs state
   2. In re Arundathi Roy
   3. Shreya Singhal