Roll No:
Date: __/__/____

St. Claret College

Autonomous, Bengaluru

ST. CLARET COLLEGE LIBRARY Bengaluru-13 AUTONOMOUS

UG END SEMESTER EXAMINATION-MAY 2026
JOURNALISM - IV SEMESTER
JN 425: MEDIA LAWS

22

TIME: 3 hours. **MAX. MARKS: 80**

This paper contains TWO printed pages and FOUR parts

Instructions:

1. **Verify and ensure that the question paper is completely printed.**
2. **Any discrepancies or questions about the exam paper must be reported to the COE within 1 hour after the examination.**
3. **Students must check the course title and course code before answering the questions.**

PART-A

Answer ALL questions. Each answer carries ONE mark. **[10x1=10]**

1. Who famously referred to the Press as the "Fourth Estate"?
   a) Thomas Carlyle b) Edmund Burke
   c) John Milton d) James Madison
2. In whose regime was the internal Emergency declared in India, leading to heavy press censorship?
   a) Rajiv Gandhi b) A. B. Vajpayee
   c) Indira Gandhi d) Sardhar Vallabhi Pattel
3. The primary role of the press in a democracy is to:
   a) Support the ruling party b) Act as a watchdog
   c) Generate profit d) Avoid controversial news
4. Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the Freedom of Speech and Expression?
   a) Article 14 b) Article 19(1)(a)
   c) Article 21 d) Article 32
5. Reasonable restrictions on the freedom of speech are mentioned under which Article?
   a) Article 19(2) b) Article 20
   c) Article 19(1)(g) d) Article 13
6. Civil defamation is primarily concerned with:
   a) Imprisonment b) Monetary damages
   c) Social service d) Public execution
7. The legal term for written or published defamation is:
   a) Slander b) Libel
   c) Sedition d) Contempt
8. "Deep fakes" are primarily a challenge in the field of:
   a) Print Media b) Radio
   c) Artificial Intelligence & Digital Media d) Folk Media

9. The RTI Act was enacted in the year:
   a) 2000 b) 2005 c) 2010 d) 2012
10. Which body acts as a self-regulatory organization for news channels in India?
   a) PCI b) NBDSA c) CBFC d) TRAI

PART-B

Answer any FIVE questions. Each answer carries TWO marks. **[5x2=10]**

11. Define the concept of "Press as the Fourth Estate."
12. Mention any two contributions of the press to the democratic process.
13. Distinguish between Libel and Slander.
14. What is meant by "Contempt of Court"?
15. Define the term "Obscenity" in the context of media laws.
16. Briefly explain the "Right to Privacy."
17. What is the primary purpose of the Prasar Bharati Act?

PART-C

Answer any FOUR questions. Each answer carries FIVE marks. **[4x5=20]**

18. Discuss the significance of the Press during the 1975 Emergency in India.
19. Analyze the landmark case of Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras regarding freedom of expression.
20. Explain the legal definitions and justifications for Censorship in media.
21. What are the key provisions of the Official Secrets Act?
22. Outline the rights and protections provided under the Working Journalists Act of 1955.
23. Describe the role and functions of the Press Council of India (PCI).

PART-D

Answer any FOUR questions. Each answer carries TEN marks. **[4x10=40]**

24. Evaluate the historical context and the evolving significance of the Press in a democratic society.
25. "Freedom of Speech is not absolute." Discuss this statement with reference to Article 19(1)(a) and the reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).
26. Examine the legal challenges posed by digital media, focusing on Defamation and Freedom of Expression in the virtual space.
27. Discuss the emerging legal and ethical challenges involving Deep Fakes and AI in modern media.
28. Provide a detailed analysis of the Copyright Act and its role in protecting intellectual property in the media industry.
29. Critically examine the Social Media Guidelines (IT Rules 2021) and their impact on digital news platforms.

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