



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES

QUALIFICATION: BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATION	
QUALIFICATION CODE: 07BCMM	LEVEL: 7
COURSE CODE: LEC721S	COURSE: LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN COMMUNICATION
SESSION: JANUARY, 2025	PAPER: ONLY ONE PAPER
DURATION: THREE HOURS	MARKS: 100

SUPPLEMENTARY/SECOND OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER	
EXAMINER	DR C PEEL
MODERATOR	Ms EMILY M. BROWN

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Answer ONE question from <i>Section A</i> , and TWO QUESTIONS from <i>Section B</i> . 2. Read all the questions carefully before answering them. 3. Indicate whether you are a FT, PT, or DE student.

THIS EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF _3_ PAGES (Including this front page)

SECTION A:

Section A consists of one compulsory question. ALL CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT THIS QUESTION. You may NOT substitute this question with a question of your choice.

Question 1

50 marks

Explain how the practices listed below might engage one or more of the law categories: common-law, international conventions, statutory law and/or the Namibian Constitution. Use real-life examples for the appropriate explanation and application of each law category above to resolve grievances in the following areas of interaction:

- (a) Defamation (10 marks)
- (b) Marriage.....(10 marks)
- (c) Human Rights.....(10 marks)
- (d) Social media etiquette.....(10 marks)
- (e) Inheritance.....(10 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS ONLY

Question 2

25 marks

Discuss, and illustrate with examples, how the concept of “public interest” may be used to defend journalists and other content creators from censure for their controversial news stories and public statements. What does Maractho (2014) mean when she argues that content generated in the “public interest” can “assist the function of democratic life” (Maractho, 2014) in modern societies?

Question 3

25 marks

- (a) Identify and describe the four categories of media ownership, indicating their functions and their obligations to their stakeholders.....8 marks
- (b) Propose one media outlet as an example of each category.....8 marks
- (c) Explain why you believe each media outlet fits the category of ownership that you have assigned it.....9 marks

Question 4**25 marks**

- (a) Define and explain one of the following ethical principles: Either Immanuel Kant's Deontological (Duty) Ethics, or John Stuart Mill's Utilitarian (consequential) Ethics, or Aristotle's Virtue Ethics.....10 marks
- (b) The Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza in the Middle East has grabbed the world media's attention. Some commentators have been enraged at the images of the Israeli military bombing residential areas with huge losses of life, including men, women and children of all ages. Other media commentators have defended the Israeli Army, saying Hamas attacked and killed Israeli civilians first, and is now sing Gaza's civilians as human shields while firing rockets at Israeli cities from those residential areas. Write a newspaper commentary, using one of the above principles, to argue for or against the Israeli army's actions.....15 marks.

Question 5**25 marks**

The Defence Act, Correctional Services Act, Communications Act and the Common Law rule of "Contempt of Court" place limits and exceptions on the freedom of speech and expression in Namibia.

- (i) From your understanding of the named legal provisions, provide justifications for the limits imposed on free speech and expression by each of the four provisions.

(4x5marks = **20 marks**)

- (ii) Do you consider defamation to be a form of censorship? Please explain your

answer

(5 marks)

End of Examination**Total: 100 marks**