



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

FIRST SEMESTER 2018/2019 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: IMT432
COURSE TITLE: MEDIA LAW AND ETHICS
CREDIT UNITS: 2
DATE OF EXAM: 13th June, 2019
TIME ALLOWED: 2 ½ HOURS
COURSE LECTURER(S): DR. J.T. KUR AND K. S. AGBONIKA, ESQ.
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 5
NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer 3 questions in all; 1 from section A and 2 from section B. Each questions carry 20 marks
- Do **not** use red pen
- Please use a clear handwriting
- This exam is closed book, closed notes, closed laptop and closed cell phone
- Please use non-programmable calculators only



SECTION A-ANSWER ANY ONE QUESTION
QUESTION ONE

- a. Chris just interviewed the commander of a local separatist group banned by the federal government. The group enjoys popular support from the peasants who though are themselves not fighters but are thrilled by the idea of a promoted independent caliphate. Chris had assured the commander and the community chief of protection of identities and circumstances of the interview even before they helped him setup it up. The man told Chris he has killed, kidnapped and raped many a person. Chris doesn't like this view but he wants the public to hear of it. Not long, the state security service phoned Chris asking for the names of those who help set up the interview, where it took place and other details. They told him that it is not good to keep facts about terrorists from the security. Discuss the ethical issues involved
- b. Your newspaper *Etsu News* is well supported and funded by the ruling national party, the Alfa Congress Party. Just before the 2017 general elections, there were many serious violence between the supporters of the ruling Alfa Congress Party and the main opposition party; the Omega Peoples Party. In one of those violence which you covered for your paper, an important Alfa Congress Party member and activist, Mr. Abah Junior and his family died in an arson attack at a ghetto. Your Editor calls you and tells you, "*This is about that irresponsible Omega Peoples Party. We need a story in the news that shows how violent and anti-democratic they are*".
- But when you began investigation, you realized that Mr. Abah was a thug know for brutalizing neighbors, asking them to settle him for protection and operating a drinking joint for gangsters. Most people you interviewed believe the attack on Mr. Abah could have even come from his own party members whom he had bullied and beaten. Knowing that this is not necessarily the story your paper wants, attempt the following. Comment on the scenario above.
- c. Mention the sources of Media Law and Ethics.
- d. Discuss any two of the cannons of journalism.
- e. Mention any two laws relevant to the regulation of media practice in Nigeria.

QUESTION TWO

Omeiza, a Journalist with *Tatafo Newspapers* is investigating corruption in the ruling Going Green Party (GGP). One of his main source is Lanre, a wealthy businessman and a staunch supporter of the opposition party-Money Making Party (MMP). Omeiza knows this but the documents and facts from Lanre are good. Lanre owns a restaurant, Chop-Chop Crib and Omeiza finds himself eating frequently at the restaurant. A couple of times, Lanre paid the bills for Omeiza in his restaurant and Omeiza had accepted as he does not want to offend Lanre. One day Lanre told him, "I know you are our good friend, you always eat at Chop-Chop Crib for free. From now on, bring your family too..."

- a. Should he accept? [Yes or No]
- b. What three problems may be there with his accepting this favour?



- c. List six ethical values.
- d. In what five different ways does ethics differ from Law
- e. What are the obstacles to objectivity in Journalism
- f. Compare ethics and morality

SECTION B:- Answer any two questions

QUESTION THREE

Study the letter below and answer the questions that follow.

22 Face-Me-I-Face-You Lodge,
Otutu-Poyoyo Avenue,
Gidan-Mangoro,
Minna.
13th June, 2019.

The Vice-Chancellor,
Federal University,
Lambata,
Nigeria.
Dear Sir,

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST
APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEATH OF A 300
LEVEL STUDENT, MISS PIZZA KILISHI AND THE CRISIS THAT ENSUED

1. Referring to the above subject matter, I write to request for the following:
 - i. Late Kilishi's 200 Level Examination Question Papers, Answer Scripts and Marking Guides.
 - ii. The file of late Kilishi containing the student's interactions with the University's Lawyers
 - iii. The case file of this issue at Bosso Police Station
 - iv. Written permission to call and interview his roommates about his conduct
 - v. Written permission to interview the Student Union President about the crisis.
2. I cannot disclose my reason for this application to you.
3. Please kindly forward the reply to this letter to my company, Wayo Nigeria Limited, because as an individual, I am not qualified to make this FOI request.
4. Note that if you do not reply this letter within three days, I will go to court.

Yours faithfully,
Shadrach.

- a. Comment on the content of the FOI request.
- b. The University failed to reply the applicant because some of the information requested are already on the University's website. After 2 months of not getting any reply, the applicant has gone to court. Advise the University.
- c. Mention 2 significance of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- d. Mention 2 limitations of the provisions of the FOIA



- e. Differentiate between the following
- The proactive and the responsive duty to disclose under the FOIA
 - The FOIA and the Official Secret Act (OSA)

QUESTION FOUR

Study the conversation below and answer the questions that follow.

Chief Nwaebili: Alh. Kudu told me that he wishes to invest the huge profit from his last harvest in establishing a TV station in Minna. But his application for permit has been rejected.

Dr Anebi: Our new political party, The Money Making Movement is applying for permit too. We need a new radio station. I should help Alh. Kudu speak to the Minister for the permit.

Chief Nwaebili: Have you read Mr. Nwaolise's interview published in today's *People's Parrot*? He said that I am an indigene of Kogi and not Anambra state. He says as student President back at our undergraduate days, I embezzled union funds and was expelled from school as a result.

Dr Anebi: As a co-contestant in the Anambra Gubernatorial election, he should be discussing his vision for the state. I advise you go to court to teach Nwaolise the lesson of his life.

- Comment on any three legal issues raised by this conversation.
- Mention the essentials Chief Nwaebili must prove against Mr. Nwaolise in court.
- Mention any five defences which may be available to Mr. Nwaolise for his action.
- This interview has been posted severally by many members of this class on Facebook and Twitter. Comment on the liability for the posting on social media platforms.
- With your reasons and relevant constitutional provisions, mention any two fundamental human right important to Media Studies.
- What is Vulgar abuse?

Total 20marks

QUESTION FIVE

Chide is working on a research on the *Advantages of Ijebu Garri in the Life of a student*. She ran into an article in an e-journal titled "*Students and Ijebu Garri*" – *The Journey so Far*" written by her undergraduate project supervisor, Dr. Knowbook. On going through the said article, she discovered the whole article to be a word-for-word lifting of the Chapter 3 of her undergraduate project earlier supervised by Dr.

Knowbook. Chide intends to take Dr. Knowbook to Court and she needs your advice.

- What offence has Dr. Knowbook committed if any?
- Mention 2 non-eligible works
- What essentials would Chide prove in court?
- What remedies may be available to Chide in Court?
- What defences may Dr. Knowbook plead?
- Mention 3 ways of infringement