



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
2021_2 EXAMINATIONS**

COURSE CODE: JLS 812
COURSE TITLE: MEDIA LAW AND ETHICS
UNITS: 3
TIME: 3 HOURS
INSTRUCTION: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER THREE QUESTIONS.

1. (a) Every profession is regulated with a view to ensure that they are organised and operated in ways that maximise their utility to the society. Although, the media system is minimally regulated to ensure free flow of information and expression, there are still four fundamental regulatory mechanisms. Discuss them. **(10 Marks)**
(b) In view of the association between ethics and responsible journalism, explain three (3) markers of responsible journalistic values that undergird the routes to being a virtuous journalist. **(15 Marks)**
2. Press freedom is an essential and globally-accepted mechanism for guaranteeing the watchdog role of journalism towards advancing democratic values. However, press freedom in any society is usually premised on certain assumptions. Explain three legal basis of press freedom in Nigeria. **(15 Marks)**
3. Being the Fourth Estate, watchdog, open marketplace of ideas and the unbiased public sphere, the constitution mandates the media to perform certain roles that ensure the holding of government accountable to the governed. In what ways could the press perform its core constitutional duties? **(15 Marks)**
4. As the media with great reach and patronage, the electronic media is critical to information dissemination to large body of audience in far flung locations. However, the mode of operation of electronic media requires that they be licensed in order to ensure frictionless performance. Provide an apt explanation on the constitutionality of owning mass media in Nigeria and reasons why the electronic media operation requires licensing. **(15 Marks)**
5. As a fundamental media legal concern, defamation is one of the offences that lead to imprison of journalist from civil and criminal point of views. Briefly define defamation and explain the essentials that support successful establishment of defamation in a competent court. **(15 Marks)**