



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

**2019\_1 QUESTIONS**

**COURSE CODE: MAC411**

**COURSE TITLE: MEDIA LAW AND ETHICS**

**UNITS: 3**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION: ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**

1. One of the gubernatorial aspirants in 2019 Nigerian election is threatening to sue a national newspaper in Nigeria for defamation, claiming that one of the cartoons published by the newspaper prior the election disrepute his image before reasonable Nigerians. As a student of media law, advise the politician why such litigation may not be substantiated, by explaining the essential elements of defamation needed to be proved. **(17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Marks)**
2. (a) Ethics is as important as laws. Discuss not less than five reasons why every society needs a system of ethics.  
(b) Establish the link between at least five of the media roles and ethical principles in journalism. . **(17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Marks)**
3. It has been frequently alleged, especially in Nigeria, that the freedom of the press is not achievable because of the interests and activities of some individuals and institutions. Identify at least five of the institutions and discuss how their activities threaten press freedom **(17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Marks)**
4. Mass media cannot be exempted from the need for regulation to ensure acceptable standard for sourcing and disseminating information. Identify and discuss at least five of the regulatory institutions in the Nigerian media system. **(17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Marks)**
5. There are numerous defence options to the mass media and individuals against defamation. Enumerate and examine at least seven of the defences. **(17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Marks)**
6. If litigation on copyright is successfully pursued against a defendant, the defendant may be found guilty unless he/she is able to establish some defences. Identify and discuss not less than five of the defences. **(17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Marks)**