

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

LL.B.

LL.B. Part II: Principles of Media Regulation - half option

COURSE CODE : LAWSII33

DATE : 20-MAY-03

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours 15 Minutes

PRINCIPLES OF MEDIA REGULATION

Answer **THREE** questions.

1. 'The provisions of the Communications Bill do not effectively ensure that licensed public service broadcasters will discharge their distinctive remit. Further, it is wrong for the Bill not to give OFCOM effective control over the BBC.'

Discuss.

2. In what respects, if any, has the Human Rights Act 1998 enhanced freedom of the press?
3. Compare the powers of the British Board of Film Classification with regard to the control of films and of videos. Are these powers compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights?
4. 'The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) shows that self-regulation can work. But the experience of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) shows it does not always work.'

Why might the ASA be considered more effective than the PCC?

5. To what extent does the Television without Frontiers Directive of the EU regulate programme standards? Do its provisions give viewers legally enforceable rights?
6. What does 'media pluralism' mean? To what extent is it effectively secured by the current rules of UK competition and broadcasting law?
7. *Anticar* is the leading environmental pressure group campaigning for a complete halt to all road-building. Its request that an interview with one of its leaders is broadcast during the course of a Channel 3 documentary on transport policy is turned down; the half hour programme gives equal prominence to representatives of all major political parties, none of which shares the views of *Anticar*. The group's request to broadcast on Channel 3 a short advertisement for its cause is also rejected.

The ITC upholds a number of complaints against a Channel 4 documentary which showed in graphic detail the injuries suffered in a major car crash.

Advise (i) *Anticar* whether it can challenge the decisions by Channel 3, and (ii) Channel 4 which believes the ITC decision infringes its freedom.

END OF PAPER