UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

LL.B.

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

COURSE CODE   :   **LAWSII33**

DATE   :   **21-MAY-02**

TIME   :   **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED   :   **2 hours 15 minutes**

TURN OVER

PRINCIPLES OF MEDIA REGULATION

Answer **THREE** questions.

1.   "Crucial ... is not that broadcasting is in fact different in principle from the print media, but that it has been believed to be different." (Lee Bollinger)

     Discuss.

2.   To what extent is the BBC accountable for the performance of its broadcasting responsibilities? What changes, if any, would you recommend in this context?

3.   "It would be incompatible with press freedom to replace the Press Complaints Commission with a statutory tribunal able to grant injunctions and award compensation to successful complainants."

     Discuss.

4.   On what principles are election broadcasts allocated? To what extent are decisions on their allocation subject to judicial review?

5.   What effect, if any, will the Human Rights Act 1998 have on the regulation of advertising by the Advertising Standards Authority?

6.   Outline the law with regard to the control of press and cross-media mergers. Do the current rules satisfactorily achieve the objectives of the legislation?

7.   The head offices of a satellite channel, *Danish Blue*, are situated in London; its programmes are aimed exclusively at the public in Holland. The ITC has fined it £500,000 for a serious breach of the impartiality provisions of the Programme Code. The Dutch government has threatened to stop retransmission of its programmes on the ground that only 30% of them are of European origin and that they frequently contain misleading advertisements contrary to Dutch law.

     Advise the controller of *Danish Blue*, who considers the ITC fine infringes his broadcasting freedom and who wishes to contest any attempt by the Dutch government to stop the reception and retransmission of its programmes.

END OF PAPER