**LITERATURE**

**P310/1**

**DURATION: 2HRS**

***INSTRUCTIONS***

* *Attempt* ***BOTH*** *questions*

**SECTION I**

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

The print media of our times has been called a champion of freedom of expression and the sword – arm of democracy. It is an institution which commands awe and respect of nations as well as individuals, because it is the most powerful investigative machinery that exposes their misdeeds. In a world where politicians are busy looting their countries, where the drug mafia and crime syndicates are generating human misery and anarchy, and where ordinary human beings having no links with power – lords have been reduced to a state of helplessness only the print media champions the cause of the have nots and acts as a balm on their wounds.

The print media does much good by highlighting many ills of society such as nepotism, cronyism and corruption in institutions which should be virginal and puritanical in their make and behavior and by carrying on a relentless campaign against them. But sometimes it also does much harm when it spoils human relations and international harmony with its biased and propaganda laden criticism. The press has acquired this potential for mischief, because in some countries it is not free in the true sense of the term. It is controlled by media barons, inductrial houses and governments wielding dictatorial powers.

All these media lords use the press to serve their interests which are always at odds with humanitarian considerations and which often fuel fires of hatred, strife and anarcy, instead of cementing bonds of love and brotherhood among people belonging to different nations, classes or creeds. Under the protective arm of these overlords flourish many types of parasitical individuals including writers and would be seekers of power, name and fame. It is no secret that many media men are hand in glove with politicians, bureaucrats, educationists and guardians of law and order. Their editorials and write ups justify all acts of omission and commission of their patrons and protégés. Some change colour like the chameleon as they praise the actions of a man in power or of a party inching its way to power today, and denounce their former favourite a couple of weeks later. Such shifts, twists and somersaults can be traced in the editorials of many newspapers.

There is no doubt that the institution of the press has been instrumental in causing the downfall of ruthless dictators and oppressive regimes in many countries of the world. Editors and writers of articles against the excesses of men in power have been jailed, tortured and humiliated for asserting freedom of expression and freedom of the voice of conscience, upholding humanitarian causes and giving support to struggles for the emancipation of enslaved people.

They have unearthed political scandals, kickbacks received by highly placed men in countries like Japan and Italy which led to their downfall, security scams of stockbrokers and even sex aberrations of men and women who had cleverly shrouded their nefarious deeds in apparently transparent and spotless apparels of lechery. Some journalists and editors have sacrificed their lucrative jobs to uphold certain cherished principles by refusing to toe the line of their bosses. Some fearless journalists have defied censorship laws to expose the misdeeds of rulers. The American press and also the British press have established their reputation as the most fearless champions of freedom of expression. All these are highly commendable achievements of the print media.

But all is not well under the towering roof of the structure of journalism. It overshadows and dwarfs many institutions of society which have their usefulness to man. Newspapers with a few exceptions reflect partisan attitudes, sectarian outlook and biased individualism, and some carry on a war with their rivals on issues that generate heat and harm national interests. Codes of conduct framed by associations of journalists are violated and old scores are settled in the name of freedom of expression. Many editors perch themselves on high pedestals from which they preach sermons to both the high and low. They claim that they can predict the colour of coming events with oracular accuracy.

This mantle of preachers and prophets gives the aura of dignity to their highly intellectual frame, and they need not cast it off. But what they say should be impartial, non – partisan and universally acceptable. There are some cherished values associated with clean journalism and these should not be bartered with opportunistic gains.

There was a time when the press was a champion of the rights of the oppressed, of sound principles of morality, of justice to those who were illegally and arbitrarily denied what was due to them, and of many other noble causes.

How many modern newspapers are not champions of their own commercial interests? How many do not boost their sales by reviving old hatreds and enemities between classes and countries? What most papers give their readers is simply sensation – creating stuff. They publish stories about the private lives of princes and presidents and photographs of female nudity to pander to the morbid and vulgar demands of readers, and peeping Toms. A glaring instance of the misuse of freedom of the press in the west is the growing tendency of some British papers to publish sex live. There is a circulation war going on in the corridors of “Fleet Street”, to figure as victors in this war they publish articles on the “sexcapades” of the famous and not so famous. Both highbrow dailies and breast – baring tabloids are vying with each other to regale the public with sex scandals involving politicians and their mistresses, actresses and their lovers. In fact the world’s print media as a whole does not feel any pricks of conscience while dealing with matters relating to sex. It regards modern morality as synonymous with sex – openness. Some of our Indian papers are beginning to catch the plague of this sex – openness. You can see not less than a dozen photographs of actors and actresses displaying their semi – nudities in various flesh – uniting postures in many dailies of Northern India.

(From The Sterling Book of Essays by B.N Kakkar)

**Questions**

1. Suggest a suitable title for the passage  *(02 marks)*
2. (i) Which good does the media do according to the writer? *(08 marks)*

(ii) How harmful has the media been according to the writer? *(06 marks)*

1. What sacrifice have journalists made in their line of work?  *(04 marks)*
2. Identify the points in the passage which are similar to what happens in your society?  *Give real evidence/examples from your society (04 marks)*
3. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage:
4. Balm  *(01 mark)*
5. Cronyism  *(01 mark)*
6. Protégés  *(01 mark)*
7. Scams  *(01 mark)*
8. Cherished  *(01 mark)*
9. Pedestal  *(01 mark)*
10. Aura  *(01 mark)*
11. Vying  *(01 mark)*
12. Postures  *(01 mark)*
13. Obsessed *(01 mark)*

**SECTION III**

**SECTION III-33 MARKS**

**Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow after it.**

***The Civil Servant***

High noon, blazing sun beats down,

Searing his shoulders

Through the thin shirt.

He slowly trudges over to

The tree shade

To savour his midday meal:

Thick slices of air,

Delicately flavoured with dust.

Sleep creeps up on him, transporting him to

A banquet.

He is waited upon, hand and foot,

Manservants and waiters flit about.

‘Yes Honourable Minister,

As you wish, Honourable Minister.’

With a start, he awakes

To the growling of

His belly.

He rolls over, stretches and yawns,

And heads back to the office,

Picking his teeth with

The feigned air of

A satisfied man.

Ready to serve God and country.

(*Keith Mugadya*)

Questions.

1. Identify the persona and the audience in this poem. (5 Marks)
2. What is the subject matter of this poem? (8 Marks)
3. Comment on the feelings aroused in you towards the main character in this poem. (6 Marks)
4. What challenges does the main character face? (4 marks)
5. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the poem. ( 2 marks each)
   1. Savour
   2. Delicately flavoured
   3. Waited upon
   4. Growling
   5. Feigned air