1. Has the Defamation Act 2013 made reputations vulnerable to damage without compensation or remedy?

2. Does the law on misuse of private information hinder serious journalism on matters that are in the public interest?

3. ‘The widespread availability of pornography on the internet has made the regulation of cinema and video under the British Board of Film Classification redundant.’

Discuss.

4. ‘The powers of a press regulator need strengthening if it is to be effective, so that newspapers are subject to the same regulatory controls as television and radio.’

Discuss.

5. “The current position [of contempt of court laws] may mean that freedom of expression is not fully protected since the media are uncertain at times whether or not a publication might infringe the imprecisely expressed rule under s.2(2) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. But at the same time the existence of the rule fails to provide protection for trials. Certain newspapers, especially the less responsible sections of the press, at times engage in reporting at the outer limits of what can be tolerated under s.2(2).” (FENWICK and PHILLIPSON)

Do you agree with this assessment of contempt of court laws?

6. Answer EITHER (a) OR (b):

   (a) Does the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provide the necessary level of transparency to hold government to account?

   OR

   (b) Are judicial proceedings sufficiently open to public scrutiny?
7. ‘The case has not been made for the introduction of a statutory public interest defence [for offences under the Official Secrets Act 1989], we believe a statutory commissioner model would ensure alleged illegality or impropriety can be brought to light without the problems associated with such a defence’ (The Law Commission (2017)).

Discuss.

8. Is media freedom distinct from freedom of expression, and who should be able to rely on any protection afforded to the media?

9. ‘The freedom to communicate on the internet has rendered some media laws unworkable and open to evasion. There is no obvious solution to these problems.’

Discuss.

10. *The Evening Chronicle* is running a series of stories, written by its star investigative reporter Scoop Woodstein, under the headline ‘Big Oil’s Tax-Dodgers’. Previously, it has (correctly) revealed that two oil companies have used a number of tax avoidance schemes. The third article in the series focuses on a company called *FuelCo*. The story contains information based on a leaked internal memo which, the newspaper claims, outlines a tax avoidance scheme being used by *FuelCo*. The day after publication, a number of protests take place outside some of *FuelCo*’s petrol stations and there are campaigns for a consumer boycott of the company’s products. *FuelCo* claims that it has not relied on the avoidance scheme referred to in that memo and that the document was only setting out options for consideration. *The Evening Chronicle* replies that their source had clearly stated that the scheme in the memo represented *FuelCo*’s practice. *FuelCo* are able to establish that they did not adopt the tax avoidance scheme in question.

The following day, *The Evening Chronicle* publishes a further story on *FuelCo*, with the following quotation from ‘an internal source’: ‘*FuelCo* is a mean-spirited company. They are probably using some sort of tax avoidance scheme, even if the full details have not come out into the open. It will only be a matter of time before the truth is out.’

A copy of another document providing legal advice to *FuelCo* on tax matters is anonymously posted on the whistleblowing website *LeaksRUs*.

*FuelCo* wishes to discover the identity of the person supplying the leaked memo, the source of the quotation in *The Evening Chronicle*, and the person who posted the legal advice on *LeaksRUs*.

Advise *FuelCo*.