**Appendix 1: Assignment questions for Media Studies and Primary Education**

**1. Media Studies Department:**

**Course: BMS 302- Gender, Sex and Ethnicity in Media**.

a) Discuss the media treatment of one social group of your choice. What factors or contexts do you feel are relevant for understanding the ways in which this group is, or has been represented?

b) Do media images and messages only reflect the world, or do they also create it? Clearly they do both. But many studies demonstrate that media messages do not reflect the world as it really is. There are far more people of color, disabled people, non-heterosexuals, seniors an poor people in the real world than we see on TV or in the movies. Media portrayal of women often leaves much to be desired, especially women in advertising. Discuss with reference to both print and broadcast media.

c) “Gender based restrictions on media representations in Africa constitute a form of neo-colonialism which are contrary to African cultural traditions”. Explain, with evidence, whether you agree or disagree with this quotation.

d) What is now called “globalization” would not be possible without mass media. Communication through modern technology has the potential to spread democracy. But corporate control of media production simultaneously threatens the ability of citizens to receive unbiased news to have their own messages heard. Discuss.

**Course: BMS 401-Imaging Africa.**

a) To what extent does the national museum of Botswana conform to stereotypes about Africa and to what extent does it provide an alternative Afro-centric view of Botswana?

b) If an ancestral mask or a traditional foot stool is taken from its original context and function (e.g. to an art gallery) is its artistic value enhanced or diminished?

c) In what ways do African artists / media practitioners providee a counter narrative‟ to colonial/neo colonial imaging of Africa with respect to disaster?

**Course: EPI 442 – Environmental Education Conservation Strategies**

a) Discuss using elaborate examples how indigenous knowledge can contribute towards sustainable use of the environment and its resources.

b) Discuss how gender related activities contribute to natural resource depletion. In your discussion indicate how the environmental problems caused by such activities could be solved.

c) Using examples in Botswana and elsewhere how local communities can be an instrument in

conserving the environment.