Paragraphs

In these exercises complete the first paragraph of the essay after the introduction, using the topic sentences that you wrote for these paragraphs. You will find below the relevant parts of the plan that cover this part of the essay. Once you’re written the paragraphs compare them with those below.

Exercise

In the light of a number of recent high profile complaints about invasion of privacy, critically assess whether the press should continue to be self-regulating.

Plan

1. Private individuals who enjoy fame

a) If you seek publicity you should be willing to accept invasions of privacy

– the loss of privacy = the price paid for fame, power, wealth and influence.

b) But deference to the rich and famous may be important in a society –

publishing scandalous stories about their private life may result in

demystification, which may be socially destructive – deference may be an

important unifying factor in a society

e.g. Sports people who you may have admired found to be

cheating on their spouse.

Answer:

As this makes clear, cases in which it is most difficult to justify invasions of privacy are those that involve private individuals, who hold no public responsibility, so there is no obvious reason to hold them accountable for their actions. Nevertheless, there is a case for arguing that, if you seek publicity you should be willing to accept invasions of privacy. The loss of your privacy is the price you pay for fame, power, wealth and influence. But there are those who would argue that deference to the famous is an important unifying factor in a society. The admiration we have for athletes during an Olympics unifies a nation; therefore, reading an article that reveals they have been cheating on their spouse can be socially destructive.

Exercise

In the light of a number of recent high profile complaints about invasion of privacy, critically assess whether the press should continue to be self-regulating.

Plan

3. Democracy in the narrow sense:

a) A mechanism for protecting the freedoms of the individuals to form

and express opinion and exert influence. Essential freedoms =

Speech, assembly, association, movement,

Freedom from arbitrary arrest, particularly if individuals’ opinions

embarrass or conflict with the government,

Freedom of information – restrictions on the extent of official secrecy.

b) Society = loose collection of isolated individuals freely competing with each

other:

(i) Free competition.

(ii) Free competitive elections – freedom to vote, freedom from interference

at elections, secret ballot.

(iii) Multi-party politics – parties free to compete with each other – freedom

of choice.

Answer:

Although both of these senses of democracy aim to promote the freedom of the individual, the narrow sense does this by limiting the power of government, which it sees as the major threat to individual freedom. It envisages society as no more than the sum of its parts, just a loose collection of isolated individuals, who should be free to compete with each other. To achieve this, certain basic freedoms must be secured, like the freedoms of speech, assembly, association, movement and information, to ensure that competitive elections and multi-party politics, free from government interference, can reveal accurately the needs and preferences of individual voters.