



ICM

SEPTEMBER 2015

ENGLISH FOR JOURNALISTS & WRITERS

Instructions to candidates:

- a) Time allowed: Three hours (plus an extra ten minutes' reading time at the start – do not write anything during this time)
- b) Answer Question 1, which is compulsory, and then any FOUR of the remaining questions
- c) All questions carry equal marks. Marks for each question are shown in []

1. Write short definitions or give examples of the following:

- a) Allegory
- b) Alliteration
- c) Ballad
- d) Couplet
- e) Elegy
- f) Flashback
- g) Hyperbole
- h) Parable
- i) Simile
- j) Pronoun

[2 each]

2. Brevity is an essential quality for good written and broadcast journalism. Edit this Press Report, reducing it from 275 words to 167 words without losing any important facts. Give it a SIX-word headline.

Nigel Farage, the charismatic, controversial leader of Ukip, one of Britain's minor political parties which has been a sharp thorn in the side of both the Labour Party and the ruling coalition of Conservative and Lib Dems, gained massive and extensive media coverage from newspapers, radio and television with details about his health. In a surprise biography published a critical month before the election Farage described how he had cheated death on three occasions – from testicular cancer, a horrendous car crash and a miraculous escape from a light plane which crashed.

Shortly after the book was published he gave an interview to a national newspaper to say that he was still receiving regular hospital treatment for a serious back injury and excruciating pain as a legacy of the accidents.

His political opponents, the Conservative-led coalition and the Labour Party said that the timing of this information was designed to gain masses of public sympathy and votes ahead of the general election, where votes for his Ukip party could be critical in altering the balance of power between the three main parties.

Mr Farage gave the interview after he had claimed that his political opponents had hinted that his health problems would hamper his campaign and ability to give full time to his duties if he should be elected as a Member of Parliament.

In addressing the situation regarding his health problems, Mr Farage admitted that he told "untruths" to voters initially denying that he was unwell. "I have been experiencing horrible pain from a recurrence of pain in my back and my shoulder but I have not suffered any palpitations or heart murmurs." [20]

3. Please correct the errors in the following TEN sentences:

- a) If your going to make the first team you will need to improve your finesse.
- b) You will have to mark there centre forehead very closely.
- c) Irregardless of what you think grammer is important.
- d) In amateur plays you have to except it will be alright on the night.
- e) Last year has been a personnel development for my wife and I.
- f) Neither the men or women teniss players were fit.
- g) I'm anxious to see my fiends.
- h) Dont horde your money under a flee-ridden mattress.
- i) Her Royal Highness the Queen visited Mount Kilimanjaro.
- j) Use an ante bacterial shampoo; its' far better.

[2 each]

continued overleaf

4. Below is a report of an event that you need to re-write for a news outlet. The event took place earlier today.
- Everybody was busy arriving at the beach around 10 a.m. in the morning. The sun was shining and sellers were doing a roaring trade in selling ice creams and parasols. Waves were gentle with no danger for children making their first attempts at surfing. It was the first Bank Holiday of the year and nearby car parks were filling up fast. Some people were angry that the car parking charges had been increased as spring had turned into summer. Among the holidaymakers was a policeman, Dan Redford and his wife Melanie and four children.
- Lifeguards on duty to protect bathers who got into difficulties were spending more time looking at girls on the beach with their binoculars than they were scanning the waves.
- After about an hour more than a hundred people were in the sea, swimming and playing games. On the beach some parents were keeping an eye on young children paddling while others dozed under sunshades or watched vapour trails high in the sky as aircraft paraded overhead.
- Suddenly a klaxon blared from the coastguards hut and some realised this was a warning for sharks spotted in the area.
- Immediately there was pandemonium as the lifeguards launched their boat and bathers screamed as they ran for safety while dorsal fins were spotted near the shore. Three children were killed and four bathers seriously injured as the sharks swarmed to the attack. Sergeant Dan Redford, a policeman on holiday, and a boxer from South Africa, swam out to rescue five more children. Dan was bitten on the shoulder as he fought off a shark, while his wife, a nurse gave first aid to children who had suffered less serious injuries. The boxer, who refused to give his name, rescued two of the children.
- The head of the Coastal Lifeguard agency said, "This is the first attack on Golden Beach for five years and but for the bravery of Mr Redford and his unknown helper many more children could have died." [20]
5. The phrases below constantly crop up in copy from junior reporters and citizen journalists. Correct them.
- The government had overwhelming majority of 168 – 71 for its finance bill.
 - Defence counsel said he would not be calling the witnesses but they had provided signed affidavits.
 - The government said new traffic plans would be rolled out and revealed in October.
 - Manchester United have ordered extra training in a bid to improve their league position.
 - Fourteen schools will be closed on Friday due to the fact that teachers will be on strike.
 - In the majority of cases voters support a political party rather than a personality.
 - To the best of my knowledge the moon is not made of blue cheese.
 - The Cabinet will make a recommendation that guns will be outlawed.
 - The shooting took place in close proximity to the jail.
 - The President said his avowed and unwavering aim would be to strengthen the bonds with Europe. [2 each]
6. Ten of the following 20 words are misspelt. Correct those that are wrong.
- Accesery
 - Acolade
 - Acetylene
 - Afrodisiac
 - Bucolic
 - Chandeleer
 - Cicada
 - Claque
 - Coloquial
 - Dahlia
 - Defendent
 - Culottes
 - Giggolo
 - Hiatus
 - Mocasin
 - Meagre
 - Lynks
 - Monastery
 - Liquify
 - Manaccle [2 each]

7. Some correspondents and freelancers try to show off in their writing by using foreign phrases. Translate the following words into simple English.
- a) Ad hoc
 - b) A la mode
 - c) Aperitif
 - d) Bon mot
 - e) Bona fide
 - f) Bon appetite
 - g) Carpe diem
 - h) Chez moi
 - i) Coup de main
 - j) Esprit de corps
- [2 each]
8. Below are some commonly confused words. Give their true meaning.
- a) Ascent
 - b) Excerpt
 - c) Effrontery
 - d) Akimbo
 - e) Annexe
 - f) Apprise
 - g) Auger
 - h) Carat
 - i) Currant
 - j) Decimate
- [2 each]