



ICM

SEPTEMBER 2015

NEWSPAPER REPORTING

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 any FIVE questions
 - c) All questions carry equal marks. Marks for each question are shown in []
1. The following information has been passed to you from a series of sources. Write them up into a lead story of between 250 and 300 words based on the information provided.
- Royal Navy ship to the rescue in Mediterranean
 - HMS Bulwark, a UK naval ship, rescued 741 migrants from the Mediterranean yesterday
 - In total 4,200 migrants were rescued from drifting boats in 24 hours; 22 rescues took place
 - Ships from Italy, Ireland, Germany, Belgium and the UK took part in rescues
 - Italian officials said 17 bodies were recovered
 - The migrants rescued by HMS Bulwark, which was deployed to region in April, put ashore in Italy
 - Migrants were landed at Italian port of Taranto in southeast of the country
 - Commanding officer of HMS Bulwark, Captain Nick Cooke-Priest, said the migrants would have died
 - Captain Cooke-Priest said, “Some of the children brought to shore were horrifyingly young”
 - Altogether 35,000 migrants have reached Europe since January
 - At least 1,800 migrants have died trying to make the journey
 - 800 migrants died in April when a fishing vessel capsized off Libya
 - The loss of 800 lives was the Mediterranean’s deadliest shipwreck
 - European Union leaders held emergency summit in April
 - EU summit agreed to send extra ships but no agreement reached on what to do with refugees
 - EU proposal to disperse 40,000 refugees across European countries met opposition
 - Refugees setting sail in a variety of boats and dinghies
 - Many of boats and dinghies not fit for the journey and vulnerable in rough seas
 - Italian coastguard has been coordinating rescue efforts
 - Number of migrants setting sail for Europe has soared again [20]
2. Set out and comment on the key rules of presentation that should be followed when writing a news story. [20]
3. A good district or local reporter is likely to be able to display certain key skills. Analyse the skills that you would expect a good district or local reporter to have. [20]
4. The introduction and opening paragraph of a story are key in grabbing the attention of the reader. Write the headline and opening paragraph to BOTH the following news stories:
- Story 1
- Italy fighting cull of 11 million olive trees
 - Farmers in southern Italy fighting European Union edict forcing 11 million olive trees to be cut down
 - Some trees in groves of up to 1,000 years old
 - EU says trees must be killed to eradicate a disease that has already killed thousands of trees
 - Trees to be culled are in Puglia region
 - Puglia accounts for 40% of Italy’s olive oil output
 - Growers have mounted 24 hour patrols to prevent groves being uprooted
 - The disease, caused by bacterium xylella fastidiosa, caused loss of 74,000 acres of olive trees already
 - France and Spain fear disease will spread to their crops
 - Tony Balestra, an organic farmer of a 600 tree olive grove said, “The cull would be a disaster for us” [10]

Question 4 continues overleaf

Story 2

- Syria accused of new chlorine gas attacks
- Opposition to the regime of President Assad has been gaining ground
- In response, the Government has launched 15 chemical attacks since April
- Latest attack in town of Al-Janoudiyah last week left 150 people coughing, with swollen and weeping eyes
- UN resolutions passed after attacks in April 2013 which left 1,500 civilians dead from Sarin gas
- Latest gas attacks come after rebel fighters gained ground in the President's Alawite heartland
- American Ambassador to UN, Samantha Power, calls for the establishment of special panel
- Panel would find out who was responsible for the attacks
- Russia opposed this and wants a special mission by Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- Many now calling for intervention to stop the attacks [10]

5. Every journalist will encounter constraints and limitations when preparing, presenting or publishing an item. Analyse the main constraints and limitations that are likely to be encountered. [20]

6. The use of quotes in a newspaper article requires great care. Explain the key issues to be considered in handling quotes. Support your answer with examples. [20]

7. It is widely accepted that a journalist must bear in mind the readership of their paper when writing a story. Explain why this is the case. [20]

8. You are a reporter sent to interview the Chief Executive of a drug manufacturer. The brief you have is as follows:

A confidential source has told your newspaper that the latest 'wonder drug' produced by the company has failed a number of safety tests. This will, at best, delay the completion of the project. It may, however, call into question the very survival of the company if the drug fails to be a success. Your editor has asked you to find out if the rumours about the safety tests are true, if they are, how long the problems will take to sort out and the consequences for the company.

Set out:

- a) the strategy you would adopt to build the interviewee's confidence in you [10]
- b) the interviewing strategy you would adopt and the questions you would ask [10]