



ICM

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUB-EDITING

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. Review the use of focal points in page design. Support your answer with examples of focal points. [20]
- 2. It will often be necessary to edit a photograph before it can be used in a newspaper. Analyse the stages involved in editing a photograph. [20]
- 3. Sub-editors must have effective checking and verification skills. Analyse the action that a sub-editor should take to check news stories. [20]
- 4. Edit the following item, and prepare a headline, to produce a 60-word filler story for a national newspaper:

Sepp Blatter is set to be interviewed by Swiss prosecutors who are investigating whether FIFA officials accepted bribes to award the World Cup to Russia and Qatar, it was reported today. The scandal-hit football boss will apparently be designated as a 'person providing information', and will face questioning along with other senior figures such as Michel Platini. A former top prosecutor in the UK predicted today that Mr Blatter would also be interviewed by the FBI and could be arrested and potentially imprisoned, in the latest blow to his authority.

The 79-year-old was re-elected as FIFA president on Friday – just two days after 14 officials were arrested as part of an American-led probe into allegations of massive corruption.

Two British banks are believed to have launched internal investigations into whether officials used them to funnel corrupt payments, after they were named in the FBI report.

Mr Blatter has not been accused of wrongdoing, and insisted this week that he had no idea about the alleged bribe-taking at the heart of FIFA.

In the wake of the US arrests, which took place in Zurich on Wednesday morning, Swiss authorities revealed they were investigating the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Officials told Mr Blatter not to leave Switzerland so they could interview him, and it has now emerged that he will soon be questioned by local police. The Sunday Times reported today that he is one of 10 'auskunftspersonen' – a status in Swiss law somewhere between a witness and a suspect – who sit on the FIFA executive council. The others include UEFA president Michel Platini, who has been an outspoken critic of Mr Blatter, and Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko. The Swiss probe, known as 'Operation Darwin', is questioning all members of the executive council who were involved in the 2010 vote which gave the 2018 cup to Russia and the 2022 version to Qatar.

Mr Blatter has not been named as suspect in the parallel US investigation into corruption allegations.

Richard Weber, chief of the Internal Revenue Service unit which is leading the investigation, said yesterday: 'I'm fairly confident that we will have another round of indictments.'

Barclays, HSBC and Standard Chartered were all named in the FBI indictment over claims that corrupt FIFA employees used accounts with the banks to transfer corrupt payments. It emerged today that Barclays and Standard Chartered were launching internal reviews into the allegations, as the Serious Fraud Office continues to monitor the situation.

Despite the twin probes which were unveiled this week, Mr Blatter won a fifth term as president by a majority of nearly two-thirds, and promptly hit out at his rivals while vowing to rid FIFA of suspicion. He blamed the British media and US authorities for organising a vendetta against him and denied that FIFA is in crisis over the bribery allegations. [20]

continued overleaf

5. It is common for a sub-editor to reject a news story. Analyse why a news story might be rejected. [20]
6. The subbing process is generally considered to involve THREE key stages. Analyse EACH of these stages. [20]
7. Review the techniques and approaches involved in writing a successful contents bill. [20]
8. Review the role and function of a news editor in managing a newsroom. [20]