



ICM

DECEMBER 2016

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. Define – or give examples of – the following terms:

- a) Simile
- b) Personification
- c) Alliteration
- d) New nose
- e) Widow
- f) Quatrain
- g) Stringer
- h) Op ed
- i) Reverse indent
- j) IBC

[2 each]

2. Each of the following sentences contains an error. Correct them.

- a) The container in the crash weighed in at fewer than 10 tons.
- b) Her Royal Highness the Queen opened the museum.
- c) Your going to study hard to pass the exams.
- d) The union is demanding shorter working hours.
- e) French police used tear gas to disperse a hoard of fans.
- f) Major General Armitage is the youngest major in the army.
- g) Six soldiers set out to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.
- h) Aston Martin are a top marque in British motoring.
- i) Six essentials for good health are: diet, sleep, exercise, a happy home life and love.
- j) The injured man was given artificial inspiration.

[2 each]

3. Construct a story of not more than 100 words from the following information:

- It was a dark and stormy night off the English coast
- The 12,000 ton liner Typhoon ran aground in thick fog off the Lizard, a notoriously difficult area for navigators
- A gale was blowing
- More than 500 people were at risk on board
- The lifeboats could not be launched because of the heavy seas
- A distress rocket was fired and seen by people ashore
- Four rowing boats from villages put to sea manned by local volunteers
- The liner was built by Harland and Wolf in Belfast. It carried a crew of 134
- The rowing boats from the shore were manned by volunteers
- They included local fishermen and farmers
- They took 16 hours to rescue everybody on board
- Not a life was lost
- Four lifeboatmen received bravery awards. One of them was the local vicar
- Villagers opened their homes and offered food, blankets and shelter to the survivors
- Among those rescued were 60 children. Many were babies
- The captain faced a Board of Trade inquiry

[20]

continued overleaf

4. Correct any grammatical mistakes and edit the following passage of 325 words down to a maximum of 230 words:

The Royal Navy's mighty Fourth Battle Squadron were in the Mediterranean when the 1918 armistice was signed bringing an end to the wholesale slaughter which characterised the first world war. It had been hailed as the war to end all wars but that was not to be the case.

Some 10 days after the armistice the British Royal Navy launched Operation ZZ – code name for the surrender of the entire, massive and dangerous German fleet. It was then and still is, the greatest collection of warships ever seen as the two fleets converged and set sail for victorious Britain.

It was still night and dark in the safe anchorage of the firth of Forth when the dreadnoughts of the Royal Navy noisily slipped their anchors, raised steam and slipped away from their moorings.

More than 40 battleships and battle cruisers set a course due east. As they reached the North Sea they were joined by 150 cruisers and destroyers. It was the mightiest fleet ever to set sail from British waters. It was to rendezvous with the German High Seas fleet which had been ordered to entirely surrender without a fight.

This surrender had been the topic of bitter negotiations but Britain and her allies had insisted.

The German fleet consisted of nine battleships, five battlecruisers, seven cruisers and 50 destroyers. They were due to surrender in the firth of Forth before being taken to the huge formidable British naval base at Scapa Flow.

Admiral Sir David Beatty, commander of the British force kept his lethal guns trained on the German ships throughout the exercise.

His final humiliating order to the German commander was: "The German flag will be hauled down at sunset today and will not be hoisted again without permission."

But the British euphoria was not to last long. Within a few months German skeleton crews had scuttled their ships in Scapa Flow in a terrible and final act of defiance. [20]

5. Correct the following examples of tautology, grammatical errors or nonsense:

- a) During the battle the villages lost 75% of their population and were decimated.
- b) I saw it with my own eyes, said the witness.
- c) Civil rights leaders are sometimes unjustly persecuted.
- d) A birth certificate is a necessary requisite for a pension claim.
- e) The Bedser pair of twins were stars in England cricket.
- f) Allied forces penetrated into the enemy stronghold.
- g) The dictator's wife ordered the village to be razed to the ground.
- h) It is an absolute certainty that taxes will be raised in the next budget.
- i) Each and every one of you must try harder.
- j) Zoltan decided to take the penalty but lost his head and kicked it over the bar.

[2 each]

6. Correct the following examples of poor spelling:

- a) Clarevoyent
- b) Cinamon
- c) Demonstrible
- d) Dalia
- e) Delicatesen
- f) Dumbelle
- g) Diarear
- h) Diaphram
- i) Extrasensary
- j) Exort

[2 each]

7. Write TEN sentences correctly using the following words:

- a) Abnormal
- b) Subnormal
- c) Activate
- d) Motivate
- e) Affect
- f) Effect
- g) Atheist
- h) Agnostic
- i) Alter
- j) Altar

[2 each]

continued overleaf

8. Simple English is an aid to clarity in writing. Re-write the following passage, eliminating all clichés:

Police hunted high and low for the missing twins Bill and Judy Morrison until they were found safe and sound in a refuge for climbers. For a while, reported Inspector Frances, we couldn't see the wood for the trees and it was like looking for a needle in a haystack. Fortunately my men left no stone unturned as they decided to take the rough with the smooth and battled on through the dark night searching for the children. When reunited with their children the mother and father said it had been a race against time as it was raining cats and dogs at the time and the river was flooded. Mr Morrison said the police had pulled out all the stops to find the twins who were their mother's pride and joy. Inspector said that the action was just par for the course for his men. [20]