



# ICM

DECEMBER 2016

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. (Note: marks will not be awarded for just repeating the sentences set out below – the information must be used to produce a concise and coherent story.)
- Greenhouse gas emissions reported to be falling
  - Report to be published suggesting that they plateaued last year and will fall this year
  - 37bn tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> last year
  - Aim of politicians is to cut emissions enough to limit global warming below 2C by 2100
  - New figures have been produced by The Global Carbon Project
  - For first time in modern era emissions falling even though world economy growing
  - For past three decades emissions have largely tracked the global economy, rising 2-3% a year
  - In 2015 emissions stalled at 0.6%
  - Falling in 2016 even though energy demand rising 1-2% a year
  - Experts say is due to rising efficiency in use of fossil fuels
  - Also falling due to expansion of renewables such as wind and solar energy
  - Also falling due to slowdown in growth of coal consumption in China
  - China is world's largest emitter, producing 11bn tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year
  - China emissions are 30% of world total
  - News will be seen as evidence that emissions can be controlled without economic upheaval
  - The Global Carbon Project is consortium of 70 scientists from leading climate research centres
  - Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, said that 'more needs to be done to meet the emissions target'
  - Ban Ki-moon also said that 'we must hold temperatures below 2C to avoid damage to ecosystems'
  - Countries around the world have pledged emission reduction targets
  - Controlling future consumption key – China and India plan 1,617 new coal-fired power plants by 2030
- [20]
2. Review the approach that an editor is likely to take to assess the news value of a story. [20]
3. You have been appointed as a local district reporter for a national newspaper. Explain the skills, approaches and techniques that the newspaper will expect you to be able to display. [20]
4. The introduction and opening paragraph of a story are key in grabbing the attention of the reader. Write the headline and a coherent opening paragraph (of no more than 50 words) to BOTH the news stories below:
- Story 1**
- Mexican tunnellers carrying drugs into US
  - Last month crack team of investigators found entrance to latest tunnel dug by smugglers
  - Tunnel found by joint Mexican and American team
  - US Presidential candidate Donald Trump is proposing a wall to stop drug traffickers
  - In 2000 77 miles of the border was fenced
  - Now, 700 miles of US-Mexican border protected by barbed wire
  - Drug traffickers are now digging under the fence
  - Security forces pour concrete down each hole they find
  - Experts question whether a wall will be secure
  - Barry McCaffrey, a former Government head of drugs policy, said 'a wall will not stop tunnels'
- [10]

*continued overleaf*

## Story 2

- Russia sends students to Britain to gather information
- Russian Government is funding postgraduate students to attend Britain's leading universities
- Aim is to get the students to bring crucial expertise back to Russia
- Nearly 80 students have been placed at leading facilities in the UK
- Russian president authorised the scheme in a 2014 presidential decree
- The decree launched the 'state programme for global education'
- Students are studying in sensitive areas including technology, science and engineering
- Russian Government pays up to £30,000 a year for tuition fees and costs
- When students return home they work in one of 567 companies vetted by Russian Government
- Russian Government is nervous about British students working in Russian universities [10]

5. Set out the approach that you would adopt, as a journalist, to summarise a long report to produce a story. [20]

6. Review the main sources of news likely to be available to a national newspaper. [20]

7. Explain the rules of presentation that should be followed when producing a story for a national newspaper. [20]

8. You are a reporter sent to interview a Government Minister. The brief you have is as follows:

An aid convoy taking supplies to refugees has been attacked. A confidential source has suggested that the Government, of which the Minister is a part, was responsible for the attack. The Government has denied this but suspicions are growing that this is not the case. You have been sent to interview the Minister to get to the bottom of the story. Expect the Minister to be defensive and potentially hostile to your questioning.

Set out:

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