



# ICM

JUNE 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. Give the plural forms of the words shown below:

- a) Major General
- b) Attorney General
- c) Court Martial
- d) Bison
- e) Goose
- f) Mongoose
- g) Cod
- h) Confetto
- i) Die
- j) Hippopotamus

[2 each]

2. Punctuate accurately and remove tautology from the following text, reducing it to 70-75 words.

I discovered quite early in life that that i had many limitations as a Writer and it seemed to me that the only truly sensible thing to do was to aim at what excellence i could within these parameters I knew that i had no outstanding lyrical quality in my style I had an embarrassingly small vocabulary and no wonderful gift for the creation of original Figures of speech. The joyful simile or thought provoking metaphor were beyond my reach thus great poetic flights and any literary imaginative sweeps were completely beyond my limited ability hence I decided that I would concentrate on brevity, clarity and euphony, trusting my ear to tell me that I was communicating my stories to the reader.

[20]

3. Convert and condense the following direct speech into reported (indirect) speech, retaining one dramatic quote:

The news that Maria Sharapova had been guilty of taking a banned substance sent shock waves throughout the major sports of the world.

Mr Pancho Gonzales head of the South America Sports Federation said:

“The fact that one of the richest, if not the most attractive female athlete in the world has been taking a banned drug for so long sends out a vicious and dangerous message to all young people throughout the world. These drugs may not necessarily enhance performance but pose a real risk to the future health of the user. This is not just a problem for tennis but it extends to track and field, cycling, swimming, boxing and soccer. It is time for all national and international bodies to join together to present a united front against the use of performance enhancing drugs. There is only one way to put an end to this pernicious practise and that is to enforce a lifetime ban on anybody caught using drugs which appear on a banned list.”

[20]

4. Define the following TEN terms:
- Agony column
  - Body type
  - c and lc
  - CMYK
  - Cuttings job
  - Disclaimer
  - Double
  - Hack
  - Kern
  - Puff
- [2 each]
5. Correct the following grammatical errors:
- Those who work hard to gain riches should be allowed to spend them as they chose.
  - Sport England shops offer no less than six types of bat.
  - The party would have been a lot more fun if it was begun earlier
  - Keegan may never have become a footballer if not for the late Bobby Robson.
  - Arsenal is out to rebuild the first team.
  - The city was decimated losing half its population.
  - England's quartet of Root, Morgan and Bairstow make them a formidable force.
  - Suarez, whom Arsenal believed was joining Manchester United, joined Barcelona.
  - Parliament prevaricated for so long the deadline passed.
  - Voters complained that politicians are so clever with words that us plebs cant answer back. [2 each]
6. Re-write the following broadcast, eliminating all the clichés while retaining the sense:
- The government is likely to face a backlash basically because the chancellor is now beleaguered by global events that have wrecked his blueprint for recovery. While the electorate had hopes for a bonanza, the consensus of opinion now is that the new crackdown on bank legislation and lending is likely to have a massive shock on the economy as a whole resulting in a quantum leap in a year's time in swingeing tax increases. The fact that the government was forced to put increases in the state pension on the back burner has led to a massive shambles in the National Insurance office which was geared up to introduce the new rates. [20]
7. Construct a five-paragraph story from the following facts which were telephoned in by a reader who found the body and also called the police. Give it a five or six-word headline.
- An expert in antique silverware was found dead in her garden yesterday
  - Robyn Smith was found beaten to death by a neighbour
  - The discovery was made around 8 a.m. It was raining at the time
  - She was 50 years old, said neighbours, and had an antique business in central London
  - One neighbour, Mrs Anthea Jones, said the victim had a grown up son and a daughter but was believed to be divorced. "She was a lovely lady, always well dressed and polite," said Mrs Jones. "I was shocked."
  - The house where she lived was called Thames Heights. It is in tree lined Acacia Avenue where houses sell for more than £1million, near Hampton Court in west London
  - A Mercedes car and a Range Rover were parked in the drive of the house
  - Neighbours said her business partner was a Mr James Alexander but the couple did not appear to live together. Neighbour, Mrs Anthea Jones, said the victim was always well dressed and polite
  - Police said that a 55-year-old man was helping them with inquiries. They added that the head injuries were so severe that they at first believed she had been shot. They were still looking for the murder weapon [20]
8. Simple English is an aid to clarity in writing. Substitute plain words for the following:
- Ad infinitum
  - Aficionado
  - Agitprop
  - Alfresco
  - Bon mot
  - Chutzpah
  - De facto
  - Factotum
  - Hara-kiri
  - In camera
- [2 each]