



ICM

JUNE 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.)
- Thai elephants claimed to kill one a month
 - Visitors are told to stop taking amusement rides on elephants after death
 - British man killed last week by rogue bull elephant
 - Critics claim elephant tourism industry is based on brutal training that stresses elephants
 - Tourism industry gets elephants doing stunts from polo to painting
 - British man gored to death after the elephant threw him
 - The mahout in charge of elephant charged with negligence leading to death and injury
 - Experts at Elephant Nature Camp at Mae Peng said incident inevitable
 - Experts say elephants are traumatised and beaten in training so are not friendly
 - Experts lobbying Thai parliament to set minimum legal standards for food, water and shelter
 - Sangduen Chailert, founder of Elephant Nature Camp
 - Chailert said “Elephants have memories and they think about revenge”
 - Chailert said “About once a month a mahout is killed and others are injured”
 - Dozens of elephant resorts and trekking camps dotted around Thai beaches
 - Elephant Nature Camp rescues elephants from circuses, shows and logging camps
 - Many elephants at the camp are sick, traumatised or injured
 - Young elephants can sell for up to £20,000 for use in tourist industry
 - Many of those in tourist industry are made to work all day
 - Experts say elephants should not work for more than two hours a day
 - When captured, elephants training for use in tourist industry harsh
 - Captured elephants placed in cage, tied up, deprived of water and beaten
 - Experts say owners would rather take a risk with tourist lives than lose profits [20]
2. Critically evaluate the contribution of investigative journalism to modern-day journalistic practice. [20]
3. Every ambitious journalist must develop effective interviewing skills. Review the actions that a journalist should take to carry out a telephone interview with a Government Minister. [20]

continued overleaf

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

- British made space camera to hunt for new life in space
 - New camera to seek out life on distant planets
 - Camera called Mid-Infrared Instrument (Miri)
 - Camera will be launched into space as part of the James Webb space telescope in 2018
 - New telescope will analyse atmospheres of extrasolar planets to look for gases that could indicate life
 - Sensitivity of telescope to infrared light will allow it to detect light from the very first galaxies
 - Telescope project is led by NASA but with key contributions from Britain and European Space Agency
 - Telescope will replace Hubble space telescope
 - Peter Jensen, from European Space Agency, said “we will be looking for planets like ours”
 - UK contribution to development cost of Miri is £15m
- [10]

Story 2

- Prisoners on parole to be fitted with alcohol detector tags
 - Prisoners will be banned from drinking alcohol when released from prison
 - New initiative part of package of measures announced by UK Prime Minister David Cameron
 - Thousands of prisoners to be fitted with tags and told to stay away from alcohol as part of parole
 - Prime Minister will also announce mobile phone signal to prisons to be cut off
 - Cutting of mobile phone signal aimed at stopping prisoners ordering drugs
 - Announcement will also say how pregnant women in prisoners are looked after will be reviewed
 - Prison Governors to have more powers
 - New arrangements are intended to improve rehabilitation rates
 - Currently 45% of prisoners reoffend within a year
 - Cameron said “Clearly, there needs to be more emphasis on rehabilitation”
- [10]

5. Set out and review the key rules of presentation that should be adopted when writing a news story. Support your answer with examples. [20]
6. Explain the main sources of news likely to be available to a national newspaper. [20]
7. Explain how the news value of a story will be assessed. [20]
8. Analyse why it is widely accepted that a journalist must bear in mind the readership of a paper when producing copy. [20]