



# ICM

MARCH 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. A command of English grammar is essential for a journalist. Define or give examples of the following TEN terms:
- a) Conjunction
  - b) Preposition
  - c) Interjection
  - d) Phrase
  - e) Synonym
  - f) Homophone
  - g) Euphemism
  - h) Hyperbole
  - i) Oxymoron
  - j) Simile
- [2 each]
2. The following TEN sentences contain two grammatical errors each. Correct them.
- a) Your going to like this exam because its easy.
  - b) Lets go to there house for dinner.
  - c) After hiding in the sellar for 24 hours police discovered the children.
  - d) Arsenal is certainly up for the final which kicks off at 3p.m. on Saturday afternoon.
  - e) None are more dedicated to equality than the Opposition group which have firm policies.
  - f) He was in pain so he took to many pills and drunk far to much.
  - g) I hope you can advise myself on a problem worrying my husband and I.
  - h) The chief protagonist of devaluation said the £ would soon appreciate in value.
  - i) The consensus of opinion was that floodwater would completely surround the supermarket.
  - j) Each and every one of the pupils gained a temporary respite from examinations.
- [2 each]
3. Answer both questions.
- a) The following review appeared in a British newspaper. Newsom is a singer songwriter who plays the harp. Rewrite the following review in a maximum of 75 words, employing your skill in accuracy, brevity and clarity.

POP ROCK AND JAZZ JOANNA NEWSOM DRAG CITY

Laudably impervious to the demands of the music industry, Joanna Newsom has taken more than five years to follow *Have One on Me*, the triple album which cemented her position as one of alt-pops most uncompromising (and opinion dividing) artists. As if intent on flaunting her shackle-free individualism, the Californian spent two of those years finessing the overdubs – harp obviously, but massed harmonies, woodwind and strings too – that gives *Divers* its incredible textural lushness and complexity.

Thematic the album may be, but good luck in deciphering what unites its 11 sprawling tangential songs. This is Newsom, after all, a notoriously illusive (and allusive) writer.

The connectivity of generations and locations, the inevitability of loss, hubris, candour, and concealment courses through the songs such as *Time*, *As a Symptom*, *Goose Eggs* and the title track *Divers* is just as disparate taking in piano balladry, Scottish jigs and courtly waltzes. Understanding it takes time and requires patience. Both will be richly rewarded.

[10]

*Question 3 continues overleaf*

- b) Write a two-paragraph summary of the following story in a maximum of 100 words.

Patients who take the IVF fertility treatment are much more likely to develop ovarian cancer than those who do not, according to a study, the results of which are due to be revealed today. More than 250,000 British women who have had the treatment were involved in the survey which has been carried out by a London teaching hospital. Some scientists believe that the danger comes from the process of stimulating the ovaries to produce multiple eggs instead of one. The take up of IVF treatment has increased greatly in recent years as career women have put off their decision to have children.

Kathleen Taylor of Ovarian Cancer Action urged caution in acting on the information while saying that the relative increase was significant, the absolute risk of getting cancer was low. Stuart Lavery, consultant gynaecologist and honorary senior lecturer in reproduction medicine at Imperial College London said that while IVF remained an inefficient process, new findings of mitochondrial assessment could offer additional opportunities helping patients to get pregnant quicker. [10]

4. The following words have two meanings. Give both.

- a) Alibi
- b) Arguably
- c) Celibate
- d) Chronic
- e) Dilemma
- f) Contemporary
- g) Scan
- h) Cohort
- i) Pristine
- j) Chauvinistic

[2 each]

5. Give the plural forms of the following words:

- a) Addendum
- b) Spectrum
- c) Alumnum
- d) Bacillus
- e) Chateau
- f) Sheep
- g) Index
- h) Stadium
- i) Graffito
- j) Formula

[2 each]

6. You are given the following facts to provide a story that must be told in a maximum of 100 words:

- Britain is to receive a £5billion investment from China to revive its major industries
- Beneficiaries are likely to be iron, steel, railways, power stations and airports
- America warns Britain that it may be jeopardising its special relationship with the USA
- British Labour Party says the plans do not include guidelines on minimum wage levels
- The Government says the deal is a massive boost to East-West political relationships
- Britain insists part of the deal is that China stops dumping cheap steel on the European market
- Chinese will attend a state banquet at Buckingham Palace
- Prince Charles boycotts banquet in protest at China's civil rights record
- House of Commons approves deal with substantial majority
- Cameron hails the deal as a triumph for British industry and jobs

[20]

7. Explain the following literary terms:

- a) Sonnet
- b) Delayed intro
- c) Vox pop
- d) Widows
- e) Quatrain
- f) Gerund
- g) Superlative
- h) Quadrilateral
- i) Hexagonal
- j) Soliloquy

[2 each]

8. Reviewers on The Times Literary Supplement and other leading journals have been banned from using over-used words. Give alternative words or short phrases you would use instead of the following:
- a) Rich tapestry
  - b) Searing indictment
  - c) Smorgasbord of ideas
  - d) Blueprint
  - e) Minor quibbles
  - f) In spite of
  - g) The curate's egg
  - h) To be perfectly honest
  - i) Gunned down
  - j) Back burner

[2 each]