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.)
   – Long delay in provision of aid to Nepal earthquake victims
   – Earthquake hit Nepal on April 25 2015
   – Two months later experts say just 10% of Nepalese homes are safe to live in
   – International donors' conference in June to boost support for the homeless
   – Conference pledged £1.9bn to support Nepalese Government
   – Nepalese Government says £4.2bn needed to rebuild the country
   – British public donated £73m, UK Government a further £63m
   – 9,000 people were killed in the April earthquake
   – The earthquake was 7.8 in magnitude, with a further one in May
   – 500,000 homes were destroyed
   – UN says 45,000 households in far-flung mountainous regions have not received basic supplies
   – Nepalese Government criticised for poor planning and blocking vital aid efforts with ‘red-tape’
   – Nepalese Government wants all aid channelled through a new state body – may cause delays
   – Sushil Koirala, Nepalese Prime Minister (PM), vowed a zero tolerance policy towards corruption
   – Some residents say that they have yet to receive any government or international aid
   – Shigeru Ban, prize-winning Japanese architect providing assistance
   – Shigeru Ban designing earthquake-proof prototype of traditional Nepali home
   – He hopes to start building the homes in August
   – Easy to build design

[20]

2. There will be occasions when an editor will have to deal with a complaint from a member of the public. Explain the approach that should be taken to deal with a complaint from a member of the public about a piece in a paper.

[20]

3. Explain the duties that a journalist typically owes an informant.

[20]

4. The introduction and opening paragraph of a story are key in grabbing the attention of the reader. Write the headline and opening paragraph to BOTH the following news stories:

**Story 1**

- No fuss as Queen breaks record
- On September 9 2015 Queen Elizabeth becomes UK’s longest reigning Monarch
- Overtakes Queen Victoria, her great-great-grandmother
- Will have been on throne for 63 years and 216 days (23,226 days in total)
- Will become longest reigning of the 41 kings and queens of England since the Norman Conquest
- Queen doesn’t want any official celebrations
- Some routine engagements planned
- Will be opening Borders Railway on day
- Full celebration of Queen’s 90th birthday planned for next year
- Birthday is on April 21, public events planned for May

continued overleaf
Story 2

• Row between Estonia and Russia over snatched agent
• Estonia stepping up campaign to free senior intelligence officer who is on trial
• Estonia says Russia kidnapped agent and took him across border
• Agent is Eston Kohver, 44, who is charged with smuggling, espionage, illegal border crossing
• Being held in solitary confinement in Pskov prison, near Estonian border
• Estonian Government says he was captured on their territory by Russian SWAT team
• Estonians say he was meeting a source as part of operation to tackle cross-border crime
• Russians say he was found on their territory with a pistol, cash and a bugging device
• European Union authorities have criticised his detention as illegal and called for his release
• The Estonian Government has criticised his hearings so far as being a “farce”

5. **Set out the approach that you would take to assess the news value of a story.**

6. **Journalists need to be skilled in writing in a coherent, concise and informative manner. Review the techniques that should be adopted to summarise a long report to produce a story.**

7. **Review the characteristics and qualities of a good newspaper feature.**

8. **Explain the approach that a journalist should take to ensure that a telephone interview is completed satisfactorily.**