

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES

JOURNALISM I – FOUNDATION SKILLS (IJM 1104)

JULY 2005 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer all questions in Section 1 and three questions in Section 2
2. Start each answer on a new page.
3. Common Dictionary is permitted.
4. Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised

SECTION 1 COMPULSORY

Use the information in Annexure A and RETURN the annexure with your script.  
Remember to put your candidate number on the annexure.

- a) Write a suitable intro and first paragraph ONLY using the story. [10 marks]
  - b) Explain how the intro and first para work. [ 5 marks]
  - c) Explain on which page of the local *Gweru Times* you would place the story and why? [ 5 marks]
  - d) Write a suitable one-deck headline of not more than 30 letters and spaces. [5 marks]
  - e) There are a few problems in the story. Select two and discuss what is wrong with them. [ 5 marks]
  - f) Write the correction for this sentence.  
“Ndlovu did not expect to win as they were other beautiful women on the stage”. [ 2 marks]
  - g) Write the correction:  
During her spare time Ncube likes to spend her time dancing and playing tennis in her spare time. [ 1 mark ]
  - h) What photo would you use for Annexure A? [ 2 marks]
  - i) Discuss two basic differences between a tabloid and a broadsheet? [ 5 marks]
- [Total 40 marks]

## **SECTION TWO: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS**

### **Question 2**

What do you believe are the main ingredients of newspapers? Give local examples in your answer.

[20 marks]

### **Question 3**

“Balance, truth and accuracy are over-rated values and no reporter can ever hope to attain these.” Debate the validity of this comment.

[20 marks]

### **Question 4**

Outline the route a news story usually follow from story inception (the idea) to its final publication. Also explain where you might find these early ideas.

[20 marks]

### **Question 5**

The editor of your newspaper is retiring. At a ceremony in his honour, he gives a speech to youngsters entering the profession. Write this speech warning reporters regarding cultural and societal preconceptions and their effects on that person’s roles as a writer?

[20 marks]

### **Question 6**

You have some time to prepare for an interview next week. There is no pressure. Discuss what steps you would take leading up to, but NOT including the interview itself.

[20 marks]

STUDENT REGISTRATION NUMBER: .....

**Annexure A**

MDUBIWA Secondary School in the Lower Gwelo district.

It is to be electrified. It is the first school to have this done.

The electrification was done under the fast track rural electrification programme.

Midlands Provincial Governor, Mr Cephass Msipa. He was the one who commissioned the electricity.

He, the Governor, reminded the school kids to guard against HIV/AIDS. He said the disease had wreaked havoc in many families. He also pointed out that the disease had orphaned more than 30 percent of pupils at the school. "As students, you should learn to abstain from pre-marital sex and concentrate on school work. The Bible says there a time for everything. Now is the time to learn. Later it will be time for sex" he said.

The governor said he is concerned at reports that some parents were letting their children go for gold panning instead of attending classes. "Education is far more important than gold panning," he said.

At a ceremony he attended (today) and said he was proud. The ceremony was at the same time as the school's prize-giving day.

One child has died in a gold panning accident (last week). He was buried (today) before the electrification ceremony.

The boy, Charles Mjuro. A thirteen year old, is killed in a mud slide. He skipped school lessons. His body was found by a passer-by.

The school also received assistance from a British school, Henrietta Barnet. It gave \$2,2 million towards the electrification project.

School's headmaster, Mr Paul Juru.

He said the school wanted to introduce computer studies and other subjects in which electricity is used. He said wants the school to attain A-level status.

The headmaster said he was sad that the ceremony was overshadowed by the death of Charles, but he hoped the electrification would assist students to stay in schools. There was a one-minute silence in memory of Charles at the ceremony.

The headmaster said the school's public examination record had improved. It went from zero percent from 1999 to 2002 to current 10 percent pass rate.

He said: "For the past three years, our school has been at the tail end in terms of pass rate. We were scoring zero percent and the best was in 1998 when we had a one percent pass rate. We were the laughing stock of the district. We turned the wheel last year, with a 10 percent and this year we are not looking at less than 20 percent" he said.

Mr Msipa said he was very, very pleased to note that the Government's Expanded Rural Electrification Programme was real and had become a reality for Mdubiwa.

He also said that work to electrify chiefs' homes in the area was underway. He said the electrification programme would see rural schools attracting qualified teachers.