

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
FOUNDATION SKILLS IN JOURNALISM (IJM 1114)
DECEMBER 2011 EXAMINATION
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Section A is **compulsory**.
2. Answer **any two questions** in Section B.
3. Start each answer on a new page.
4. Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised.

SECTION A

Question 1

Use the information in Annexure A to answer the following questions.

- a) Identify the 5Ws and H of this story. **[4 marks]**
- b) What kind of intro will you write using these 5Ws and H? **[1 mark]**
- c) Submit an outline of the story, using the format discussed in class. **[10 marks]**
- d) Use the outline and the information in the annexure to write a news story. Your story:
 - Should be in the shape of an inverted pyramid.
 - Should be a maximum of 12 paragraphs.
 - Will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Bulawayo Gazette*.**[35 marks]**

Total: **[50 Marks]**

Question 2: General Knowledge

- 1) According to the Cabinet taskforce on the revival of Bulawayo industries, how much money is needed to revive Bulawayo companies?
A) \$40 million B. \$4 million C. \$400 million
- 2) The ambassador of which country was ordered to leave Zimbabwe in August?
- 3) What's the name of the South African rugby team?
- 4) What does WOZA stand for?
- 5) Which Zimbabwean musician has been commended for encouraging male circumcision?

- 6) Where is Benghazi?
7) Dr. Conrad Murray has been tried for which singer's death?
A. Amy Winehouse B. Michael Jackson C. Kurt Cobain
8) Who is the president of Zambia?
9) The founder of which technology giant died in September?
A. Apple B. Microsoft C. Facebook
10) Who is Vladimir Putin?

Total: **[10 Marks]**

SECTION B

Question 3

- a) Reporters are expected to use objective language in news stories. Identify five characteristics of objective language. **[5 marks]**
b) Re-write these sentences to make them objective. **[5 marks]**
(i) He claimed he was innocent.
(ii) A Mzilikazi couple and their three children tragically died when their pick-up collided with a semi-trailer near Mpilo Hospital.
(iii) Lucky to be alive today, the 20-year old man walked away uninjured from a car accident that could have been fatal.
(iv) When they got home, the young couple had a big surprise. They found that burglars had taken all their lovely wedding presents.
(v) The police are searching for a man who killed a six-year old boy.
- b) Give five reasons why reporters should use strong verbs and avoid vague adjectives and adverbs in news stories. **[5 marks]**
c) Re-write these sentences, replacing weak verbs, adjectives and adverbs. **[5 marks]**
(i) Colleagues yesterday paid tribute to a police officer killed during a robbery.
(ii) The suspect was gone before police arrived.
(iii) He had expensive tastes.
(iv) She is tall and thin.
(v) He drove very fast.

Total: **[20 Marks]**

Question 4

- a) Identify five news values used in selecting events to cover. [5 marks]
- b) Identify and explain the three types of sources that can provide a reporter with information. [10 marks]
- c) Identify the four things you should look for when doing research for a story. [4 marks]

Total: [20 Marks]

Question 5

You're a reporter with a Bulawayo daily newspaper and your news editor has assigned you to interview the Mayor of Bulawayo about the city's unemployment problems.

Describe how you would:

- i. Prepare for the interview. [10 marks]
- ii. Conduct the interview. [10 marks]

Total: [20 Marks]

ANNEXURE A

You are a reporter for the daily *Bulawayo Gazette*. You receive the following information about a demonstration held in the Bulawayo city centre this morning:

Statement from Lizwe Mhlope, a lawyer and eyewitness

Everyone, pedestrians, drivers and cyclists, just stopped and stared. I've never seen such a sight in my entire life. There was a line of empty cars along Fife Street; the drivers were all standing on the street trying to get a better view.

Everyone was mesmerised, even the riot police. When the women finished their business and started going off, I could see some of the riot cops laughing and shaking their heads. Then they got into their trucks and drove away. After that, it was like everyone else woke up from a stupor and got back to what they were doing before all this started.

Statement from Millicent Moyo, a vegetable vendor and eyewitness

I was at the ATM outside Standard Chartered Bank along Fife Street, around nine in the morning, when I heard singing. I saw a group of naked women – there must have been close to a hundred of them – walking along Fife Street, towards the bank, singing and dancing and waving placards. I couldn't believe my eyes. They stopped outside the bank and one of the women, their leader, I guess, started giving a speech about this ridiculous mini-skirt law they want to introduce.

When the police came, they just seemed stumped. They didn't seem to know what to do.

Statement from Amanda Hlatswayo, a shopkeeper and eyewitness

Everything just came to a standstill. Then the police came and tried to arrest them and that's when things got even more bizarre. First, one police car came along and a group of officers tried to talk to the women, but there was so much noise because of the singing that I don't think they heard a word he said. They just kept going, singing and dancing, like the cops weren't even there.

Then the riot police came, but they couldn't get through all the cars and people blocking the street. They just stood and watched like everyone else as the women gave their speeches and sang songs and danced. I think we must have been there for about an hour. When they finished, they took clothes from these bags they were carrying, got dressed and just walked away.

Statement from police spokesperson, Thabo Ncube

Yes, I can confirm that such a development did take place. We're looking into it and will provide more information when we have it.

Background Information

The Public Dress Code Bill has been brought before Parliament. It proposes the introduction of a dress code that will “protect public morals”. Among the proposals contained in the Bill is a ban on the public wearing of mini-skirts. Women’s groups have criticised the proposed law, calling it an attack on the rights of Zimbabwean women.