

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
JOURNALISM II: NEWS (IJM 1204)
MAY 2004 EXAMINATION
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- (i) Answer **four questions in all**.
- (ii) Section **one** is **compulsory**
- (iii) Answer any **three** questions in Section 2.
- (iv) Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised.

SECTION 1: ANSWER THE QUESTION

Question 1

- a) You attend the following basketball match. Construct a one-minute TV news report based on this information:

A 23-year-old 1st year National University of Science and Technology Actuarial Sciences basketball player died this morning, Monday September 15th 2004 during a match at Milton Boys High School, in Suburbs, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Terry Renkini collapsed while running with the ball ready to score, according to his trainer Mike Moyo. Moyo also said that Renkini had not had any known illnesses. Renkini was pronounced dead at Central Hills Memorial Hospital in the city of Bulawayo. Paramedics, watched by emergency staff, other players and Red Cross officials, tried with all their might of revive him, but failed. An autopsy will take place tomorrow. Fans and supporters at the match watched in horror as he was carted off the court on a stretcher. Renkini, a high-flier with The Bulls, was taking part in a match against The Rams of UZ. The final score was Bulls 3, Rams 3. **[10 marks]**

- b) Use the same information to write a hard news Intro only for a daily newspaper. **[5 marks]**
- c) You are unable to attend the basketball match. How would you gather the relevant information to make a suitable presentation, VO only, for the early TV news? Briefly describe what sort of pictures you might use in place of 'live' coverage. **[5 marks]**
- d) What is meant by "dramatic unity" within broadcast news? Explain, using examples, how you believe it should work. **[20 marks]**

TOTAL: [40 marks]

SECTION 2: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

Question 2

What is of interest to the public may not necessarily be of the public interest. Discuss this statement in light of the role of a good investigative reporter.

[20 marks]

Question 3

a) Describe what you need to do to prepare for an interview with a person whom you know little or nothing about.

[10 marks]

b) The interviewee's press secretary sends you glossy photographs, brochures and background pamphlets prepared by his office. How much merit would you attach to this material? Justify your answer.

[10 marks]

TOTAL: [20 marks]

Question 4

Interviews are the staple diet of all good news stories, but there are different approaches for a print interview as opposed to a TV broadcast one. Explain how you would, given that you have only one interview with a prominent person, cover both aspects in the allotted time.

[20 marks]

Question 5

Choose four major differences between writing for broadcast news and for print news. Which **two** of these differences makes writing for broadcast more difficult than print and which **two** makes it easier? Give examples and explain.

[20 marks]

Question 6

- a) Construct a TV newscast, no longer than 2-minutes, using the items below. **[5 marks]**
- b) Explain why you have used that running order. **[5 marks]**
- c) Describe the type of TV news presenter you would use for a lunchtime broadcast. **[5 marks]**
- d) Write a 15-second news headline intro only for an OC presenter. **[5 marks]**

The running order and time is up to you.

- i. The speaker of Parliament, Mr Longtime Talker, has announced that he will not stand again. He has served in Parliament for 27 years and has been speaker for the past 10 years. He is a member of the official WHAM opposition party, with his constituency based in Gweru East. He has always been closed aligned with the country's education lobby and has recently worked for substantial pay rises for the country's primary and secondary school teachers.
- ii. The Airport Authority has announced that a new runway will be built sometime next year. The airport now has three runways, and this fourth one will increase the Capitals airport capacity. The new runway is being built to meet increased demands from airlines that want to schedule more flights into the city. The costs of construction for the new runway will be about Z\$3-billion, but Mr High Flyer, chairman of the AA, says the airport should recover the costs within about 3 ½ years.
- iii. The Machinists Union has called for an indefinite walkout of its factory against the country's General Car plant. The walkout was called because the contract that GC has with the machinists expired last Friday. Since then, workers have been working without a contract, and Mr Barney Wheeler, president of the union, said this situation cannot continue. "We have bargained in good faith, but we can see no evidence that General Car is doing the same thing." GC spokesmen refused to comment about the walkout but said the plant will maintain its operations. The plant manufactures wheel trims for tyres.
- iv. The Chirpers Community Orchestra and the Sweet Singers Chorus will combine forces tomorrow and present a joint concert, which will feature the last movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Lithesome Ncube and Quentin Nyika are leaders of the orchestra and chorus, respectively. Ncube said this is the first time the two organisations have performed jointly. In addition to the Beethoven symphony, the chorus will perform works by Bach and the symphony will play works by Brahms. The concert will be at the City Hall at 3 p m tomorrow. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Money raised will go to the SPCA organisation.
- v. Bobby Mean Hook, a native of Bulawayo and now a famous songwriter in Los Angeles, America, has said he will try to disprove a child-molesting charge and regain custody of his 12-year-old son. In a Los Angeles courtroom, Hook vowed to fight the charges brought against him by his former wife. They were divorced last year. He was convicted of child molesting last week, and his sentence hearing was today. He received a six-month suspended sentence but was also told that he had to give up custody of his son.