

# **NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES**

**JOURNALISM II: NEWS: (IJM 1204)**

**MAY 2006 EXAMINATION**

**TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

## **SECTION A: COMPULSORY**

### **Question 1**

Use the information in Annexure A to write a hard news story. Assume that you are writing for a daily newspaper based in Bulawayo (maximum 500 words). **[30 marks]**

### **Question 2**

#### ***General Knowledge***

- a) Who is the Zimbabwe's Minister of Local Government, Public Works and Urban Development? **[ 1 mark ]**
- b) What does UNHCR stand for? **[ 1 mark ]**
- c) Who is the Yugoslavia former president who died recently? **[ 1 mark ]**
- d) What was Zimbabwe's inflation rate at the end of March 2006? **[ 1 mark ]**
- e) Who is the National University of Science and Technology's spokesman? **[ 1 mark ]**
- f) Name two Zimbabwean models who recently participated in the Miss World Tourism in Tanzania. **[ 1 mark ]**
- g) Who is the Zanu PF chief whip in the Parliament of Zimbabwe? **[ 1 mark ]**
- h) What does MISA stand for? **[ 1 mark ]**
- i) Who is the president of the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists? **[ 1 mark ]**
- j) Who is the former president of Iraq currently facing charges of genocide? **[ 1 mark ]**

**TOTAL: [10 marks]**

## **SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS**

### **Question 3**

You have been assigned by the News Editor of a weekly newspaper on Saturday to write a story on a political party rally organized by the ruling party, Zanu PF, to be held the following day at Rufaro Stadium in Harare. Your sources have informed you that President Robert Mugabe will address the rally and a press conference later in the afternoon.

- a) State how you would cover the rally. Give reasons. [ 5 marks]
- b) What preparations would you make for the press conference? [ 5 marks]
- c) What possible questions would you pose to the president? [ 5 marks]
- d) What questions would you avoid? Why? [ 5 marks]

**TOTAL: [20 marks]**

### **Question 4**

Use the following information in Annexure B to answer the following questions:-

- a) Write a feature lead [ 5 marks]
- b) Write a hard news article (maximum 250 words) [15 marks]

**TOTAL: [20 marks]**

### **Question 5**

You are to conduct an interview with a woman who has been sexually abused by a top government official. This is a scoop of your life but the interviewee is nervous due to the political sensitivity of issue.

Explain how you would do the following:-

- a) Prepare for the interview [ 5 marks]
- b) Ensure that you put your source at ease and get other sources of the story. [ 5 marks]
- c) Type of questions you will ask. [ 5 marks]
- d) How would you verify the information [ 5 marks]

**TOTAL: [20 marks]**

### **Question 6**

A well-known questionable individual walks into your newsroom claiming that a public figure is involved in a gold mining scandal. You establish later that the person provided you with authentic documents for the story.

- a) How would you verify the information provided by the questionable character? [10 marks]
- b) What steps and precautions would you take to interview the public figure? [ 5 marks]
- c) What questions are you likely to pose to the public figure? [ 5 marks]

**TOTAL: [20 marks]**

## ***Annexure A***

### **Arthur Mutambara's acceptance speech**

Zim Online

Mon 27 February 2006

BULAWAYO - Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, and the generality of the people of Zimbabwe, it is with a heavy heart that I accept the presidency of our great democratic movement. This is because there are many of our soldiers and fighters in this struggle who are not here today.

We are not the only democratic force in the country. Morgan Tsvangirai deserves a place of honour in the fight for democracy in Zimbabwe. He is a Zimbabwean hero. All the democratic forces in Zimbabwe need to engage each other. We need to unite. A reunification framework and strategy must be established immediately. Here is my personal pledge for unity:

If as part of the reunification framework, a new leadership has to be elected, I am prepared to step down as President of this great party, and allow for fresh elections.

However, to demonstrate the seriousness and respect with which I take the responsibility and honour that you have bestowed upon me today, I will be prepared to contest against anybody who is nominated to stand for the presidency of the new united political formation. If I lose in such an election I will submit to the will of the people, and work vigorously under the new leadership.

So, what is the news headline tomorrow my friends in the media? "Mutambara becomes the President of the Pro-Senate MDC faction." Are you sure about that description? How many of you here actually know my position on that divisive Senate debate in October 2005.

Yes I had views, very strong ones indeed. My position was that the MDC should have boycotted those Senate elections. Not only that, I was for the total withdrawal from Parliament and all the other election based institutions. This to me would have constituted a consistent and effective regime de-legitimization strategy. I guess then that makes me the Anti-Senate leader of the Pro-Senate MDC faction! How ridiculous can we get?

That debate is now in the past, let us move on and unite our people. In any event, if I was a member of the MDC National Council on October 12 2005, I would have fought tooth, nail and claw to win in the battle of ideas; to convince my colleagues of the correctness of my position (total regime de-legitimization strategy). In the event of a defeat I would have submitted to the collective decision, and then vigorously campaign for this position against my own.

People of Zimbabwe I am here at this Congress because I cherish

democratic principles and values. I am here because of the need for unity. I am here because I am pro-Zimbabwe. I am here because my heart aches when I see the economic meltdown in our country.

I am here because the sons and daughters of Zimbabwe who are here agreed with my terms of reference that I outlined on the 20th of February 2006. Are there any other Zimbabweans who share that framework? Come along, let us work together and reclaim our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we came here to do a job. In order to understand the nature of that task, we must ask ourselves the following questions: Who are we as a political party? What are our values and principles? What is our vision for Zimbabwe? What is our strategy to achieve our vision?

#### Liberation War Legacy

We are a Zimbabwean and an African political party. We are freedom fighters. We are soldiers for social justice and democracy. We come in the tradition of the liberation war. We stand on the shoulders of the founding fathers of this nation; such as Nikita Mangena, Josiah Tongogara, Herbert Chitepo, Leopold Takawira, Joshua Nkomo, and Robert Mugabe.

Oh yes, the pre-1980 Robert Mugabe is part of the revolutionary tradition that defines us. We cherish and celebrate the heroic work of Zipra and Zanla forces. We salute and revere Mbuya Nehanda and King Lobengula. We are a patriotic opposition party that cherishes and defends our national sovereignty. We are better defenders of the liberation war legacy than the current Zanu PF party, whose activities are a negation of the principles and values of that great struggle. But if we appear combative, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is because of love of our country!

#### Land Revolution

Our critique of the chaotic Zanu PF land reform program is predicated upon our belief that there was need for a land revolution in Zimbabwe. Land was the basis of our armed struggle. We believe that going back to the pre-February 2000 status quo is not desirable.

We believe that our views on land reform in Zimbabwe are different from those of Western governments. Our approach is not driven by the interests of white farmers, but those of all Zimbabweans, white and black. While we put the failure of the land reform program squarely on the Zanu PF government, we also acknowledge the complicity of some Western governments which reneged on agreements, and the inertia of white farmers in seeking pre-emptive solutions.

We propose a democratic and participatory framework that seeks to achieve equitable, transparent, just, and economically efficient distribution and use of land. This must have emphasis on productivity, food security, self-sufficiency, and collateral value of land.

Arthur G.O. Mutambara

## ***Annexure B***

1. 500 000 people need food handouts in Matabeleland South
2. Villagers in Nkhalange, Zwabagwamba, Nhwali and Selonga have not received food handouts since October 2005
3. Nontokozi Sibanda of World Vision Zimbabwe says the government was warned about the humanitarian crisis five years ago following the invasion of farms by war veterans.
4. "The situation in Matabeleland South is pathetic. Government should resuscitate the Give-A-Dam Campaign it launched in the 1980s to address water problems in this region in order to ensure sustainable agriculture for the province," says Mehluli Sibanda, the Provincial Administrator, Matabeleland South Province.
5. Some villagers are now depending on pounded indigenous roots of a tree commonly referred to as *mtopi*. They make porridge out of the pounded stuff and feed their children who now have one meal a day. More than 3 000 school children are starving with the majority fainting during lessons and on their way home from school.
6. Matabeleland South Governor and Resident Minister Angeline Masuku declines to comment
7. Musawenkosi Ndiweni (3), her grandmother Muhle Ndiweni and aunt Nobuhle Nyathi have been without food for the past two weeks. Musawenkosi can hardly walk as she is suffering from malnutrition. She can only be saved by the will of God as no food is available from the Grain Marketing Board Depot in Gwanda.
8. Some government officials say the food crisis is alarming and they need international assistance although the government insists that there is no food shortage in Zimbabwe.
9. According to one of the government officials: "Government's assessments can be likened to navigation without a compass. People should know better than take government's promises on food self-sufficiency at face value. It's about time Zimbabweans stopped listening to 'no Zimbabweans will starve' gibberish."
10. "We are in serious trouble here because people are starving. They have nowhere to go to source maize meal. The shops are empty and the GMB does not have maize. Right now, I have over \$24 million that was paid by villagers so that we can source maize from the GMB depot," says Boniface Dube, Kraal Head, Mbuzimbili Village, Selonga Communal Lands, Gwanda South.

Ends