



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS) IN JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
NEWS WRITING
IJM 1223

Final Examination Paper

May 2017

This examination paper consists of 8 pages

Time Allowed: 3 hours
Total Marks: 100
Special Requirements: None
Examiner's Name: Ms. Nqobile Nyathi

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer **ALL** questions.
2. Start each answer on a new page.
3. Poor spelling, grammar and structure will be penalised.

MARK ALLOCATION

QUESTION	MARKS
1.	30
2.	30
3.	20
4.	20

SECTION A

QUESTION1

Use information in Annexure A to write a **martini glass** news story (maximum 12 paragraphs) that will be published today on the website of the *Bulawayo Gazette*. Your story should use an **inverted pyramid intro**. **[30 Marks]**

QUESTION2

Use the information in Annexure B to write an **issue-based** story (maximum 14 paragraphs) that will be published tomorrow in the *Bulawayo Gazette* **[30 Marks]**

QUESTION3

Use the information in Annexure C to write an **inverted pyramid** news story (maximum 6 paragraphs) that will be published in the next half hour on the website of the *Bulawayo Gazette*. Your story should use a **descriptive direct intro**. **[20 Marks]**

QUESTION4

Use the information in Annexure C to write an **hourglass** news story (maximum 8 paragraphs) that will be published tomorrow in the *Bulawayo Gazette*. Your story should use an **inverted pyramid intro**. **[20 Marks]**

ANNEXURE A

You are a reporter for the *Bulawayo Gazette*. Late this morning, you received a tip-off from a police source about a plane crash at Townsend High School.

You arrive at the scene of the accident to witness the fire brigade working on putting out a fire that has engulfed a small aircraft at a sports field.

Your interview Fidelis Dube, Bulawayo region director of the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe, as well as eyewitnesses, and obtain the following information:

Information Obtained from Fidelis Dube

A Cessna 150, which is a two-seat light plane, crashed at Townsend High School this morning. We cannot release the name of the pilot until we have confirmed his identify and his next of kin are informed. But I can confirm that the pilot is deceased. There was no-one else in the plane. Our investigators will look over the plane to determine the cause of the accident. However, it appears as if the pilot was attempting to make an emergency landing and crashed into some trees to avoid 20 school girls who were playing sports in the field. We will make available further information as it becomes available.

Information Obtained from SithembileMaphosa, a Parent

It's a miracle our girls were not hurt. The pilot is a hero. He has to be commended for what he did, even though it cost him his own life.

Information Obtained from Lisa Bhandu, a Maths Teacher

We were in the staff room when we heard a plane engine cutting off. We ran outside and saw this little plane that was having a tough time keeping altitude. It was headed towards a field where sixth form girls were playing hockey. I started running toward the fields. I don't know what I would have done if it'd ploughed into the girls, but then, miraculously, the pilot pulled the plane up, veered the other way and crashed into some trees at the edge of the field.

I'm pretty sure he did it on purpose. What he did is heroic and he should be commended.

Information Obtained from Nira Mpofu, a PE Teacher

I don't know anything about flying, but it looked like this guy crashed into the trees at the edge of the field to avoid the girls who were playing hockey. It looked to me like he was trying for an emergency landing on the field. His engine was sputtering and the plane was flying really low. And then he must have seen the girls. He pulled the nose of the plane up and went into the trees away from the girls. The plane exploded. He saved 20 lives.

ANNEXURE B

You are a reporter for the Bulawayo Gazette. For the past two weeks, you've noticed that the city council has been failing to collect garbage in your neighbourhood. You decide this might be an interesting trend to follow up, so you request a car from the news editor and drive around the city.

You find uncollected garbage in Selbourne Park, Hillside, Mzilikazi, Lobengula, Pumula and Ilanda.

You interview residents, representatives of the residents' association, and city council officials. You obtain the following information:

Mayor Sam Dube: The city council is aware of the problem. It's a problem we've been facing on and off for several years, but which worsened late last month. It's something we're working day and night to resolve. The problem we are facing is that the Bulawayo City Council is in deep financial crisis. We don't have the resources to collect refuse on a weekly basis, as we are supposed to. We've gone from weekly collection to collecting refuse every two weeks. While we're trying to resolve the problem, we ask residents not to dump their trash in public places. They should keep their refuse in their yards until it can be collected.

Noma Mhlanga from Sizinda: Sizinda has become a dirty place. Because the council is not collecting our garbage, residents are being forced to dump it in public. When you walk down the street, you are greeted by the sight of people's rubbish just dumped by the side of the road. We have rotten food, papers, soiled Pampers, and other things I can't speak of in public. In some places, you have rubbish floating in water from burst pipes. Children are playing in this filth; they risk contracting all sorts of diseases. This is a health hazard; it's only a matter of time before someone falls sick.

Town Clerk Langa Banda: The city council is trying all means to resolve this situation. We are working with only 13 refuse trucks out of the usual 21. The others are parked because they have broken down and we can't afford to repair them. We ask residents to please bear with us.

Mike Mathe Director of the Bulawayo Progressive Residents' Association: What we're talking about here is garbage pollution; we have a situation where residents are being forced to live under conditions that are a breeding ground for cholera, dysentery and other diseases. It's only a matter of time before someone falls sick and infects others; after that, it's only a matter of time before large numbers of people are ill and some of them start dying. We have a right to know what's being done.

Garbage pollution involves disposing of rubbish in places that are not designated for the dumping of garbage. It's the city's council's responsibility to collect our trash and dispose of it accordingly. What we have, instead, is a situation where residents are being forced to get rid of rubbish, and they're doing this in places that are not set aside for garbage disposal. Cities like Accra and Delhi are facing similar problems; you have garbage getting into rivers and lying about in some neighbourhoods. There's a real danger we could be headed the same way.

As I said earlier, there's the risk of infectious diseases such as cholera and dysentery. If you have children playing in water that is full of household rubbish, and who knows what else, there's a real risk of them contracting such illnesses, even illnesses as serious as typhoid . All of these can spread quickly, especially in high-density areas where large numbers of people live together in crowded quarters.

You also have people being forced to burn their rubbish, which leads to the release of harmful gasses in the air. We're breathing in these gasses everyday, which could give rise to lung infections and lung diseases.

Rajesh Singh from Hillside: Every Friday morning we take out our bins, only to have to take them in again because the council doesn't come to collect them. At the end of the week, I have a full bin and no-where to dump the rubbish to make way for the following week's garbage. I'm forced to either keep the trash in my home, or burn it. The city council can't remain silent about this issue. Residents have a right to know what's being done because this is a health hazard.

FisoZondo from Mzilikazi: The city council is putting our health at risk. Surely, how can residents fail to fall sick if we are having rotten food and soiled nappies littering the streets? Something has to be done.

Background Information

An estimated 1 000 children die every day in India due to polluted water.

Research has shown that people who live in places with high levels of air pollutants have a 20 percent higher risk of death from lung cancer than people who live in less-polluted areas.

Accra is another African city facing garbage disposal problems. Residents have resorted to dumping their trash into the sewers, where it washes into the rivers. One neighbourhood has become so polluted by the trash flowing from the rivers that residents have begun calling it Sodom and Gomorrah.

In 1347, unsanitary and overcrowded conditions contributed to the outbreak of bubonic plague, a bacterial infection that caused fever, headaches, vomiting and death in several European countries. Known as the Black Death or the Great Plague, it caused the death of a third of the human population.

ANNEXURE C

You are a reporter for the *Bulawayo Gazette*. It's Saturday evening and you have received the following statement from police spokesperson Langa Sibanda. Your story will be published in the next half hour on the website of the *Bulawayo Gazette*.

At about 4 p.m. this afternoon, three young men were climbing the face of a cliff at Hillside Dams. They were identified as LizweMhlophe, 22, of Burnside, his uncle, Andile Dube, 35, of Mzilikazi, and Mr. Mhlophe's younger brother, Christopher, 10. They were anchoring themselves to the rock face as they climbed. It is about 61 metres to the top. As they neared the top, several of their anchors pulled out.

The cliff face is called "The Old Man of Eden" because from a distance it looks like a human face. It is a favorite spot of local rock climbers, even though a city council regulation makes climbing it an offense that carries a fine of up to \$500. In the past 50 years, over a dozen people have been killed climbing the cliff.

The two older climbers grabbed hold of creases in the rock face as they fell, saving themselves, but 10-year-old Christopher fell another 12 metres before catching a tree branch and hanging on. He screamed frantically, but no one of about two dozen people on the ground tried to climb to his aid. His brother and uncle were unable to descend to him. After five minutes, the branch broke and Christopher fell to the rocks below. The child was pronounced dead on arrival at Mater Dei Hospital.