

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
SPECIALISATION ELECTIVE – FEATURE WRITING: (IJM 2105)
JULY 2005 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Section A is **Compulsory**.
2. Answer any **three** questions in **Section B**.
3. Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised.
4. Answer each question on a new page.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

Annexure A is a general news story taken from a local newspaper. It originated in South Africa.

Question 1

- (a) Using the information in the article, draw a concept tree. **[10 marks]**
- (b) Use one of the concepts from (1a) to explain what you would do to prepare for that story. **[10 marks]**
- (c) What should you do to change the focus of this story to a local, Zimbabwean story? **[4 marks]**
- (d) Explain three key differences between a feature article and a hard news story. **[6 marks]**
- (e) What is meant by primary sources and secondary sources? Give an example of each. **[10 marks]**
- Total: [40 marks]**

SECTION B: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS

Question 2

It is true to say that a feature writer generally has more freedom than a hard news reporter. Discuss the truthfulness of this statement and give examples to justify your answer. **[20 marks]**

Question 3

A new feature writer has joined your organisation. Your editor instructs you to help that person by giving them your “checklist for success”. What would that checklist be and why does it work?

[20 marks]

Question 4

There are numerous types of features – as many as there are writers. Choose distinct types. What sort of subject matter would they cover; what sort of media would you send them to; and what sort of approach would you suggest you use for each type?

[20 marks]

Question 5

How would the wait-and-watch type of literary journalism differ from the interview technique? When might you use one form or the other?

[20 marks]

Question 6

Your magazine, *Women's Own*, has decided to promote a Christmas issue aimed at men, with a cooking section. Discuss how you will target your audience; what sort of stories you will come up with; and how you will angle your illustrations.

[20 marks]

Annexure A

Cholera strikes 600 prisoners

Durban (South Africa) – South African prison authorities went on high alert yesterday after more than 600 prisoners became ill with cholera at a jail outside the eastern port city of Durban, a prison spokesman said.

Russell Mamabolo said the prisoners were treated for diarrhoea, vomiting and dehydration after a cholera outbreak at the Westville Medium B Prison, about 15 kilometres west of the city.

A cholera epidemic has claimed close to 200 lives since it broke out in the sub-tropical KwaZulu-Natal province last august.

“We are taking this very seriously,” Mamabolo said. “It’s the first time since the outbreak that we are experiencing it in a prison. If the situation gets worse, we will have to bring in additional medical personnel from other prisons in the province.”

Prisoners, however, were responding well to the treatment, he added.

“One prisoner, however, whom we suspect could be the original carrier, is still being treated at an outside hospital and is in a serious condition,” he said.

Mamabolo said tests were being done to check the facility’s water supply. The prison was also being cleansed.

“The focus is mainly in toilets and kitchens. Prisoners will be encouraged to bath with medical fluid soap to curb the spread of the epidemic.”

He said all prisoners arriving and leaving the prison were being screened for the disease. The cholera epidemic is concentrated in KwaZulu-Natal, where 92,300 people have been infected since the outbreak, according to statistics released on Friday by provincial health authorities. – AFP.

