



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
Main Examination Paper
February 2025

This examination paper consists of 4 pages

Time Allowed: 3 hours
Total Marks: 100
Examiner's Name: Mr M. Moyo
External Examiner: Dr C. M Lunga

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer **ALL** questions.
2. Start each answer on a new page.
3. Poor spelling, grammar and structure will be penalised.
4. You will be severely penalised for by-lining yourself.

MARK ALLOCATION

QUESTION	MARKS
1.	40
2.	45
3.	15

QUESTION 1

Imagine you are a news reporter for one of the main newspapers or news sites in Zimbabwe. Carry out the following tasks;

- (a) Present a diary of three possible story ideas to your news editor. **(6 marks)**
- (b) Defend each one of your story ideas and explain why they are relevant to your news readers or market. **(15 marks)**
- (c) Choose **ONE** of the story ideas you presented and do the following:
- (i) Choose and justify an angle for the story. **(5 marks)**
- (ii) Present a list of possible sources (at least three) and explain how they are relevant to the story and what information you intend to obtain from them. **(10 marks)**
- (iii) How would you balance your story? **(4 marks)**
- TOTAL [40 Marks]**

QUESTION 2

Use Annexure A to write a news story for a national news site or newspaper of your choice. Indicate the site or newspaper you are writing for.

(45 Marks)

QUESTION 3

- (i) What are "quotes" and why are they important in news writing? **(5 marks)**
- (ii) How do journalists cultivate sources? **(5 marks)**
- (iii) Explain the purpose of pictures and video clips in news production? **(5 marks)**

TOTAL [15 Marks]

ANNEXURE A

Zimbabwe Covid-19 Situation Report Highlights Today

Issued by the Ministry of Health and Child Care

- 24 New Cases (All Local) and 2 Deaths reported in the last 24 hours.
- The 7-day rolling average for new cases falls to 19 today from 20 yesterday

Vaccination Update

4 051 received their 1st dose today bringing cumulative for 1st dose to 76 995 while 1963 received their 2nd dose bringing cumulative for 2nd dose to 14 885

- As today @1500hrs there were 43 hospitalised cases: Asymptomatic 9, mild to moderate 20, severe 11 and 3 in Intensive Care Units.
- 1440 tests done today (Positivity today was 1.7%)
- 50 new recoveries reported: National Recovery rate stands at 94% and Active cases go down to 673 today.
- As of today, Zimbabwe has now recorded 36 882 Cases 34 686 recoveries and 1523 Deaths.
- Cumulative cases curve flattening
- National Case Fatality Rate now stands at 4.1 %

ANALYTICS COMMENTS

- Harare reported the highest number of cases today (8).
- 2 deaths were reported today by Bulawayo Province.

INCIDENCE OF CASES BY PROVINCE COMMENTS •

- Harare has the highest incidence per capita followed by Bulawayo and Mat South
- Mash Central and Mash West have the lowest incidence of Covid per capita

The ministry has issued the following statement about the treatment of covid-19;

Treatment of COVID-19

The Ministry of Health and Child Care advises the public that there is no specific medicine to prevent or treat coronavirus disease (COVID-19). There is no evidence that the various concoctions that are being advertised or written about work. Those infected with the virus receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms while those with severe illness receive optimized supportive care. Some patients with severe COVID-19 may need supportive care to help them breathe.

Self-care

If you have mild symptoms, stay at home until you have recovered. You can relieve your symptoms through rest, sleep, keeping warm and drinking plenty of fluids.

Please, if you develop a fever, cough, and have difficulty in breathing, promptly seek medical care. Call your health care provider in advance and tell them of any recent travel or recent contact with travellers.

For prompt assistance, call the Ministry of Health and Child Care toll-free line 2019 or the Youth Advocates Forum toll-free line 393. The lines operate 24 hours a day.

Ends.....