



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
REPORTING AND WRITING
IJM 2122

Special Examination Paper

April 2025

This examination paper consists of 5 pages.

Time Allowed: 3 Hours
Total Marks: 100
Special Requirements: None
Examiner's Name: N. Nyathi
External Examiner: Dr. C. Lunga

INSTRUCTIONS

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

MARK ALLOCATION

QUESTION	MARKS
1.	50
2.	25
3.	25
4.	25
5.	25

SECTION A

QUESTION 1

Use the press statement in **Annexure 1** to answer the following questions:

(a) Write a news story that will be published tomorrow morning. Your story should be a maximum of 10 paragraphs and should use a block format structure. With the exception of the intro, each paragraph should be a maximum of two sentences. Note that churnalism in your story will be heavily penalised. **(25 marks)**

(b) Describe three localised news stories that could be covered using the Fewsnets press release as a starting point. **(15 marks)**

(c) Describe two humanised news stories that could be covered using the press release as a starting point. **(10 marks)**

TOTAL: [50 Marks]

SECTION B

QUESTION 2

Read the news story in **Annexure 2** and describe the additional reporting that could be done to turn it into an article with more depth. **(25 Marks)**

QUESTION 3

(a) Describe the information that should be included in a news story based on a speech. **(10 marks)**

(b) Explain how you would prepare to cover a meeting between the Bulawayo City Council and residents. **(15 marks)**

TOTAL: [25 Marks]

QUESTION 4

Discuss how you would cover a story about an increase in home invasions in your neighbourhood. Your discussion should include:

- (a) The sources you would interview and the kind of questions you would ask them.
- (b) Other reporting methods you would use and the information and material you would collect.

(25 Marks)

QUESTION 5

Discuss the pros and cons of each of the three layers of reporting.

(25 Marks)

ANNEXURE 1



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Southern Africa News

For immediate release: August 14, 2024

Southern Africa to Face Historically High Food Assistance Needs Into 2025



Washington, D.C. – More than 30 million people across Southern Africa will likely need food aid between October 2024 and March 2025 as the impacts of the recent El Niño-induced drought continue to be felt, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

In an Alert issued Tuesday, FEWS NET reported that food aid needs will likely reach historic levels across Southern Africa during the 2024-2025 lean season. Concerns are highest for Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, southern and central Mozambique, and southern Angola, where crop losses were highest.

“Starting in November 2023, FEWS NET warned that El Niño would lead to below-normal rainfall and poor harvests in Southern Africa,” FEWS NET Decision Support Advisor Lark Walters said. “El Niño did, in fact, lead to significantly below-normal harvests across the region, and millions of people are now facing worsening hunger.” In drought-affected countries monitored by FEWS NET, projected humanitarian food needs are 50 percent higher than during the previous year’s lean season.

Maize prices, which were already high in Southern Africa before El Niño, are being driven up even further due to below-average harvests in South Africa and Zambia, two of the region’s key maize suppliers.

“Food prices are extremely high at a time when most people are dependent on markets to meet their food needs,” Walters explained. “There are few opportunities for people to earn income to purchase expensive food items, and many households have nearly or already exhausted their food stocks from this year’s harvest.”

Conflict is driving acute food insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, by impacting agricultural production and people’s ability to earn income.

FEWS NET is calling on governments, donors, humanitarian partners, and other stakeholders to rapidly mobilize in order to respond to high food aid needs now through early 2025.

Contacts

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ANNEXURE 2

Workers slam government for “favouring” businesses

29th October 2024

THE Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) has slammed the government for undue favouritism towards the business community at a time when poverty is negatively affecting workers' mental health.

Speaking to workers during the belated commemorations of the World Day for Decent Work (WDDW), ZCTU president, Florence Taruvinga blamed the government's insatiable appetite to protect investors at the expense of decent work standards.

“Government is pushing for the ease of doing business, and in that process, it is compromising on the enforcement and application of decent work standards as means to attract investments. We had cases where safety standards and social dialogue were heavily compromised while trade unions have no access to workers, especially in most Chinese-run mines. The need to satisfy the dictates of these investors has spurred the wave of precarious work,” he said.

According to the International Labor Organization, decent work includes job opportunities that are productive and provide a dignified income, job security and social protection for families, a prosperous future for personal development and social integration, and freedom for people to express their concerns. to organize themselves collectively and to participate in decisions that affect their work.

Taruvinga said civil servants are also at the mercy of a dysfunctional social dialogue that has seriously weakened collective bargaining which has exposed the sector to very low salaries, inadequate sundries and poor working conditions.

She said the decent work country programme has remained under siege due to court judgments and national policies that are marching towards reversing any progress made so far in pursuit of decent work.

“We demand that the government tailor policies to the DWCP if we are to make any meaningful impact and transform the lives of workers through decent work.

“This year, the ITUC WDDW commemorations ran under the theme, *Workers Deserve Peace and Democracy*. The international theme aptly sums up what Zimbabwean workers really need. While there is no bomb shelling and exchange of gunfire in Zimbabwe, economic distress is undermining the conditions for decent work for workers and democracy” added Taruvinga.

Source: <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/workers-slam-government-for-favouring-businesses/>