



# ICM

SEPTEMBER 2017

NEWSPAPER REPORTING

**Instructions to candidates:**

- a) Time allowed: Three hours (plus an extra ten minutes' reading time at the start – do not write anything during this time)
  - b) Answer any FIVE questions
  - c) All questions carry equal marks. Marks for each question are shown in [ ]
- 
1. The following information has been passed to you from a series of sources. Write them up into a lead story of between 250 and 300 words based on the information provided. (Note: marks will not be awarded for just repeating the sentences set out below – the information must be used to produce a concise and coherent story.)
    - Blockade of Qatar in place
    - World's wealthiest country on a per capita basis
    - The Arab nation cut off by its neighbours in an air, land and sea blockade
    - As a result of accusations that rulers of the country are arming and financing Islamist terrorist groups
    - Nine countries have cut off relations with Qatar, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates
    - Qataris were given 14 days to leave Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE
    - Concern in the West about the dispute escalating
    - Qatar key to the West's biggest military campaigns – Al-Udeid air base home to UK and USA planes
    - Sorties leave airbase daily to attack Isis in Iraq and Syria
    - Embargo appears to have support of President Trump
    - Evidence that country has been a haven for Islamist terrorists
    - Number of controversial residents there
    - Also allegations that Qatar is funding Islamist militias
    - List of 59 people and 12 organisations, including prominent citizens, accused of aiding terrorism
    - After initial shock of blockade Qatar has turned to defiance
    - Shops replenished, alternative sources of supply found
    - Significant impact on people caught on the wrong side of the border for work
    - Kuwait, Germany, Russia all tried mediation but dispute escalating
    - Saudi Arabia using financial leverage to get more Muslim countries to join blockade
    - Niger, Somalia, Chad, Senegal, Maldives, Mauritania all recalled ambassadors from Qatar

[20]
  2. 'Interviewing is at the heart of journalistic practice and is an area in which every journalist should be skilled.' Explain the approach that you would take to planning and carrying out an interview with a local government official who, it is rumoured, has been taking bribes. Support your answer with FIVE key questions that you would ask.

[20]
  3. Newspapers rely on a variety of sources for their news stories. Analyse EACH of the main sources of news.

[20]

*continued overleaf*

4. The introduction and opening paragraph of a story are key in grabbing the attention of the reader. Write the headline and a coherent opening paragraph (of no more than 100 words) to BOTH the news stories below:
- Story 1**
- China experimenting with a social credit system that rewards model citizens and punishes dissent
  - Scheme gives citizens a rating on their behaviour
  - Already operating in some cities, to be adopted across China by 2020
  - Could be used to decide if person to be allowed government job or trip overseas
  - Some are critical of scheme as being open to abuse
  - Some welcome scheme as being a way of controlling fraudsters and criminals
  - Social credit rating will be determined taking into account whole range of factors
  - Traffic violations, fare dodging, adherence to planning rules will all be used to help determine rating
  - Tax, loan and bill payments, digital footprints will be used to determine rating
  - Government says it will 'allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere while restricting the discredited'
  - Early pilot scheme in Jiangsu province in 2010 ended in public backlash over its unfairness [10]
- Story 2**
- Worldwide IT systems failure grounds British Airways planes
  - IT systems failure on 27 May led to 200 flights being cancelled and 200 delayed
  - IT failure started around 7am knocking out website and airport computer networks
  - Long queues at Gatwick and Heathrow airports
  - Staff unable to check computer records or check in luggage
  - At 1.12pm BA announced cancelling all flights from Heathrow and Gatwick until 6pm
  - Passengers were asked to leave airport
  - By 4pm BA had announced all flights for the rest of the day were cancelled
  - Angry scenes at airport as passengers became increasingly frustrated
  - Difficulties expected to continue for a number of days [10]
5. Explain the qualities, skills and techniques that you would expect to see in an effective district reporter. [20]
6. A journalist must not lose sight of their readership when writing a story. Explain why a journalist must bear in mind the readership of the paper that they are writing for. [20]
7. Journalists, particularly investigative reporters, need to be skilled in drawing out a hidden story. Explain the techniques and approaches that can be adopted to assist with this task. [20]
8. Journalists must be acutely aware of, and follow meticulously, the rules of presentation when drafting a news story. Explain, and illustrate, the rules of presentation that should be followed. [20]