



# ICM

JUNE 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 [ ]
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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.)
    - Huge gaps uncovered in UK defence capability
    - Sunday Times investigation has uncovered equipment failures and bad procurement deals
    - Many examples, e.g. Type 45 destroyers that can be detected by enemy submarines 100 miles away
    - Type 45 destroyers cost £1bn
    - Type 26 frigates have become so expensive that the number ordered has fallen from 13 to eight
    - Cost of Type 26 frigates has risen because Navy chiefs keep asking for more additions to the plans
    - Army's new Ajax light armoured vehicles too big to fit into transport aircraft
    - The Ajax vehicles cost £3.5bn
    - Army's 54 Watchkeeper reconnaissance drones still not in service 12 years after being ordered
    - The new maritime spyplanes, costing £3bn, cannot undertake the full range of tasks planned
    - The Type 45 warships have been beset by engine problems; new diesel generators being installed
    - Fitting the diesel engines to the Type 45 ships will take 9 years to complete
    - Development of Type 45 destroyers failed to take account of new Russian Kilo class submarines
    - UK Ministry of Defence says that a stealth requirement was not necessary for the Type 45 ships
    - Cost of the most expensive and complicated programmes rising by 7-11% a year
    - Rising costs are due to the Government buying high end kit from a small number of suppliers
    - Defence chiefs are having to make £1bn of savings every year to pay for underfunded equipment plan
    - Ministry of Defence says "the UK defence budget is the biggest in Europe and growing every year"
    - Ministry of Defence also says "we are focussed on maintaining an affordable programme"
    - Likely to be questions asked in the House of Commons about the findings of The Sunday Times [20]
  2. Effective sports writing requires the adoption of a particular approach to the presentation of material. Explain the particular skills and approaches required in sports journalism. [20]
  3. Analyse the particular issues that a newspaper journalist will need to bear in mind when reporting on different types of court cases. [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**

- Running set to become the number one sport in the UK
  - It is set to overtake swimming as the most popular sport
  - Surge in popularity of running, particularly among women
  - Running was the 4th most popular sport a decade ago
  - Expectations that running will be the most popular sport in 2017
  - Running is seen as being more accessible, with quick improvements being noticeable
  - A decade ago there were 1.3m runners
  - A decade ago there were 3.3m swimmers
  - Now there are 2.2m runners and 2.5m swimmers
  - Over the last decade football has fallen from 2nd to 4th place
  - Head of Sport England said "women will ensure that in 2017 running will become biggest sport in UK"
- [10]

**Story 2**

- Gadgets watch staff at work
  - Thousands of British employees have been fitted with wearable tracker devices
  - Trackers measure fitness, productivity, emotions
  - Also measure ability to get on with colleagues
  - At least four British companies are using sociometric badges around their neck
  - The sociometric badges provide real-time voice analysis to measure how people are communicating
  - The device and data enable predictions to be made about how productive and happy employees are
  - Individuals had to consent to wearing the badges
  - In other companies, employees wear fitness trackers to monitor physical activity and sleep patterns
  - Renate Samson, of Big Brother Watch, said "the devices risk turning people into robots"
- [10]

5. Set out the strategy that you would adopt to prepare for and undertake an interview with a national politician. [20]
6. Explain the approach that should be taken to assess the news value of a story. [20]
7. Explain what **investigative journalism** is and assess its contribution to modern-day journalism. [20]
8. Set out and review the duties that a journalist owes to an informant. [20]