



ICM

SEPTEMBER 2016

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.)
- British doctor claims he doped 150 sports stars
 - British doctor secretly filmed saying he gave performance enhancing drugs to 150 sportsmen
 - Scandal uncovered by The Sunday Times
 - Doctor, Dr May Bonar, charges thousands of pounds for the drug programmes
 - Government Minister, John Whittingdale, ordered an inquiry into UK Anti-Doping Agency (UkaD)
 - UkaD was given evidence of the doping two years ago but took no action
 - Bonar, 38, is based at private London clinic
 - His clients, he said, included England cricketers, Premiership footballers and cyclists
 - In past six years has treated 150 people with performance enhancing drugs
 - Bonar claimed improvements in performance of athletes was phenomenal
 - Also gave drugs to professional dancers
 - Bonar is an anti-ageing doctor based at Omniya clinic in Knightsbridge, London
 - The Sunday Times was tipped off about his activities by a sportsman
 - Same sportsman had given information to UkaD but no action taken
 - UkaD said evidence sportsman gave was of little or no value; said no grounds for taking action
 - The Sunday Times sent undercover athlete to visit Bonar; hidden camera to record interviews
 - Bonar gave athlete prohibited drugs, said would give more
 - UK General Medical Council rules say doctors cannot give athletes performance enhancing drugs
 - Bonar denied to The Sunday Times that he had given performance enhancing drugs
 - UkaD said 'an independent review will be carried out into the issues raised by The Sunday Times'
- [20]
2. Explain the key skills, knowledge and approaches that a good district or local reporter will require if they are to be effective. [20]
3. An important skill for a journalist to have is successfully managing the constraints and limitations that they will inevitably face. Review the main constraints and limitations that are likely to be encountered. [20]
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 50 words) to BOTH the news stories below:
- Story 1**
- Fitness tests to be relaxed for women soldiers
 - British army rewriting fitness tests to recognise differences between men and women
 - Is in preparation to allow female soldiers to fight on front line
 - Ministry of Defence says it is trying to identify the most effective training methods for female infantry
 - UK Defence Secretary is expected to lift ban on women joining close combat units
 - Currently women twice as likely to suffer musculoskeletal injuries during initial military training
 - Government research suggests that training needs to recognise physical differences
 - New physical standards likely to be introduced in 2019
 - New standards will more closely match soldier's fitness to his or her role
 - New proposals likely to be controversial with senior military staff
- [10]

continued overleaf

Story 2

- Shootings soar in Chicago as police take lower profile
 - Violence soaring to levels not seen for two decades
 - First three months 2016 there were 141 murders in City – rise of 72% on same period in 2015
 - More murders in first three months of 2016 than in New York and Los Angeles combined
 - Annual rise in murder rate across America's cities of 15-20%
 - Experts suggest due to sharp reduction in policing in Chicago
 - 86% reduction in number of people stopped and searched in first three months of 2016
 - Suggestion that fear being seen aggressively towards African-American or Hispanic suspects
 - As a result not intervening when see suspicious behaviour
 - Now required to fill in form with 60 boxes every time someone stopped
 - Historically crime has jumped in the hot summer months; this increase in winter [10]
5. Explain the duties that a journalist owes to an informant. [20]
6. Set out and review the rules of presentation that should be followed when writing a news story. Support your answer with examples. [20]
7. Effective interviewing skills are a must for any journalist. Explain the approach that you would take to prepare for and undertake a telephone interview. [20]
8. 'Quotes can enhance any piece of journalism.' Analyse this view and explain the key issues to consider in using quotes in a story. Illustrate your answer with examples. [20]