



**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION
END OF SEMESTER EXAM
BAC2201 INTERVIEWING AND REPORTING**

DATE: 12th March 2025

TIME: 08:30 – 10:30

Instructions

Answer ALL questions in Section A. Answer any TWO questions in Section B.

SECTION A (30 marks)

QUESTION ONE

(a) Read the news story below then critique the newsworthiness of the article in terms of THREE news values. (12 marks)

Extracted from Star newspaper (Belize, Central America)

Barack Obama swept to victory as the nation's first black president Tuesday night in an electoral college landslide that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself. "Change has come," he declared to a huge throng of cheering supporters. The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his historic triumph by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Virginia, Iowa and more. On a night for Democrats to savor, they not only elected Obama the nation's 44th president but padded their majorities in the House and Senate, and come January will control both the White House and Congress for the first time since 1994. Obama's election capped a meteoric rise — from mere state senator to president-elect in four years. In his first speech as victor, Obama catalogued the challenges ahead. "The greatest of a lifetime," he said, "two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century."

He added, "There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president, and we know that government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face." McCain called his former rival to concede defeat — and the end of his own 10-year quest for the White House. "The American people have spoken, and spoken clearly," McCain told disappointed supporters in Arizona. President Bush added his congratulations from the White House. In his speech, Obama invoked the words of Lincoln and echoed John F. Kennedy. "So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of service and responsibility

where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder," he said. He and his running mate, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, will take their oaths of office as president and vice president on January 20, 2009.

Obama will move into the Oval Office as leader of a country that is almost certainly in recession, and fighting two long wars, one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan. The popular vote was close — 51.3 percent to 47.5 percent with 73 percent of all U.S. precincts counted — but not the count in the Electoral College, where it mattered most. There, Obama's audacious decision to contest McCain in states that hadn't gone Democratic in years paid rich dividends. Obama has said his first order of presidential business will be to tackle the economy. He has also pledged to withdraw most U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months.

(b)To do their work well, reporters must have certain characteristics. List six qualities of reporters; then explain each quality with regard to the nature of their work. (12 marks)

(c)For every type of event that reporters cover, there must be specific areas of interests that will constitute the substance of the news report. List the most important elements of interest in the following events:

(i) Rugby match (2 marks)

(iii) Building fire (2 marks)

(iii) Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (The Oscar Awards) (2 marks)

SECTION B (30 marks)

QUESTION TWO

(a) Provide FIVE explanations why an editor may reject a news story. (10 marks)

(b) The news editor has assigned you to interview the female star of a new film to be shown in your country. The American film star is currently in your country and has accepted to be interviewed. What FIVE steps would you take ahead of the interview? (5 marks)

QUESTION THREE

(a) Explain FIVE questions that must be answered in an intro that adapts the Inverted Pyramid approach. (5 marks)

(b)To do their work well, reporters must have certain characteristics. List FIVE qualities of reporters; then explain each quality with regard to the nature of their work. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

(a) Scholars Bill Ristow and Theresa Morrow list 10 elements they indicate are critical for in-depth reporting. Briefly describe SIX. (12 marks)

(b) It is normally safe to report open court proceedings, but there may be specifically imposed court restrictions. Identify THREE types of cases where there may be specific restrictions. (3 marks)