



DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA

DJNM 1205: SPECIALIST JOURNALISM

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DATE: 15TH AUGUST 2023

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

QUESTION ONE – COMPULSORY – 30 MARKS

- a) What is a specialist journalist? **(5 marks)**
- b) A journalist can pick their speciality from a wide range of thematic areas. Describe five (5) special areas that you are interested in pursuing as a professional journalist. Cite the reasons for your choices and highlight the work or influence of practising journalists who have inspired you to pursue these specialities. **(25 marks)**

QUESTION TWO – 15 MARKS

- a) Compare the roles of a specialist journalist to that of a general reporter when covering news and highlight the significant differences. **(10 marks)**
- b) Discuss using relevant illustrations the dangers of specialist reporting for a journalist. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION THREE – 15 MARKS

Interviewing skills are critical for any journalist if they are to successfully gather important information to write compelling stories. Explain the measures you should take:

- a) Before the interview **(5 marks)**
- b) During the interview **(5 marks)**
- c) After the interview **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR – 15 MARKS

- a) Explain the importance of research and maintaining a comprehensive contacts book for a specialist journalist. **(5 marks)**

- b) Discuss five (5) key traits that a professional specialist journalist must apply during the pursuit of his or her work in order to ultimately write or produce high quality, credible reports (news, features, commentaries, editorials, analyses, etc). **(10 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE – 15 MARKS

Having already identified your special areas of interest as a journalist, write a three-page critical commentary on a current pressing issue affecting one of your thematic areas and provide real and practical recommendations to solve the issues. **(15 marks)**