



DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA (DJNM)

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DJNM 1302: REPORTING AND WRITING II

DATE: 6th DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 15:30-17:30 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

QUESTION ONE:

- a) English is one of those languages that confuse many people because it contains many words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Below are 20 of the most confused and misused words in English. Differentiate the meaning of each and illustrate the meaning with a comprehensive sentence. **(20 Marks)**

Often Confused Words	Meanings
i. advice advise	
ii. affect effect	
iii. all together altogether	
iv. along a long	
v. assent ascent	
vi. bare bear	
vii. born borne	

viii.	canvas canvass
ix.	complacent complaisant
x.	complement compliment
xi.	discreet discrete
xii.	elicit illicit
xiii.	ensure insure
xiv.	foreword forward
xv.	hoard horde
xvi.	loose lose
xvii.	practice practise
xviii.	principal principle
xix.	stationary stationery
xx.	storey story

- b) As one of the sub-editors of a national newspaper one of your responsibilities is to check stories before they go to press. You are assigned to the Foreign Desk and two stories have been allocated to you, to edit and forward to the editor for approval. Work on them and check the spelling, grammar, facts, potential legal issues and sentence construction.

STORY A: (5 Marks)

- i. The one-vehicle collision took place on the A9 Inverness-Perth road near Tomatin, at about 17:20 on Saturday.
- ii. Among passengers affected was Britain's Got Talent finalists, electronic string quartet Escala.
- iii. The crew waited with the rota blades still turning for their ice creams to arrive.
- iv. His destination was Uyanga, a mining town on the Mongolian Steppe, a rolling grassland that stretches hundreds of thousands of miles in a large crescent around the Gobi Desert.

- v. Irish comedian Dylan Moran has become the first British stand-up comedian ever to perform in Russia, organisers of the gig have claimed.
- vi. Westwood abandoned the car at a block of flats in Pickering Road, Wednesfield, where police dogs tracked him and Simpson into some flats and arrested them.
- vii. A group of men in white tea shirts, carrying assault rifles, is standing just outside the village.
- viii. Jonathan Doran, principle analyst at research firm Ovum, is surprised by the turnaround in fortunes.
- ix. Around 50 officers are involved in the murder enquiry including detective officers, uninformed officers and scenes of crime teams.
- x. The royal barge built for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be lowered on to the Thames on Thursday. The Gloriana which cost around £500million will lead the Jubilee river pageant in June.

STORY B: (5 Marks)

Headline: Manger Jones wants to end poor run of form

Story:

Football manager Max Jones hopes his team improve on their recent performances when they take on rivals City in a crucial Premiership match on Sunday.

United's form has been inconsistent this season, with several high-profile defensive errors from their defenders costing the team.

The normal reliable United defence has conceded 25 goals already this season, and its mainly tanks to the goals of new signing Mickey Malone that they have remained near the top of the Premier League table.

Jones admitted the match against their local rivals will be a huge test.

"There's no doubt this match will be a huge test," said Jones.

"We need to stop making defensive errors and get back to winning ways against a very good City team.

"I no my players are much better than they have shown so far, and Sunday's game will be the perfect chance for them to show what they is capable of."

Jones, speaking at his pre-match press conference, also took the chance to make some major allegations about referee John Smith, a member of PGMOB, who will take charge of the game on Saturday.

"He's definitely a City fan and I heard he had money on them to win the title so I don't expect us to get a fair chance," he said.

QUESTION TWO:

When presented with a story, a reporter must choose a writing style that will best present the facts within the story. In this regard, compare and contrast the following writing styles:

- a) News vs. Features **(5 Marks)**
- b) Analysis vs. Investigative Piece **(5 Marks)**
- c) Editorial vs. Opinion Piece **(5 Marks)**

Total: 15 Marks

QUESTION THREE:

- a) Explain the role of a reporter as the eyes and liaison for both government and for the people. **(7 Marks)**
- b) Write a balanced opinion piece on the state of the economic crisis in Kenya and the effect being felt across the wealth divide, from the rich to the poor. Provide strategic recommendations that you believe the government, the business community and Kenyans in general can adopt to effectively wade through this financial storm. **(8 Marks)**

Total: 15 Marks

QUESTION FOUR:

In general, there are 14 punctuation marks that are commonly used in the English grammar.

- a) Name them all. **(7 Marks)**
- b) Select then describe four (4) of these punctuation marks and illustrate its usage with a complete sentence. **(8 Marks)**

Total: 15 Marks

QUESTION FIVE:

Distinction between American and British English spelling can sometimes be difficult as the differences are subtle yet quite significant. Many media houses in Africa, including Kenya, apply the English version of their colonial masters. Nevertheless, many journalists are known to also write for American publications and broadcasts.

- a) Discuss the spelling rules to remember when writing stories or copies for either the British or American media outlets. **(5 Marks)**
- b) Following the spelling rules mentioned in (a) above, identify and write the two different versions of ten (10) words that have a different spelling along British and American lines **(10 Marks)**

Total: 15 Marks