



STRATHMORE INSTITUTE

DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA

DJNM 1204: INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DATE: 11TH 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 investigative journalism and how is it different from general reporting? (**6 marks**)
- b) Discuss some common myths surrounding investigative reporting and debunk these myths by presenting the correct position. Use a few examples to illustrate your responses. (**10 marks**)
- c) Investigative journalists face numerous challenges when gathering information to back their hypotheses. Discuss seven (7) main obstacles that discourage journalists and media houses from pursuing and investing in investigative journalism. Use a case study to illustrate your responses. (**14 marks**).

QUESTION TWO – 15 MARKS:

- (a) Describe the following terms and use specific examples of previously reported cases from any part of the world:
 - i. Private interest (**3 marks**)
 - ii. National interest (**3 marks**)

iii. Public interest **(3 marks)**

(b) Explain the circumstances that would compel an investigative journalist to cross the lines protecting private and national interests for the sake of public interest. Use specific cases of past investigative exposes to support your argument. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION THREE – 15 MARKS:

You are a reporter working for one of the leading media houses in Kenya. One day, as you leave the office to head home, a stranger approaches you, calls out your name and hands you a large brown envelope. Speaking quickly, he explains that he is an accounting officer at the Ministry of Health and he has concrete proof of more illegal transactions and underhand dealings worth billions of shillings that involves health procurement officials and inspectors. Inside the envelope are a few copies of the transactions he has handled. He shares his telephone number with you for further discussion before he leaves. After verifying the information he gave you, you try to call him back a few days later to pursue the story, but he is no longer willing to divulge more information.

- a) Explain how to deal with this source that is now fearful and is reluctant to divulge more information? **(10 marks)**
- b) Describe the golden rule that governs relationships between investigative journalists and confidential sources of information. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR – 15 MARKS:

- a) Investigative journalists are often compared to police detectives. Taking into consideration the limitations and legal frameworks that govern the work of both professions, assess the validity and legitimacy of this comparison. **(7 marks)**
- a) Government spokesmen, communication managers and public relations agents are content providers to any journalist pursuing a story and needs information. Recommend at least four (4) strategies that an investigative journalist can employ to secure credible information from such sources. **(8 marks).**

QUESTION FIVE – 15 MARKS:

There is no doubt that investigative journalism is a dangerous profession and a number of journalists had been killed in the midst of an investigation. If a highly sensitive investigative mission is assigned to you, including being sent to a conflict zone or a dangerous environment, discuss the steps and additional precautions you and your team will take in order to protect yourselves from harm and danger **(15 marks)**