

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER: ECONOMICS FOR JOURNALISTS

COURSE CODE: JMC 212

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer **four (4)** questions.
2. Number 1 is **compulsory**.
3. Write **legibly**, that is, **boldly** and **clearly**.
4. Evince the principles of **composition** and **grammar**.

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

1. Journalists study Economics not to become *economists*, but to become more competent journalists – professionals who can do their work better. And the work journalists do produces certain *distinctive messages*. It places a premium on the *public interest*, which is related to the economic concept of “welfare.”
 - (i) IDENTIFY and EXPLAIN the *fundamental functions* that constitute the work of journalists. (10 marks)
 - (ii) DESCRIBE **three** *journalistic messages* that may be written about economics. (10 marks)
 - (iii) DEFINE and DIFFERENTIATE the concepts of “public interest” and “welfare.” (10 marks)
 - (iv) EXPLAIN how an understanding of economics can enable journalists to focus on welfare, systematically. (10 marks)

2. The concepts of *economic growth* and *economic development* must not be used interchangeably, for they are two different things.
 - (i) DEFINE the two concepts and LIST the **components** of each. (10 marks)
 - (ii) GIVE suggestions on how journalists can **contribute** *meaningfully* to the economic development of their societies. (10 marks)

3. Economics is a *quantitative* social science whose phenomena are innumerable, but could be telescoped into four or five **categorical factors**, for easy comprehension, especially, for purposes of systematic journalistic observation.
 - (i) IDENTIFY and DESCRIBE the categorical factors for telescoping economic phenomena. (10 marks)
 - (ii) EXPLAIN how the factors can be used to facilitate journalistic observation. (10 marks)

4. Economics centres on *factors of production*, and how societies answer certain basic questions concerning **production** constitutes the basis for the different *economic systems* in the world.
 - (i) IDENTIFY the factors of production. (5 marks)
 - (ii) DISTINGUISH the major economic systems. (15 marks)

5. For every nation, every year, the biggest economic document is the Budget, and for journalists the Budget is a treasure-trove for various journalistic messages.
 - (i) EXPLAIN the *purpose* and *contents* of the National Budget. (10 marks)
 - (ii) DESCRIBE the *phases* of the National Budget and STATE how they are useful for journalistic work. (10 marks)

6. Paul Hemp identifies ten qualities that news stories and reports about the economy must have.
- (i) LIST and EXPLAIN **five** of the *qualities* identified by Hemp. **(10 marks)**
 - (ii) GIVE one example of a sentence that illustrates the absence of EACH quality; then CORRECT each sentence. **(10 marks)**
7. WRITE **concise notes** on FOUR of the following: (i) the “fundamental economic problem;” (ii) “measures” of the *national economy*; (iii) *production possibility frontier*; (iv) International Trade; (v) Society’s Economic Goals; (vi) money; and (vii) *micro economics* versus *macro economics*. **(20 marks)**