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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

FINAL EXAMINATION 2008-09

TITLE OF PAPER: NEWS REPORTING
COURSE CODE: JMC 211
TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer question #1 plus three of the other question options for a total of four (4) questions.
2. Question 1 is worth 30 points. All other questions are worth 20 points each.
3. Legibility, grammar and mechanics will count in grading.

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Question 1:

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You have been assigned to report on a recent strike at a Matsapha textile plant, which resulted in injuries and damage. Use your knowledge of the 7-step reporting and writing process described in chapter 5 of the textbook, *Writing for the Media in Southern Africa* to explain how you would go about reporting and developing this story.

Question 2:

Describe in detail the steps and questions involved in both editing and sub-editing a reporter's work.

Question 3:

2-part question (both parts required)

Part A (12 pts) – explain the steps and factors involved in preparing for and conducting effective face-to-face, telephone and email interviews.

Part B (8 pts) – describe one likely source you would consult for a story about financial problems at UNISWA, explain why you would interview that particular person, and write five (5) appropriate interview questions you would ask that person.

Question 4:

In chapter 3 of *Writing for the Media in Southern Africa*, Nels describes twelve factors or criteria used by editors in selecting and prioritising news stories. Name and explain ten of the twelve factors; then, describe how at least 4 of these factors apply in an actual news story example.

Question 5:

Locating appropriate sources of information is a vital first step in reporting. Describe how a reporter should go about locating, establishing, using, evaluating and protecting credible sources.

Question 6:

Describe five (5) of the different news story genres and give an example of a typical story topic and angle for each one.