

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
2012/2013 FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: MAIN

TITLE OF PAPER: NEWS WRITING

COURSE CODE: JMC 216

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Three Questions.

Question One is compulsory.

Use your own examples to illustrate answers

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
THE INVIGILATOR.**

Question 1 (compulsory)

Compare the different news writing styles in print and electronic media.

(20 marks)

Question 2

Enumerate and explain the activities involved in preparing for an interview.

(20 marks)

Question 3

Write the following for an online *Times of Swaziland* publication.

(20 marks)

Date: 31 October 2012

From: Sello Hatang, spokesperson Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory

Subject: Upcoming 50th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's sentencing and Bob Hepple article

On 7 November 1962 Nelson Mandela was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison for leaving the country illegally and inciting workers to strike.

After 17 months underground, the man dubbed by the media 'The Black Pimpernel', was arrested at a roadblock on Sunday 5 August 1962. During this time he had spent about seven months abroad. His clandestine trip took in visits to more than a dozen African countries and England and aimed to raise support and money for the newly formed armed wing of the African National Congress and to secure military training for himself.

Mr Mandela was charged, convicted and sentenced within three months of his arrest. The charge of leaving the country illegally, without a passport was related to his clandestine trip, which he began through Botswana on 11 January 1962.

He underwent two periods of military training: one, in March 1962, with the National Liberation Front in Algeria at its base in Oujda, Morocco and the second in June 1962 at the Rapid Reaction Force of the Ethiopian Police – also known as Kolfe, about eight kilometres outside of Addis Ababa. In *Long Walk to Freedom* Madiba calls it the headquarters of the Ethiopia Riot Battalion.

The charge of incitement related to his role in organising a strike for May 29, 30 and 31 1962 against South Africa becoming a republic. He was sentenced by Mr WA van Hedsingen of the Special Regional Court in the Old Synagogue in Pretoria to three years for incitement and to two years for leaving the country illegally.

Contrary to popular opinion Mr Mandela was not immediately sent to Robben Island. In fact, he served the first seven months of his sentence in Pretoria Local Prison. He only went to Robben Island in May 1963, but was suddenly transferred back to Pretoria in mid-June 1963, two weeks before the raid on Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia netted his comrades. Together with them, and other comrades arrested elsewhere, he was put on trial later that year for sabotage. On 12 June 1964 at the end of the Rivonia Trial Mr Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Denis Goldberg, Raymond Mhlaba, Andrew Mlangeni and Elias Motsoaledi were sentenced to life imprisonment.

While Mr Mandela's 27 and a half years in prison is calculated from his arrest on 5 August 1962, as he was in custody from then until his release on 11 February 1990, his first conviction for which he had to serve a prison sentence was on 7 November 1962.

To mark this less highlighted, but important trial, the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory plans to launch an exhibition on it when our refurbished new building is formally opened to the public in mid-2013.

"It is the task of the team at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory not only to document and manage Mr Mandela's personal archive, but to unearth new information and artefacts about his life and times," said Verne Harris, Head of the Memory Programme at the Centre. "As we discover fresh information we will keep updating our public platforms."

The Nelson Mandela Foundation building at 107 Central Street in Houghton, Johannesburg, which houses Mr Mandela's post-presidential office, is undergoing extensive refurbishment to repurpose it into an archive and dialogue facility. This marks the final phase of a five-year transition, which will see the building turned into a public facility in mid-2013.

Question 4

Rewrite the following media release into a radio package story: Indicate where you would put your clips, your links and include an intro. (20 marks)

SABC AND SAFA REACH AGREEMENT

Johannesburg - Tuesday 24 April, 2012 – Today, The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and the South African Football Association (SAFA) have reached in principle a broadcasting rights agreement. According to the agreement, the public service broadcaster will carry all the games for our national soccer teams for a three (3) year period. The agreement will be presented to the boards of the SABC and SAFA respectively to get their approval. The details of the contract will be made public, once both boards have

approved the deal. We are envisaging signing the contract, during the second week of May 2012.

Mr. Hlaudi Motsoeneng, the SABC's Acting Chief Operating Officer said "For the SABC this is a historic milestone for both parties, as previously we negotiated on a game to game basis. Once the contract has been signed, South Africans can rest assured that for the next three years, they will be able to watch the national soccer teams whenever they play home games. The agreement has been structured in a way that all parties, but especially the South African public, wins. This agreement will further strengthen the relationship between the SABC and SAFA, as it was perceived to be on shaky ground."

Dr Danny Jordaan, Chair of SAFA Commercial Committee thanked CEO Robin Petersen and his team for the hard work and successful conclusion of this agreement.

"This deal is a significant advancement for SAFA's Commercial programme and will enable us to ensure that we achieve the international success which is our immediate, medium and long term goal," said Dr Jordaan.

Acting President, Mandla Mazibuko who is also the Chairman of the Finance Committee expressed his delight at the deal and stated that this ensures that our National Team matches will be shown on a free-to-air forum for our people.

In relation to away games involving Bafana Bafana, the two parties have agreed to work together, in negotiations with Sports Five.

Question 5

What basic questions should you ask yourself when determining a lead? Illustrate using an example of a story you wrote. **(20 marks)**

Question 6

Write a newspaper article from the following press release: **(20 marks)**

TRAUMA COUNSELLING TEAM FOR CONGO

Dear Receipients,

Loss of livelihood, privacy, dignity and loss of hope confront a nation that lost more than 500 lives in the 4 March explosion that wounded more than 2000 people necessitating several amputations and emergency medical care, destroyed 5000 homes, a school, church, police station and significantly, caused severe emotional and psychological trauma. More than 20 tons of live unexploded ordinances have been recovered in Impila, a suburb of Brazzaville, where the initial disaster occurred and now poses a severe threat to residents returning against the advice of the government and explosive experts. Thousands living in refugee camps with inadequate sanitation, lack of pure drinking water and above all a lack of family structure and intimacy has resulted in grief, bereavement and a host of psycho-social issues that require specialised intervention for a highly traumatised population.

Having successfully delivered six plane loads of emergency humanitarian and medical relief items in association with the Department of International Relations, Gift of the Givers have now been requested by private NGO's in Brazzaville to send in a team of trauma counsellors that will partner the local university, interact with psychologists, social workers, masters students, lay counsellors and the affected population where skills transfer, counselling and courses on various techniques will be imparted to the Congolese people. Congolese individuals involved in the great trauma previously experienced in Congo, university lecturers, pastors and specialist trainers comprise the 10-member team that leaves on Sunday. The team will be hosted by a highly efficient NGO founded by the son of the Congolese President and has already partnered us on our two previous missions to Congo within the last 7 weeks.

Zohra Sooliman
Director-Counselling Services