



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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University Examinations 2023/2024

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

BCJ 3154: NEWSPAPER REPORTING WRITING AND EDITING

DATE: APRIL 2024

TIME: 2 HOURS

1. INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Questions ONE and any other TWO Questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain **FIVE** factors that have led to the change in newspaper news. (5 Marks)
- b) Define the following terms:
- i. New value (2 Marks)
 - ii. News Trends (2 Marks)
 - iii. Hard News (2 Marks)
 - iv. News makers (2 Marks)
 - v. Culling (2 Marks)
- c) Explain the importance of the use of Judgement in the process of news writing, reporting and editing. (4 Marks)
- d) Outline **THREE** effects of online news delivery. (3 Marks)
- e) Explain the **THREE** functions of a reporter. (3 Marks)
- f) Define the term 'Beat' reporting. (2 Marks)

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g) List **THREE** types of soft leads (3 Marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- (a) Define the term “news editing”. (2 Marks)
- (b) Given an opportunity to write a column in a newspaper, with relevant examples, explain how you would effectively use any **SIX** elements of news writing to create your story. (12 Marks)
- (c) Explain any **SIX** principles of editing that are used in the editing room. . (6 Marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- (a) Live coverage has made news a 24 hours business. Discuss the principles of news in the context of globalized world. (10 Marks)
- (b) Appearing neutral in situations where for example human rights have been violated can be challenging for a reporter. Discuss how objectivity is achieved in news writing and reporting. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- (a) Explain the significant of a lead in a news story. (3 Marks)
- (b) Models of a story structure can help you plan the organisation of a wonderful story. In view of this, and with the use of illustrations, discuss and highlight the strength of **TWO** most common structures used in newspapers. (10 Marks)
- (c) As a journalist, looking for fresh news story can be challenging. Discuss any **SEVEN** ways you would obtain a good story. (7 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- (a) Privacy issues are a concern when it comes to writing news. Examine **FOUR** ethical dilemmas facing journalist. (10 Marks)
- (b) Define the term Ethics. (2 Marks)
- (c) Examine how advance technology has improved the development of the news writing and reporting. (8 Marks)