



NEWSPAPER REPORTING

Tuesday 9th September 2025

Examination Duration

- 3 hours

Important Notes

- Pay attention to any words in **bold**.
- Mark allocations are indicated in brackets [] after each question.

Answer Booklets

- Ensure each answer in your answer booklet is **clearly labelled** with the question number as it appears on the exam paper.
- Use bullet points when making lists in your answers **do not** use additional numbers or letters.
- Start every question on a **new page** in your answer booklet.
- Rewriting the question as it appears on the exam paper in your answer booklet is **not** required.

Permitted Materials

- Notes or textbooks are **not allowed**.
- Non-programmable calculators are **allowed**.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before writing your answers.
- Use the full 3 hours and review all your answers thoroughly.



NEWSPAPER REPORTER

TUESDAY

as it appears on
the
18th
of
July
1888

ANSWER ANY FIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING EIGHT QUESTIONS

1. Write up the following information to produce a lead story of 250-300 words including a headline.

[20 marks]

- A deluge of mud and debris has buried homes and farmland, leaving a trail of destruction.
- Emergency responders are working tirelessly to locate over 200 people reported missing.
- The landslide struck after heavy rains in a mountainous region of West Java, Indonesia.
- Entire families are feared trapped under collapsed homes and structures.
- The area, known for its coffee plantations, has seen significant rainfall over the past week, saturating the soil and triggering the collapse.
- Many of those missing were workers on nearby farms or residents in the affected village.
- A local school and a marketplace were among the buildings swept away or buried in mud.
- The mudslide also damaged roads and bridges, cutting off access to the disaster zone.
- Rescue crews, supported by helicopters and excavators, are working to clear debris and reach isolated areas.
- The confirmed death toll has risen to 15, but officials warn it will likely increase.
- Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited the site, pledging swift action to assist victims and ensure stronger disaster preparedness.
- The region is prone to landslides, with inadequate drainage and deforestation worsening the risks.
- This tragedy raises urgent questions about the environmental impact of deforestation and unregulated construction in vulnerable areas.

2. Describe **ten** guidelines that investigative reporters must follow when conducting investigations, using examples to support your description.

[20 marks]

3. Discuss **ten** factors an editor must consider when deciding whether to publish a story, using examples to support your description.

[20 marks]

4. The introduction and opening paragraph of a story are used to gain the attention of the reader.

Write the headline and opening paragraph to the following news Story 1 and Story 2 using approximately 100-150 words:

(a) **Story 1**

- A cup of tea a day keeps stress at bay
- Drinking green tea, black tea, and herbal infusions can help reduce anxiety levels.
- Consuming 2-3 cups daily may lower stress hormones by up to 30%.
- Study conducted with 1,200 participants.
- Results published in the *Journal of Nutritional Therapy*.
- Tea contains polyphenols and amino acids that promote relaxation and mental clarity.
- Steeping tea for 3-5 minutes enhances its stress-relieving properties.
- Chamomile and peppermint infusions also contribute to better sleep and reduced anxiety.
- Dr. Michael Carter from the International Tea Research Institute commented on the findings.
- He stated, "Tea is a natural, accessible way to support mental well-being."

[10 marks]

(b) **Story 2**

- Skydiver clings to survival after mid-air parachute collapse
- An experienced skydiver narrowly escaped death following a collision at 2,000 feet.
- The collision caused their parachute to malfunction, leaving them in freefall.
- Both individuals landed together using a single functioning parachute.
- James Carter became entangled in the parachute lines of fellow skydiver Sarah Lee.
- The incident occurred during a high-altitude training jump over Nevada.
- Over 500 skydivers were participating in the event.
- The collision happened moments after the pair exited the aircraft.
- Carter's parachute collapsed, forcing him to grab onto Lee's harness for safety.
- Despite the terrifying ordeal, both landed unharmed using Lee's parachute.
- The pair were part of a professional skydiving team practicing advanced formations.

[10 marks]

5. (a) State the importance of putting names and faces to statements. [2 marks]

(b) Discuss the **nine** Rs of interviewing. [18 marks]

6. Describe the practices, approaches and techniques a district reporter must follow when reporting on their area. [20 marks]

7. Writing to create impact is a key skill for every journalist.

Describe **ten** techniques that journalists can use to write for impact, using examples to support your description. [20 marks]

8. (a) Explain the difference between hard news and soft news. [4 marks]

(b) Describe **eight** sources of news, using examples to support your description. [16 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS