



**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO
INSTITUTE OF EXTRA MURAL STUDIES
RESEARCH, EVALUATION & MEDIA DEPARTMENT
DIPLOMA IN MASS COMMUNICATION
2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**MAC 0203 – News Writing & Reporting – Year 2
First Semester Final Examination Paper**

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January 2023

Marks: 60

Time: 3 hrs.
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Instructions:

- Read all questions carefully before you answer.
- **Section A is compulsory. In Section B, answer any one (1) question.**
- Number your answers exactly the same way they appear on the question paper.
- Please ensure that you proof-read all your answers.
- Marks will be deducted for untidy and/or illegible handwriting and grammar mistakes.
- Each question must be answered on a separate page.

SECTION A – 40 Marks. Question 1 is compulsory.

Question 1

Choose any Beat / Round of your Interest (e.g. Court, Sport, Business, Health, Education etc.). Formulate and Write a News Story/ Article. The story should be between 40- 50 words (2 – 3 paragraphs). Your Story should follow Inverted Pyramid Format, answering 5Ws + H. **[15]**

Question 2

To produce a good quality business story, a business journalist must follow certain principles. Mention four (4) of these principles and briefly describe each of these principles. **[10]**

Question 3

Sports reports can be carried in any of the mass media (print, broadcast or online). Pick an example of any media and describe in full the advantages and disadvantages of such media in reporting about sports. **[10]**

Question 4

The passage below is written by an environmental expert. Read and pick One (1) Statement that you think is “Fact” and One Statement (1) that you think is an “Opinion”. And, discuss thoroughly why you think so in each case and support your reasons with clear examples where necessary. **[15]**

Climate Change

At the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh in November, government delegates and a variety of experts highlighted crucial innovative approaches to tackle climate change notably in the areas of energy, food and buildings at Global Innovation Hub dialogues organized by the UN Climate Change secretariat.

Energy, food and construction are three key areas in which impacts can be made to significantly shift the needle in terms of slashing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate change, while making progress on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

In these sectors, proven technologies exist which have major potential to alleviate the climate crisis. The challenge is to quickly overcome barriers and to scale up transformative solutions to climate change so that the global economy can be decarbonized by 2050 and societies can be made resilient to impacts of climate change including more heatwaves, floods and droughts. One way to do this is through intelligent matchmaking and coalition building between institutions, companies and governments.

Climate change is inevitable, there Governments Ministries have to work in collaboration with private sector, Civil Society Organizations, Parastatals to create awareness about the danger of climate change. In order to create awareness, the Mass Media, namely electronic media, print media, social media can be used as channels of communication to people in the remote rural areas. Majority of people in developing countries like Lesotho are not aware of the impact and negative results brought by climate change.

SECTION A – 20 Marks and answer one (1) question.

Question 5

Journalists are often faced with problems of reporting on facts and opinions which means they must be able to distinguish between the two. Describe what is meant by facts and opinion in relation to news writing and why it is important to distinguish between facts and opinion. Provide an example of one kind of “facts” and another example of “opinion” to illustrate your points. **[10]**

Question 6

Court reporting requires a journalist to be meticulous with what they report. Mention three (3) issues you cannot publish about a court case, and why you cannot publish such details? Provide an example where necessary. **[10]**

Question 7

Consumers of sports news are interested in certain issues which sports journalists write. Describe in full the four (4) areas which audiences of sports news or reports are interested in. **[10]**