

# **NATIONAL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

## **PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOJOURNALISTS**

### **Examiners' Report**

**November 2010**

**NATIONAL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION  
FOR PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOJOURNALISTS  
NOVEMBER 2010**

In November, a total of 5 candidates sat the National Certificate Examination and the full National Certificate was awarded to 3 candidates – a pass rate of 60 per cent.

The following candidates, listed in alphabetical order by surname, have now gained the National Certificate Examination for Press Photographers and Photojournalists.

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Newspaper</u></b>  |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Matthew Harrison   | Derby Evening Telegraph  |
| Amy Husband        | South Wales Evening Post |
| Sally Loram        | Courier Newspapers       |

### **CHIEF EXAMINER'S SUMMARY**

The overall performance of candidates at the November 2010 NCE was very good with some excellent work submitted. The scenario for the action pictures involved a government minister in a moving car going to tender his resignation at Downing Street after a major policy disagreement.

Strong creative shots were submitted for the feature section which was based on a young footballer getting an international call up. Examiners were pleased with the creativity of the pictures submitted.

The advance project, titled "Armed Forces Britain", produced very good quality spreads.

The video examination was based on the same subject as the advance project. Again there was a rise in quality of the videos produced which was pleasing with one video showing excellent visuals.

### **PRACTICAL – 4 candidates; 3 passed – 75 per cent**

Models and props are supplied as required and candidates are asked to provide pictures from the following journalistic scenarios:

1. Action shot - brief caption required;
2. Front page picture for supplement/magazine; and
3. Three inside pics (template provided) plus 100/150 word caption story.

All candidates did very well in the Action section. Every candidate successfully transmitted their action image, but failing to follow the examination instructions led to one candidate not submitting their chosen image in their final images folder.

In the Feature section some candidates showed imagination and initiative and produced a pleasing choice of pictures.

## **PORTFOLIO** – 3 candidates; 3 passed – 100 per cent

This should be collected over the whole training period. Ten pictures are required, all of which must be acceptable for publication. At least five of the photographs must be from published assignments (either the published pictures or similar ones from the same assignment) and cuttings must be submitted. At least 50 per cent of the images must be in colour. Marking will take into account the journalistic aspect of the pictures; relevancy of the caption; technical and print quality; overall presentation; creative and innovative approach.

Categories are: news (2); sport (2); character study; presentation; exterior night; fashion; flash; and weather.

The examiners were very pleased with the overall quality of portfolio pictures. There were several excellent images submitted.

## **ADVANCE PROJECT** – 5 candidates; 4 passed – 80 per cent

Candidates have four weeks to prepare a double-page spread or single page broadsheet on a given subject. Press photographers must include not more than six pictures and 200 words to illustrate the theme. Photojournalists must include one or more pictures and a story of about 500 words.

Overall the standard of the advance project was very good with just one failing to meet the pass mark. Examiners were pleased with the continued emphasis by candidates on using pictures that have impact as their main image.

## **LOGBOOK** – 3 candidates; 3 passed – 100 per cent

Candidates must complete a Logbook demonstrating a high level of competence across a full range of stills and video assignments. The Logbook is submitted for assessment at the NCE exam. Evidence of a steady improvement in standards of work during the period the candidate has been employed as a trainee press photographer or photojournalist is required.

All logbooks submitted were of a very good standard.

## **VIDEO** – 4 candidates; 4 passed – 100 per cent

The video section became a compulsory element of the National Certificate Examination at the May 2010 NCE.

This assessment takes into account the variation in the style of video packages that occurs on various news websites.

A storyline is set by the examiners which candidates have to illustrate with video for a news website. They are assessed on a video and audio package created and shot by the candidate. The video must be entirely self-contained including at least one interview with a subject where audio is recorded to a professional standard. It may contain voiceovers or licensed music.

The video and audio must have been recorded by the candidate; but can be edited by a third party. The video/audio package should be between 60 and 90 seconds long. Penalties apply for running under or over the time limits.

The video package is submitted at the NCE exam and must be certified in writing as candidates' own work by their editor or training officer.

There was a marked rise in the quality of videos produced which pleased the examiners.

**Photographers' National Certificate Examination**  
Comparative figures

|                    | <b>MAY<br/>2008</b> | <b>NOV<br/>2008</b> | <b>MAY<br/>2009</b> | <b>NOV<br/>2009</b> | <b>MAY<br/>2010</b> | <b>NOVEMBER<br/>2010</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ENTRY</b> |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
| No of candidates   | 5                   | 10                  | 18                  | 12                  | 8                   | 5                        |
| No of passes       | 4                   | 2                   | 12                  | 8                   | 6                   | 3                        |
| No of failures     | 1                   | 8                   | 6                   | 4                   | 2                   | 2                        |
| <b>% passed</b>    | <b>80</b>           | <b>20</b>           | <b>67</b>           | <b>67</b>           | <b>75</b>           | <b>60</b>                |

|                  | <b>MAY<br/>2008</b> | <b>NOV<br/>2008</b> | <b>MAY<br/>2009</b> | <b>NOV<br/>2009</b> | <b>MAY 2010</b> | <b>NOVEMBER<br/>2010</b> |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>PRACTICAL</b> |                     |                     |                     |                     |                 |                          |
| No of candidates | 4                   | 10                  | 16                  | 8                   | 5               | 4                        |
| No of passes     | 3                   | 5                   | 15                  | 6                   | 5               | 3                        |
| No of failures   | 1                   | 5                   | 1                   | 2                   | 0               | 1                        |
| <b>% passed</b>  | <b>75</b>           | <b>50</b>           | <b>94</b>           | <b>75</b>           | <b>100</b>      | <b>75</b>                |
| <b>PORTFOLIO</b> |                     |                     |                     |                     |                 |                          |
| No of candidates | 4                   | 10                  | 13                  | 9                   | 5               | 3                        |
| No of passes     | 4                   | 7                   | 11                  | 8                   | 5               | 3                        |
| No of failures   | 0                   | 3                   | 2                   | 1                   | 0               | 0                        |
| <b>% passed</b>  | <b>100</b>          | <b>70</b>           | <b>85</b>           | <b>89</b>           | <b>100</b>      | <b>100</b>               |

| <b>ADVANCE<br/>PROJECT</b> |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| No of candidates           | 5         | 10        | 13        | 9         | 6         | 5         |
| No of passes               | 4         | 7         | 10        | 6         | 5         | 4         |
| No of failures             | 1         | 3         | 3         | 3         | 1         | 1         |
| <b>% passed</b>            | <b>80</b> | <b>70</b> | <b>77</b> | <b>67</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>80</b> |

| <b>LOGBOOK</b>   |           |           |           |           |            |            |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| No of candidates | 4         | 10        | 13        | 9         | 5          | 3          |
| No of passes     | 3         | 8         | 10        | 8         | 5          | 3          |
| No of failures   | 1         | 2         | 3         | 1         | 0          | 0          |
| <b>% passed</b>  | <b>75</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>77</b> | <b>89</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |

| <b>VIDEO</b>     | <b>MAY<br/>2010</b> | <b>NOVEMBER<br/>2010</b> |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| No of candidates | 4                   | 4                        |
| No of passes     | 3                   | 4                        |
| No of failures   | 1                   | 0                        |
| <b>% passed</b>  | <b>75</b>           | <b>100</b>               |