

## **Magazine route**

The NCTJ offers a route into magazine journalism. The qualification consists of five exams and a portfolio, as follows:

**News writing:** tests candidates' ability to understand information provided in a variety of written forms, recognise what is newsworthy and write clear news stories, to length and in a given time. Candidates write a news story of about 300 words from material provided; rewrite two shorter stories and suggest three ideas to develop a story using various multi-media platforms (i.e. video, online etc).

**Media law: general reporting:** examines general reporting (excluding court reporting). Takes in defamation, contempt, copyright, confidentiality, other parts of the PCC code. Time allowed is two hours.

**Sub-editing:** a two-hour exercise in subbing hard copy; subbing on screen; copy correction using proof correction marks; cutting copy, writing headlines, captions and pull quotes; dealing with pictures/images; coursework element is the laying out and designing a two-page spread.

**Shorthand (Teeline):** a practical exam set at 80 words per minute consisting of two passages of two minutes each with an interval of 30 seconds; transcription time of 35 minutes is allowed.

**Portfolio:** a record of training, this contains evidence of knowledge and competence in feature writing; production and design; background to magazine industry and work experience. When complete, it includes six features or five features and a video.

### **Candidates also sit ONE of the following exams:**

**Public affairs: central government:** four questions on central government. Time allowed is two hours.

OR

**Business of magazines:** candidates answer questions about the roles of B2B, general and specialist consumer titles, company accounts and the functions of various departments in the day-to-day workings of magazines. Time allowed is two hours.