

## **Newspaper route**

The NCTJ's most popular route of study is the newspaper route. The qualification consists of six exams and a portfolio. There is also the option of taking sub-editing and sports journalism exams if they are offered at centres.

**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).

**Public affairs: local government:** four questions on local government, one of which is a compulsory finance question. Time allowed is two hours.

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

**Media law: court reporting:** examines court reporting and related issues in defamation and contempt, sources of law, crime terminology, relevant aspects of the PCC code. Time allowed is two hours.

**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.

**Shorthand (Teeline):** a practical examination set at 100wpm. The exam consists of two passages of two minutes each with an interval of 30 seconds between them. Transcription time of 45 minutes is allowed.

**Portfolio:** this demonstrates a variety of reporting styles and also serves as a record of training. Students can include ten stories and a feature, or eight stories, one feature and one video report.

## **Optional exams:**

**Subbing:** 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

**Sports journalism:** three match reports are written in less than three hours – a half-time report of a recorded match; a full report on the whistle; and a third quote-led piece, based on interview transcripts They also answer a question about sport, sport politics or public affairs, and draft questions to ask a named major sporting figure.

**NB: optional exams are additional qualifications which may not be offered on all accredited courses. Ask your centre whether it runs these options.**