

Diploma in Journalism Self-Test 2020

Marking guide Confidential

Maximum marks

➤	1.	English	55
➤	2.	News Writing	25
➤	3.	Current Affairs	20
		Total marks	100

1. ENGLISH TEST MARKING GUIDE (55 marks) confidential

QUESTION A (30 marks)

Half a mark should be given for each of the 60 points highlighted in the annotated version. Assessors should use their discretion and mark accordingly:

- Where more than one interpretation is acceptable (e.g. in introducing a quote with a comma rather than a colon).
- In deducting marks if a candidate has changed points that were correct into something seriously incorrect.
- In allowing for regional variations in usage.

QUESTION B (15 marks)

Up to **eight** marks should be awarded for content (e.g. extent of flooding, number of homes affected and advice to residents, plus reference to the newspaper's £10,000 appeal).

Up to **five** marks should be awarded for the general approach and writing style. Markers should use their discretion in penalising any inaccuracies.

Up to **two** marks can be awarded for the headline as long as it is a good summary of what is happening.

Writing beyond 150 words should be penalised as follows:

Deduct 1 mark for 151-154 words

2 marks for 155-158 words

3 marks for 159-162 words

4 marks for 163-166 words

5 marks for 167 words or more

QUESTION C (10 marks)

Other points worth inquiries could include:

Residents in flooded area: What's happened to them? How have the emergency services helped them? Where are they living now?

People staying at emergency centre: Get their reaction to what's happened, and to get gratitude for the help they've received there. Views on the campaign. Has it had any impact on the price of drugs on the street? Did they give the police any names?

Social media sites that might be used include Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Give yourself marks for each of these sites.

Emergency centre workers: How many people have they been helping? What sort of help is required? How many volunteers have been working there?

Fire service: What's been their role in helping people who have been flooded at home? How many people are working on the pumping operation? When might the houses be clear of water?

Editor: Why did the newspaper launch the appeal? How many calls have they received? How soon are they hoping to hit the £10,000 target?

Pronto Plumbing: Why did they decide to offer free help? What's been the response from local businesses? How many people are involved?

Chelveston Borough Council: An overview on how the flooding is affecting the community. What help and advice are they offering to residents? How much is this costing the council, and are they seeking government help to pay for the damage?

Award marks up to a maximum of **eight**, including a satisfactory outline.

Two marks for video/photographs: of flooding damage, people in shelters,

Question A – marking guide (30 marks) confidential

SIXTY homes in Chelveston have been flooded as dreadful (1 – spelling) storms have continued to effect (2 – spelling – affect) the south of England.

Householders through out (3 – one word, not two) the Chelveston area have been warned that there (4 – spelling) propertys (5 – plural spelling) are at risk of floding (6 – spelling) this week, due to rising river levells (7 - spelling).

Flooding is expected to damage residents (8 – apostrophe missing) properties, communities, transport and infastructure (9 – spelling). More strong winds and rain are expcteted (10 - transposed letters) later this week.

Familys (11 – plural spelling) who were forced to leave their homes are staying at an emergency center (12 – US spelling) set up at Chelveston High School and run by Chelveston Borogh (13 – spelling) Council (14 – spelling) with help from local charity volunteers.

The Environment Agency is providing information to comunities (15 – missing letter) affected by flooding, and offering advise (16 - incorrect use – should be advice) on the potential effect on public health before, during and after a flood.

Senior flooding control officer Derek Walters (CORRECT) said residents should be prepareing (17 – spelling) by paking (18 – missing letter) an emergency “flood kit” in case they need to leave home quickly.

Mr Walters said (19 – punctuation, missing colon) “Remember to take with you a list of improtant (20 – transposed letters) phone numbers, your insurance documents, bank cards and some money (21 – punctuation, missing full stop)

“You’ll also want to take vital medical items and medecines (22 – spelling), glasses and contact lenses. We suggest resident’s (23 – punctuation, incorrect apostrophe) should pack some spair (24 – spelling) clothing and toothbrushes to (25 – missing letter).”

Mr Waters (26 – spelling) added: “If flooding has been forecast where you live, listen to locul (27 – spelling) radio or check the Environment Agency and Met Office websites for updates and news. Your local authority, (28 – punctuation, misplaced comma) should also be able to answer questions”. (29 – punctuation transposed)

The Environment Agency was doing everything it could to pump water out of the flooded homes, which were in the Grange Road area of the city, said Mrs (30 – incorrect gender) Walters. Firefighters were wokring (31 – transposed letters) in shifts throughout the day and night top (32 – typo) keep the pumps running.

“Sadly, it will take weeks before these homes are dryed (33 – spelling) out and ready for families to move back in. Our coleagues (34 – spelling) at Chelveston Borough Council are working to organise alternative accomodation (35 – spelling) for the families involved,” said Mr Walters.

Mercury readers has (36 – should be plural) responded quickly to the paper’s apeal (37 – spelling) to help victims of the floods. The campaign aims (38 – missing word) raise £10,000

in the next few weeks to provide help with getting residents back on there (39 – spelling) feet.

Some local businesses, lead (40 - extra letter) by Pronto Plumbing, are organising (41 – spelling) teams to work in the worst-hit areas offering free cheques (42 – wrong spelling of checks) of damaged properties.

The Environment Agency advised that people should only consider returning to flooded homes when essential (43 – transposed letters) repairs and cleaning (44 – spelling) had (45 – missing word) completed.

Mr Walters said: “Do not let your kid’s (46 – incorrect apostrophe) play in water and take care if you or yore (47 – wrong spelling of your) family must go into flood water as there are often hidden dangers from sharp objects (48 – spelling) and pollution; (49 – punctuation)

“Wash your hand’s (50 – incorrect apostrophe) regularly. If water isn’t (51 – missing apostrophe) available, use hand sanitising (52 – spelling) gel or wet wipes.”

He added (53 – punctuation, missing colon) “Keeping people safe – that’s (54 – missing apostrophe) our number one priority in this desperately (55 – spelling) tough situation”. (56 – punctuation transposed)

People who needs (57 – grammar, should be need) help or information can contact the emergency (58 – spelling) Chelveston flood team (59 – spelling) on 02924 333444. For health advice, call NHS 111 or visit your local medical practise (60 – practice, not practise).

2. NEWS MARKING GUIDE (25 marks) confidential

The aim of the test is to give the candidate a chance to demonstrate ability in identifying news and presenting it in an appropriate form for publication today.

While allowances should be made for lack of news writing experience and copy construction, accuracy is required in reporting facts and names.

Here’s a story that should make big news locally – the rescue from the sea of six people after their vessel started sinking during the annual Yeltham Raft Race.

The copy should include a number of the following points, not necessarily in this order:

- Six people were rescued by the crew of Yeltham lifeboat after an accident during the raft race
- View from several people that sudden strong winds caused problems during the race
- Coastguard saying that a thorough review will be carried out before any future races will be allowed
- Description from witness reports of how the rescue unfolded, making clear that safety plans were in place
- Raft captain’s promise to return next year with a stronger raft
- Background details on the race – how many entries, past safety record, number of years it’s run
- Lifeboat coxswain warning that anyone going to sea needs to think about safety

Quotes could include:

Liz Parker

“After a few minutes, we noticed it was getting very windy and a couple of the rafts looked like they were having problems. Then two of the biggest rafts bumped into each other and one of them started to capsize.

“It’s a good job that the lifeboat was already on the spot.”

Malcolm Bartram

“The weather forecast gave no hint that it was going to turn very windy.

“All the crews have safety training ahead of the race, and everyone involved is a strong swimmer. The lifeboat crew are on standby during the race every year, and they did their job splendidly in rescuing six people from the Lord Nelson pub raft.”

Paul Castle

“We found ourselves drifting towards one of the other rafts and when we hit them, we came off much worse. All six of us on the raft realised that it was time to abandon ship.” 8

“This certainly hasn’t put us off rafting. We’ll be back next year – but we’ll aim to build a stronger raft before then.”

Stuart Plant

“Everyone who goes on the sea in a vessel should think carefully about safety. The weather can change quickly – even on a day like today.”

Nigella Thompson

“We will be asking the organisers for a full report on what happened and carrying out a thorough review before we will be prepared to give the go-ahead for the raft race to continue in future years.”

3. NCTJ CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TEST MARKING GUIDE (20 marks) confidential

1. Suits
2. Michel Barnier
3. Climate change/environment
4. Qatar
5. Kobe Bryant
6. BBC
7. Conservative Party
8. Emmanuel Macron
9. Business rates
10. Washington DC (accept Washington)
11. He co-founded Facebook and is its current CEO
12. The Apprentice
13. Football – England women’s soccer
14. 737 MAX
15. Coronavirus
16. Strasbourg, France

17. Nicola Sturgeon

18. An Arabic acronym for the Islamic State terrorist group

19. Duke of York (Prince Andrew)

20. Bank of England

1 mark each
20 marks in total