

Diploma in Journalism

Self-Test 2020

Time allowed: **2 hours**

If you are interested in studying the Diploma in Journalism by distance learning, we recommend that you complete this test. Once completed, you should mark it yourself using the marking guide. The test is a guideline for you and we do not need to know your score. We recommend a minimum pass of 60% - any less and you may struggle with the distance learning course.

It is recommended that you divide your time as follows:

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|---|----|-----------------|------------|
| ➤ | 1. | English | 55 minutes |
| ➤ | 2. | News Writing | 40 minutes |
| ➤ | 3. | Current Affairs | 25 minutes |

To be completed by the marker:

ENGLISH QUESTION 1

ENGLISH QUESTION 2

ENGLISH QUESTION 3

ENGLISH TOTAL

NEWS WRITING TOTAL

CURRENT AFFAIRS/
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TOTAL

TOTAL MARKS

Please answer all three questions, using the information given in the following report on pages 3 and 4.

QUESTION A (30 marks)

This report for a news website, *Chelveston Today*, contains a number of errors in use of English (for example, in spelling, punctuation, grammar, use of words, etc). Please make any corrections to the content you think are necessary.

Note: At this stage, do not attempt to rewrite or reduce the passage. (If you disregard this advice, the paper will probably be impossible to mark and you will fail.)

QUESTION B (15 marks)

Using the information provided, write an immediate summary of the report in a maximum of 150 words for the website, in a style suitable for the website. (Using more than 150 words will be penalised severely.) Also write an appropriate headline of no more than ten words.

QUESTION C (10 marks)

The report omits some areas of information which a reporter might wish to follow up.

For example:

Community groups: Do they think the campaign has been effective? How did they help? Were they influenced by the newspaper's support?

- Suggest two other points worth following up and, in each case, outline them briefly;
- Suggest some social media sites which you might use to promote the story and interact with the website's users; and
- Suggest photographs and video you might wish to source to illustrate this story

Question A (30 marks)

SIXTY homes in the city of Chelveston have been flooded as dreadful storms have continued to effect the south of England.

Householders through out the Chelveston area have been warned that there propertys are at risk of floding this week, due to rising river levells.

Flooding is expected to damage residents properties, communities, transport and infrastructure. More strong winds and rain are expected later this week.

Families who were forced to leave their homes are staying at an emergency center set up at Chelveston High School and run by Chelveston Borough Council with help from local charity volunteers.

The Environment Agency is providing information to communities affected by flooding, and offering 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 preparing by packing an emergency "flood kit" in case they need to leave home quickly.

Mr Walters said "Remember to take with you a list of important phone numbers, your insurance documents, bank cards and some money

"You'll also want to take vital medical items and medicines, glasses and contact lenses. We suggest residents should pack some spare clothing and toothbrushes to."

Mr Waters added: "If flooding has been forecast where you live, listen to local radio or check the Environment Agency and Met Office websites for updates and news. Your local authority, should also be able to answer questions".

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 Walters. Firefighters were working in shifts throughout the day and night to keep the pumps running.

"Sadly, it will take weeks before these homes are dried out and ready for families to move back in. Our colleagues at Chelveston Borough Council are working to organise alternative accommodation for the families involved," said Mr Walters.

Mercury readers have responded quickly to the paper's appeal to help victims of the floods. The campaign aims to raise £10,000 in the next few weeks to provide help with getting residents back on their feet.

Some local businesses, led by Pronto Plumbing, are organising teams to work in the worst-hit areas offering free cheques of damaged properties.

The Environment Agency advised that people should only consider returning to flooded homes when essential repairs and cleaning had completed.

Mr Walters said: "Do not let your kid's play in water and take care if you or yore family must go into flood water as there are often hidden dangers from sharp objekts and pollution;

"Wash your hand's regularly. If water isnt available, use hand sannitising gel or wet wipes."

He added "Keeping people safe – thats our number one priority in this desparately tough situation".

People who needs help or information can contact the emmergency Chelveston flood teem on 02924 333444. For health advice, call NHS 111 or visit your local medical practise.

2 NEWS WRITING TEST (25 marks) Time recommended: **40 minutes**

Assume that you are a reporter on a local news website.

On the following page are some details about an incident during the annual raft race in the seaside resort of Yeltham. The facts are assembled in a disjointed way – just as they might be if you had obtained them by interviewing several people at different times.

Write a story of ABOUT 200 WORDS for publication today on the paper's website. You should include at least one quote.

The time recommended is 40 minutes.

Please turn over

Liz Parker, a holidaymaker from Leeds, who was watching the race with her family from the cliffs overlooking the sea at Yeltham, said today:

“There was a big crowd of people watching as the race got under way. 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. We watched as they pulled some of the racers out of the water.

“Everyone was safe within a matter of minutes. It certainly wasn’t how we were expecting the raft race to turn out.”

Malcolm Bartram, chairman of the organising committee of Yeltham Raft Race, said:

“This event has been staged successfully each year since 1977 and we’ve never had any safety problems before. 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.

“We had 24 rafts taking part this year and all the others made it safely to the end of the 750 metre course.”

Paul Castle, captain of the Lord Nelson pub raft, said:

“The wind started to blow really hard and it took us all by surprise. 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. We are all told to wear lifejackets under the rules of the race, and everyone knew what to do in the event of the raft sinking. We were glad to see the lifeboat crew arrive so quickly to pick us all up after a couple of minutes in the water.

“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, coxswain of the Yeltham Lifeboat, said:

“It was a straightforward job to pull the six crew members out of the water. But it does illustrate that 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.

“The organisers of the raft race know what they are doing and so they had plans in place for an emergency like the one we saw today.”

Nigella Thompson, a coastguard officer, said:

“There was no forecast for strong winds. We agreed with the organisers beforehand that it was safe to go ahead.

“We took several calls from members of the public telling us about the raft that was sinking. We are always grateful for the help of the public in alerting us to potential danger.

“It’s good that everyone is safe and well after today’s race. 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. CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (20 marks)

Time recommended: 25 minutes

Attempt **all** the questions. Write your answer on the paper. Do not use a red pen or calculator.

1. In which popular US TV series did Meghan Markle appear?
2. Who was the European Commission's chief negotiator in the talks about the UK leaving the European Union?
3. What issue does activist teenager Greta Thunberg campaign on?
4. Where is the next FIFA World Cup due to take place?
5. Which US basketball legend died in an air crash in January 2020?
6. Lord Hall will step down (or has stepped down) as director general of which UK organisation?
7. Jacob Rees-Mogg is a member of which political party?
8. Who is the President of France?
9. Homes-owners are charged council tax. What is the name of the 'tax' paid by enterprises such as shops, factories, pubs and warehouses?
10. What is the capital of the USA?
11. Why is American Mark Zuckerberg famous?
12. Donald Trump starred in which US TV show before running for president?
13. With which sport do you associate Steph Houghton?
14. Boeing paused production of which aircraft after two crashes?
15. What was the name of the virus which came to the fore in China in January 2020 and caused concerns around the world?
16. Where is the European Court of Human Rights based?
17. Who is the first minister of Scotland?
18. In terms of the Middle East, what do you understand by the word Daesh?
19. Which member of the Royal Family suffered what was termed as a "PR Disaster" after being interviewed by Emily Maitlis for BBC Newsnight?
20. The UK Monetary Policy Committee is part of which organisation?