

## **National Qualification in Journalism (NQJ)**

### **Procedures for Transition Arrangements September 2018**

The NCTJ Level 6 National Qualification in Journalism is a new qualification that has been developed following a review of the NQJ. This new qualification will replace the current Level 5 qualification from July 2019.

The new NQJ qualification is assessed via two online exams – media law and ethics in practice and an online practical skills-based exam, the big news story – plus an e-logbook submission.

There will be two further exam sittings for the Level 5 NQJ which will be held in November 2018 and March 2019. Online exams for the new NQJ will be offered three times a year, starting in July 2019.

#### **Registrations**

New candidate registrations from 1 October 2018 will be registered on the Level 6 NQJ qualification. E-logbook access will be supplied in the new format within six weeks. Candidates currently registered for the Level 5 NQJ will be contacted and offered a transfer to the Level 6 NQJ.

If candidates currently registered for the Level 5 NQJ choose not to transfer to the Level 6 NQJ, they will have two more attempts to sit the exams on the Level 5 qualification – in November 2018 and March 2019. From July 2019, only exams for the new Level 6 NQJ will be offered. Any candidates currently registered for the Level 5 NQJ who have not achieved the full qualification by March 2019 must transfer to the new Level 6 NQJ if they wish to complete the qualification.

#### **Re-sits from July 2019**

Registered candidates who have not passed the news interview and/or the news report exam by March 2019 will have to sit the new online practical skills-based exam, the big news story, from July 2019.

Registered candidates who have not passed the media law and practice exam by March 2019 will have to sit the new online media law and ethics in practice exam from July 2019.

Please note: results for the news interview, news report and media law and practice exams are not transferable to the new NQJ qualification. Registered candidates who have achieved any of these exams but not the full qualification by March 2019 must transfer to the new NQJ and sit the new assessments from July 2019, as detailed above.

Registered candidates who have passed the e-logbook, but not the full NQJ qualification, by March 2019 will be able to transfer their logbook result to the new NQJ qualification for a period of 12 months – until March 2020.

E-logbook submissions (first submissions and resubmissions) made after March 2019 must follow the new level 6 NQJ format.

### **Sample exams and refresher training**

Three sets of sample exams for the new online practical skills-based exam (the big news story) and the new online media law and ethics in practice exam will be written by the end of December 2018 and tested by the end of February 2019. They will all be set in the NCTJ's online assessment platform, Cirrus. One set will be for refresher training courses, one set will be available for candidates to purchase in the online shop, and one set will be available to candidates for free download via the NCTJ website. A sample e-logbook in the new format will be produced with guidance on standards for resubmissions. This will be for use by refresher trainers and will be available to candidates via the NCTJ website.

A training session for refresher trainers will take place in April 2019. Refresher courses for candidates on the new NQJ qualification will take place in June 2019.

### **Withdrawal of the Level 5 NQJ**

The current Level 5 NQJ will be withdrawn from the Qualifications Register at the end of August 2019.

From July 2019, only the new level 6 NQJ will be awarded.