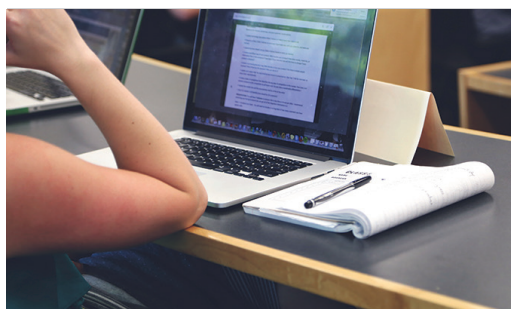
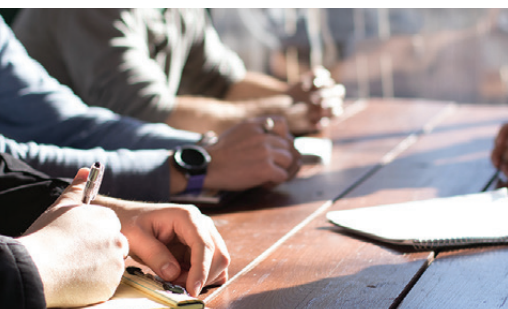


DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM

Examiners' Report

2020-21



DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM 2020-21

During the academic year 2020-21, a total of 1447 candidates were registered on courses with the NCTJ to sit the Diploma in Journalism exams. 1313 candidates were studying on accredited courses and 134 on non-accredited courses, but may have sat NCTJ exams. Candidates also sit NCTJ Diploma in Journalism exams on National exam dates, for example students studying via distance learning.

AWARD WINNERS (best performance in a diploma exam)

The award winners listed below have been selected from the candidates who sat Diploma in Journalism exams between November 2020 and September 2021:



The Archant essential journalism award

Olivia Marshall, Bournemouth University, Facebook Community Reporter Training Scheme December 2020-December 2021 (85%)



The ITV News broadcast journalism award

Ting Yee Eleanor Ng, Kingston University, MA Journalism 2020-21 (80%)



The Oxford University Press essential media law award

Imran Marshali, PA Training, Fast Track August 2020-January 2021 (94%)



The Meta editing skills for journalists' award

Lucia Banks, Harlow College, Diploma in Journalism Academic Year 2020-21 (77%)



The JPIMedia media law: court reporting award

Jack Tooth, News Associates Manchester, Multimedia Sports Journalism 2020-21 (94%)



The Mark Allen Group practical magazine journalism award

Christopher Brackin, PA Training, Fast Track January 2021-May 2021 (90%)



The Oxford University Press public affairs award

Georgina Quach, University of Sheffield, MA Journalism 2020-21 (96%)



The Society of Editors videojournalism award

Bellamy Bird, Bournemouth University, Facebook Community Reporter Training Scheme September 2019-August 2021 (77%)



The Archant shorthand award (100wpm)

Sophia Simoes, University of Salford, MA Journalism 2020-21 (100% accuracy)



The Premier League sports journalism award

Franklin Elliott, University of Brighton, MA Sports Journalism 2020-21 (78%)



The Sky Sports News shorthand award (110wpm)

Talya Honebeek, University of Sunderland, MA Journalism 2020-21 (100% accuracy)



The Reach journalism for a digital audience award

Connor McLaughlin, News Associates London, Fast Track March 2021-August 2021 (82%)



PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S SUMMARY

Most NCTJ-accredited centres were still impacted at times in 2020-21 by closures, lockdowns and other Covid-related restrictions, meaning many training providers were forced to retain some elements of remote or online delivery and assessment. Thankfully, however, we saw a welcome return to some kind of normality with a greater number of NCTJ exams being held in-centre and a significant increase in sittings in all but two modules.

Some of this increase can be attributed to pent-up demand from candidates who had deferred taking NCTJ exams in 2019-20. There were 2,588 additional exam sittings in 2020-21 compared to the previous year, so the A-C pass rate offered a more accurate picture of the number of candidates achieving the NCTJ's gold standard in all assessments.

Despite this significant increase in entries for most NCTJ modules, the pass rates were markedly consistent with previous years. In a few modules, such as essential media law and regulation, court reporting and public affairs, where the A-C pass rate was at least 10 per cent lower than in 2019-20, the relevant chief examiners have concluded that the 2020-21 figures indicate that pass rates have simply reverted to pre-pandemic standards and are not a cause for concern.

Examiners on all subject boards monitor achievement and outcomes each year and the assessments in all modules are constantly reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose and that the pass rates reward candidates who meet industry standards. It was particularly pleasing to see entries for new modules which prepare trainees for the contemporary media environment, such as journalism for a digital audience, continue to grow in popularity.

While the return to in-centre assessments is to be welcomed, it must be acknowledged that the option to deliver Cirrus exams remotely, using the Proctorio system, has been a huge success. It has helped many students complete their training and achieve the NCTJ Diploma in Journalism qualification.

Feedback on the NCTJ's decision to offer remote exams in 2020-21 and to continue this into 2021-22 has been very positive. And, although in-centre exams are expected to become the default mode of assessment in future (pandemic permitting!), the flexibility offered by the option of remote exams will be retained where it can be beneficial for candidates.

The NCTJ team, examiners and staff at accredited centres all deserve enormous credit for the professional way in which they have adapted to the many and varied challenges posed by the pandemic. The impressive work they all do ensures that attaining the gold standard in any NCTJ assessment means something to those who achieve it and assures employers that the assessments are robust and successfully prepare the next generation of journalists for the workplace.

Amanda Ball
NCTJ principal examiner

ESSENTIAL JOURNALISM

Despite another year of pandemic problems candidates and examiners rose to the challenges and 2020-21 saw 32 per cent more sittings of the essential journalism exam than the previous year. Total sittings were 1632 compared with 1233 for 2019-20, and also significantly up on the 1439 figure for the 2018-19 academic year.

Pleasingly while everyday life was disrupted (including face-to-face tuition) overall passes at gold standard were only slightly down at 51 per cent compared with 53 per cent the previous year. Of these gold standard passes, four per cent were at A grade, identical to the year before, while B and C grades were at 16 per cent and 32 per cent, compared with 14 per cent and 35 per cent respectively for 2019-20.

Some of the increase in sittings can be attributed to distance learning candidates and their ability to access the exam online from almost anywhere. Recently, one candidate achieved a gold standard pass after sitting the exam remotely in Dubai.

During the year there was a review of the essential journalism programme of study and a general survey of tutors, trainers and NCTJ examiners. This led to some changes to non-examined study units for 2021-22 and exam candidates will now have 40 minutes rather than 30 minutes to answer questions 1-4 in the exam. Time allowed for the whole exam remains at two hours.

Updates reflect changes in the gathering and delivery of news and information while retaining emphasis on core skills with accuracy, attribution, and use of clear, concise language. Topical scenarios also examine the importance of understanding the behaviours of a journalist with particular reference to the IPSO Editors' Code.

Thank you to examiners and the NCTJ staff for their fantastic efforts throughout the year in helping to ensure that essential journalism continues to develop as the pathway for every aspiring journalist.

Nick Nunn
Chief examiner, essential journalism

ESSENTIAL JOURNALISM E-PORTFOLIO

Continuing difficulties thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic have not stopped trainees coming up with a wealth of excellent content for their e-portfolios. There was a continuing need to adapt to circumstances with temporary arrangements being extended as lockdowns continued. The changing environment has seen face to face interviews regularly replaced by Zoom interviews which have steadily become commonplace and candidates have adapted well.

Despite the continuing issues, excellent results have been achieved again this year with 95 per cent achieving gold standard in 2020-21, a slight rise from the 94 per cent gaining this standard in 2019-20.

The standard of marking remains very high with markers encouraged to give detailed feedback to candidates and reward those who go the extra mile.

Whilst the pandemic has continued to provide a good source of material for candidates, with almost half of the academic year taking place in lockdown, it was good to see candidates being resourceful and to see more original ideas coming through. The quality of video submissions has also increased considerably as candidates embrace advancing multi-media technology.

Clare Gladstone
Chief moderator, essential journalism e-portfolio



ESSENTIAL JOURNALISM ETHICS AND REGULATION

After recent improvements in the newspaper magazine regulation test, the last year saw a slight dip in the percentage of those achieving the gold standard – 72 per cent gaining A-C grades compared to 75 per cent in 2019-20 and 74 per cent in 2018-19. However, this was against a backdrop of a significant increase in the number of candidates sitting – up by 385 to 1,357.

The percentage of those achieving A-E grades remained remarkably consistent at 96 per cent for the third year running. The number of candidates achieving A grades rose to 238 or 18 per cent – an increase of one per cent on the previous year.

John Wilson
Chief examiner, essential journalism ethics and regulation



ESSENTIAL MEDIA LAW & REGULATION AND MEDIA LAW COURT REPORTING

In 2020-21 there was an overall 62 per cent gold standard pass rate for essential media law, compared with 72 per cent in 2019-20. This is similar to the pass rate recorded pre-Covid – in 2018-19 there was a 65 per cent gold standard pass rate for essential media law. In 2020-21 there was an overall 61 per cent gold standard pass rate for court reporting compared with 71 per cent in 2019-20. The gold standard pass rate in 2018-19 (pre-Covid) was 66 per cent.

The A-E pass rates were also slightly down, at 88 per cent for essential media law and 87 per cent for court reporting, versus 93 per cent for essential media law and 94 per cent for court reporting in 2019-20. In 2018-19, the A-E pass rate was 89 per cent for essential media law and 90 per cent for court reporting.

The media law board discussed these results in detail and agreed that at the year end the pass rates for 2020-21 were comparable to the pass rates in 2018-19. The board is of the view that candidates, tutors and the media law examination system continued to prove resilient in the face of the pandemic's disruptions, and we pay tribute to NCTJ staff for their fast and flexible reaction in changing exam dates and arrangements to cope with the pandemic's effect.

The numbers sitting the essential media law exam in 2020-21 increased by 355 to 1,495 compared to the previous year, and the numbers sitting the court reporting exam increased by 313 to 1,208. These totals include re-sits.

The overall results suggest that the two media law exams set a consistent level of challenge for candidates, and that each exam delivered across the year was of an appropriate level of challenge, consistent with the others set by the board for the year. As is the case for most years, new topics – reflecting changes in media law and regulatory environments – figured in the programmes of study and the exams, to ensure their content was up-to-date.

Mark Hanna
Chief examiner, essential media law & regulation and media law court reporting

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The public affairs module saw the largest increase in candidates for any NCTJ assessment in 2020-21, with 1,348 candidates taking the exam. Additional exam sittings were offered to support centres and candidates who were unable to take the exam in 2019-20 due to the pandemic.

The increase in exam sittings meant that the percentage achieving the gold standard reverted to more usual parameters at around two-thirds (63 per cent) compared to 79 per cent passing with A-C grades in 2019-20, when only 824 candidates sat the exam.

Despite being an optional module, it is pleasing that public affairs continues to be highly relevant and a popular choice for many NCTJ centres. It had the highest number of entries in 2020-21 after the compulsory modules in essential journalism, essential media law and regulation, and the newspaper magazine regulation test.

The public affairs exam board strives to ensure the currency of the programme of study and examination

and to emphasise its relevance to the work of journalists, regularly reviewing the module's content and assessment. We also welcome feedback from tutors and have used marking workshops in recent years to create a useful dialogue with centres.

We continue to use topical issues in the news in exam scenarios and emphasise the importance of practical application of public affairs knowledge. This is particularly important as the pandemic is still placing a sharp focus on the operation of local and central government.

Our aim is to ensure that trainee journalists taking the public affairs module gain the necessary knowledge and skills to make sense of, and successfully pursue, public affairs stories. I am immensely grateful for the valuable contributions from the public affairs board members and tutors which continue to inform this module's content and assessment.

Amanda Ball
Chief examiner, public affairs

SHORTHAND

Shorthand exams continue to be offered at speeds from 60wpm to 80wpm and at 100wpm to 120wpm.

Exams are held monthly with a selection of speeds available. The 100wpm exam is offered every month to give candidates as many opportunities as possible to sit the exam and achieve the industry gold standard.

The 2019-20 academic year saw the introduction of remote shorthand exams in response to the pandemic. The shorthand board is pleased that the option of remote exams could be continued in 2020-21 so that students were not disadvantaged in their studies.

In 2020-21 there were 3,269 shorthand exam sittings compared to 2,540 in 2019-20. Overall, this is an increase of 729 sittings, approximately 29 per cent. This increase was most evident at 60wpm. However, 746 exams were sat in the period where no exams were delivered in 2019-20 due to the coronavirus pandemic (2 April to 15 May).

The overall pass rate was 30 per cent compared with 31 per cent in 2020-21. The pass rate at the gold standard 100wpm speed was 21 per cent, compared to 24 per cent in 2019-20. The pass rate at 60wpm decreased slightly from 41 per cent in 2019-20 to 39 per cent in 2020-21.

The shorthand board continue to advise tutors to enter candidates for exams only when they are ready. It is good practice for tutors to hold mock exams in order to determine the speed at which candidates are competent and confident. We want candidates to be as well prepared as possible so that they achieve a positive outcome in their exams.

Karen Ballam
Chief examiner, shorthand



EDITING SKILLS FOR JOURNALISTS

Feedback from tutors and candidates has been positive for the changes made last year to the editing skills for journalists' module.

The fast-moving digital deadline environment in newsrooms was brought into sharper focus while still providing candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their print editing skills.

The past year has continued to be challenging for candidates studying the module – the coronavirus lockdown forced many NCTJ centres to switch their teaching online and it became difficult to provide the appropriate software (i.e. InDesign etc.) for students to use on their own laptops at home.

The number of candidates sitting the exam is slightly down on last year. 258 candidates sat the exam in 2020-21 compared to 272 candidates in the previous year.

Examiners are pleased to see candidates have maintained the high standard of attainment throughout, with around three quarters once again reaching gold standard level (69 per cent) which is slightly up on last year (63 per cent).

John Dilley
Chief examiner, editing skills for journalists

SPORTS JOURNALISM

Sittings for the sports journalism exam bounced back to pre-pandemic levels with 204 submissions compared to 117 in 2019-20. There were 220 sittings in 2018-19.

A slightly lower percentage of candidates (67 per cent) achieved gold standard in 2020-21 compared to the previous year (72 per cent). The A-E pass rate was 97 per cent, very slightly up on 96 per cent in 2019-20.

Four examination sittings took place throughout the year, with the June exam cancelled, and the May edition proved most popular with 81 entries. Grade boundaries for the gold standard were comparable to the previous year as grade A stood at 7 per cent (10 per cent in 2019-20), grade B recorded 23 per cent (21 per cent in 2019-20) and grade C recorded 37 per cent (41 per cent in 2019-20). A-E pass rates presented a similar picture with grade D at 24 per cent (21 per cent in 2019-20), grade E at 6 per cent (3 per cent in 2019-20) and grade F at 2 per cent (4 per cent in 2019-20).

There were no changes to the sports journalism examination format following several alterations the previous year that included new preview and data journalism questions. The exam represents a good test of a wide range of sports journalism skills through its variety of scenarios. Continued thanks go to Sky Sports for providing the video footage for the match report and post-match reaction questions in Part 1.

Simon McEnnis
Chief examiner, sports journalism



VIDEOJOURNALISM FOR DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The journalism education industry is emerging from a turbulent two years. Many current students have spent nearly eighteen months learning online. Often they have returned to newsrooms and classrooms deeply worried about their futures, and anxious about the safety of family members and siblings.

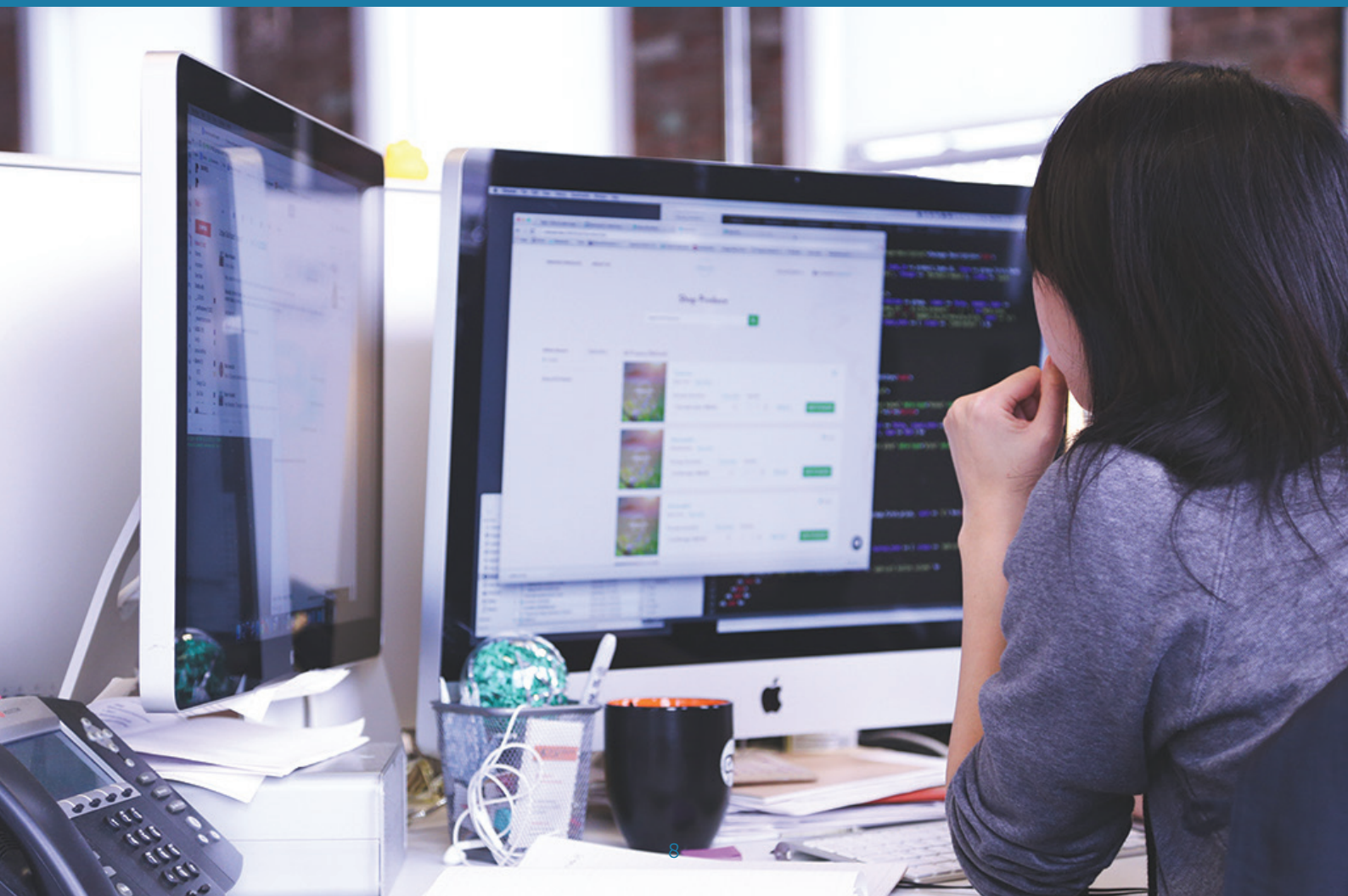
Much of this year's teaching has remained 'blended', with centres aiming to reduce classroom numbers and keep staff and students as safe as possible. It is a tribute to the hard work of all our NCTJ tutors that engagement and results overall have held up well.

The popularity of our videojournalism for digital platforms module continues to grow, with a 25 per cent increase in students studying the module and taking the final assessment. Pleasingly, the number of candidates securing the gold standard remains at 86 per cent, which is very similar to our other practical modules.

The marking team has been delighted to see some of the innovative and creative work produced in centres, and we hope they will continue to take the opportunity to expand across new social media platforms. We are starting to see bespoke content produced for Instagram and TikTok, as well as Twitter and Facebook, and we are looking forward to seeing how teaching develops further over upcoming months.

Thank you to all our colleagues, who yet again have gone above and beyond to support journalism students over the past year. We salute your achievements.

Vanessa Edwards
Chief examiner, videojournalism
for digital platforms



BUSINESS AND FINANCE JOURNALISM

The business and finance syllabus saw 11 candidates sitting the exam in 2020-21.

Nine out of 11 candidates received grades within the A-C range, which is equivalent to 82 per cent achieving the 'gold' standard pass rate, a decrease on the 92 per cent achieved in the previous year. However, it should be noted that the numbers of candidates in all years have been too small for any meaningful comparisons. All candidates sitting this exam have done so on a distance-learning basis. It is therefore encouraging to see consistently high pass rates.

Steve Dyson
Chief examiner, business and finance journalism



BROADCAST JOURNALISM

For the broadcast journalism TV news assessment, there was a 68 per cent increase in the number of sittings compared with the previous year. Both years enjoyed a 100 per cent A-E pass rate, with 83 per cent achieving gold standard in 2020-21 compared to 84 per cent in 2019-20.

The number of students sitting the broadcast journalism radio news assessment increased by 24 percent year on year while the number sitting the regulation exam increased by 23 per cent in 2020-21. For the regulation exam, there was a 2 per cent drop in the overall pass rate in that time from 100 per cent to 98 per cent.

Towards the end of 2020-21 we brought together a group of broadcast journalists and employers to consider the programme of study and the skills and knowledge assessed in the module. Industry partners were, in the main, very happy with the content and placed a strong emphasis on the value of the broadcast regulation exam. The other assessments required some updating to reflect current working practices and the need for journalists to work across a variety of platforms. From September 2021, a new TV Newsday assessment has been introduced and producing podcasts has been added as an option to the radio news assessment. Broadcast regulation has been moved into a separate module, worth a total of three credits.

Catherine Houlihan
Chief examiner, broadcast journalism



PHOTOGRAPHY FOR JOURNALISTS



There was a 100 per cent increase in students sitting the photography for journalists' module, with 100 students submitting portfolios compared to 50 the year before. 84 per cent gained the gold standard compared to 78 per cent the year before.

The photography module is designed to equip candidates with the skills required to produce images that meet industry standards. Despite very challenging conditions caused by the pandemic it was pleasing to see an increase in skill and creativity in the submitted work as well as an increase in the quality of captions.

It is important to understand photographic practice and media law and ethics relating to the publication of images, and candidates largely took this into account in their submissions.

Steve Phillips
Chief examiner, photography for journalists

PR & COMMUNICATIONS FOR JOURNALISTS / INTRODUCTION TO PR FOR JOURNALISTS

The PR modules were introduced to the Diploma in Journalism as elective options in 2018-19. PR & Communications for Journalists (double module) has largely been taken by students on the NCTJ distance learning course and has been successful.

The number of candidates taking the double module increased in 2020-21, despite the ongoing pandemic. In fact there were more students taking the exam than in the year before Covid-19 came to the UK. This was also true for the Introduction to PR for Journalists module, with an almost four-fold increase in students sitting the exam compared to the previous year.

Unfortunately, the additional numbers did not help the pass rates, with the percentage of PR & Communications candidates achieving the gold standard dropping from 79 to 42 per cent. For the Introduction to PR module, candidates slightly improved their gold standard rate from 33 to 36 per cent. The overall A-E pass rate for both modules did not greatly change with Introduction to PR securing 85 per cent (down from 89 per cent in

2019-20) and PR & Communications securing 97 per cent (up from 95 per cent in 2019-20).

Tutor workshops were held with centres offering the Introduction to PR module and there are plans to introduce direct workshops for distance learning students taking PR & Communications.

Chris Rushton
Chief examiner, PR & communications for journalists and introduction to PR for journalists



PRACTICAL MAGAZINE JOURNALISM

The practical magazine journalism module, introduced three years ago, continues to be a popular elective module within the Diploma in Journalism.

The number of candidates taking the module across the year rose from 69 to 115 and the number of centres teaching the module nearly doubled to 10 from six.

The success rate hardly changed from the previous year, with 86 per cent of candidates achieving gold standard (A-C grades). In 2019-20 the gold standard pass rate was 87 per cent.

Feedback remains positive from candidates and tutors for the real-world shape of the assessment – candidates develop their own feature idea and conduct an in-depth face-to-face interview as part of coursework prior to a six-hour magazine day assessment held under newsroom conditions. During the assessment candidates write and publish online a 1,000 word feature, together with self-generated photography, video and social media promotion.

Coronavirus restrictions did have some impact on the assessments and there was a fairly even split between magazine days being run remotely and in-centre.

John Dilley
Chief examiner, practical magazine journalism

JOURNALISM FOR A DIGITAL AUDIENCE

We have seen a significant increase in the number of centres and candidates taking up this elective module.

The number of sittings in 2020-21 increased to 428 from last year's figure of 253. This equates to 175 more sittings – a 69 per cent increase – which has required the recruiting of a larger team of markers and my thanks go to our colleagues at the NCTJ for doing that.

Despite the increase in sittings the consistency of teaching in centres and of marking by the marking team has produced identical results. That means a gold standard pass rate of 82 per cent (352 candidates) and an A-E pass rate of 96 per cent (412 candidates).

The team behind the journalism for a digital audience module continues to fine-tune the programme of study to ensure it is industry standard and as practical as possible. We also continue to offer marking workshops to centres to further develop clarity on delivery and marking criteria.

My thanks go to all administrators, examiners, markers, moderators and indeed students involved in the continuing development of the module.

Gavin Allen
Chief examiner, journalism for a digital audience



DATA JOURNALISM

The data journalism module was in its pilot year in 2020-21. The module's emphasis is very much on the journalism. It is about finding stories and content ideas within datasets and then relating the figures to people's lives, explaining what they mean. This can be demonstrated by reference to the two assessments.

The first assessment is an online exam lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. Candidates are given a real dataset to work with and are asked to identify the most newsworthy information in the dataset to engage their target audience. They are also asked to write an online headline for their story; write an introduction for their story; produce an infographic; and describe how they will further develop their story, stating the angles, lines of enquiry and interviewees they would speak to.

The second assessment is a piece of coursework. Candidates are asked to choose a story which lends itself to a substantial, long-form piece of data journalism, allowing them to display the depth and breadth of their knowledge and skills, as set out in the programme of study.

Of the 33 candidates who sat the module in 2020-21, 24 achieved a pass with grades A-C, a gold standard pass rate of 82 per cent. A total of 31 candidates passed the module with grades A-E. At the end of the pilot year, a few small tweaks were made to the programme of study and the assessments. With more centres taking up this elective module in 2021-22, an additional exam date has been added to meet demand.

Chief examiner, data journalism

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Diploma in Journalism (exam sittings) results summary 2020-21

Exam	No. of Sittings	Gold Standard		A-E pass rate	
Essential Journalism	1632	837	51%	1565	96%
Newspaper Magazine Regulation Test	1357	975	72%	1306	96%
Essential Media Law & Regulation	1495	920	62%	1310	88%
Court Reporting	1208	733	61%	1049	87%
Public Affairs	1348	848	63%	1187	88%
Sports Journalism	204	136	67%	198	97%
Editing Skills for Journalists	258	178	69%	252	98%
Business of Magazines	78	64	82%	76	97%
Videojournalism for Digital Platforms	359	309	86%	349	97%
Business & Finance	11	9	82%	11	100%
PR & Communications for Journalists	31	13	42%	30	97%
Intro to PR for Journalists	106	38	36%	90	85%
Journalism for a Digital Audience	428	352	82%	412	96%
Data Journalism	33	27	82%	31	94%
Practical Magazine Journalism	115	99	86%	114	99%
TV Journalism	6	6	100%	6	100%
Radio Journalism	18	15	83%	16	89%
Broadcast Journalism – TV News	103	85	83%	103	100%
Broadcast Journalism – Radio News	108	96	89%	107	99%
Broadcast Journalism – Regulation	121	102	84%	119	98%
Total no. of exam sittings	9019				

With the exception of the PR modules, over half of the assessments marked in each module were awarded the industry gold standard of an A-C grade, with the overall majority achieving an E grade or above. In 2020-21, 65 per cent of candidates achieved the gold standard compared with 71 per cent in 2019-20. Ninety-three per cent of candidates achieved A-E grades in 2020-21, compared with 96 per cent in 2019-20.

Diploma in Journalism (assessments) results summary 2020-21

	Number of sittings	Gold Standard		A-E pass rate	
E-Portfolio Submissions	831	793	95%	829	99%
Broadcast Coursework Submissions	97	85	88%	96	99%
Photography for Journalists E-Portfolio	100	84	84%	96	99%
Total no. of other assessments	1028				

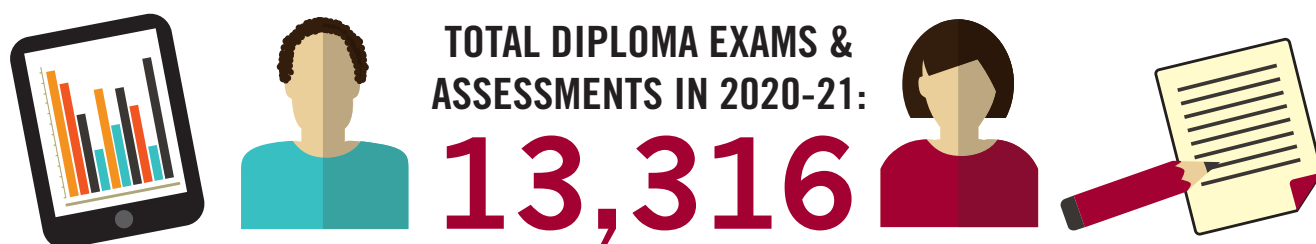
In the 2020-21 academic year, 831 e-portfolios were submitted for assessment. Of these submissions, 95 per cent were awarded the industry gold standard of an A-C grade.

Shorthand exams results summary 2020-21

A total of 3,269 shorthand examinations were sat in 2020-21 (including resits) compared to 2,540 exams in 2019-20, an increase of 729 exams. 746 of these exams were sat in the period where no exams were delivered in 2019-20 due to the pandemic (2 April – 15 May). The achievement figures for the year have been tabled below.

Speed wpm	Number of sittings	Number of passes	Pass rate
60	1295	502	39%
70	26	12	46%
80	564	157	28%
100	1348	283	21%
110	22	12	36%
120	14	5	36%
Total no. of exam sittings	3269	971	30%

In 2020-21, 21 per cent achieved 100wpm, compared to a pass rate of 24 per cent in 2019-20. Overall, the percentage pass rate for students achieving a shorthand speed of 60wpm or over decreased by one percentage points, from 31 per cent to 30 per cent.



DIPLOMA EXAM RESULTS COMPARISON 2019-20 AND 2020-21

Exam	Number of sittings 2020-21	Gold Standard 2020-21	A-E pass rate 2019-20	Number of sittings 2019-20	Gold Standard 2019-20	A-E pass rate 2019-20	Difference in no. of sittings
Essential Journalism	1632	51%	96%	1233	53%	97%	399
Newspaper Magazine Regulation Test	1357	72%	96%	972	75%	96%	385
Essential Media Law & Regulation	1495	62%	88%	1140	72%	93%	355
Court Reporting	1208	61%	87%	895	71%	94%	313
Public Affairs	1348	63%	88%	824	79%	97%	524
Sports Journalism	204	67%	97%	117	72%	96%	87
Editing Skills for Journalists	258	69%	98%	277	63%	98%	-19
Business of Magazines	78	82%	97%	55	89%	98%	23
Videojournalism for Digital Platforms	359	86%	97%	287	86%	98%	72
Business & Finance	11	82%	100%	13	92%	100%	-2
PR & Communications for Journalists	31	42%	97%	19	79%	95%	12
Intro to PR for Journalists	106	36%	85%	27	33%	89%	79
Journalism for a Digital Audience	428	82%	96%	253	82%	96%	175
Data Journalism	33	82%	94%	0	0%	0%	33
Practical Magazine Journalism	115	86%	99%	69	87%	97%	46
TV Journalism	6	100%	100%	3	67%	100%	3
Radio Journalism	18	83%	89%	1	100%	100%	17
Broadcast Journalism – TV News	103	83%	100%	61	84%	100%	42
Broadcast Journalism – Radio News	108	89%	99%	87	82%	94%	21
Broadcast Journalism – Regulation	121	84%	98%	98	84%	100%	23
Total	9019			6431			2588

DIPLOMA ASSESSMENT RESULTS COMPARISON 2019-20 AND 2020-21

Assessment	Number of sittings 2020-21	Gold Standard 2020-21	A-E pass rate 2020-21	Number of sittings 2019-20	Gold Standard 2019-20	A-E pass rate 2019-20	Difference in no. of sittings
E-Portfolio Submissions	831	95%	99%	776	94%	99%	55
Broadcast Coursework Submissions	97	88%	99%	49	94%	98%	48
Photography for Journalists E-Portfolio	100	84%	99%	50	78%	96%	50
Total	1028			875			153

SHORTHAND EXAM RESULTS COMPARISON 2019-20 AND 2020-21

Speed	Number of sittings 2020-21	Pass rate 2020-21	Number of sittings 2019-20	Pass rate 2019-20	Difference in no. of sittings
60wpm	1295	39%	879	41%	416
70wpm	26	46%	4	25%	22
80wpm	564	28%	419	32%	145
100wpm	1348	21%	1167	24%	181
110wpm	22	36%	62	21%	-40
120wpm	14	36%	9	33%	5
Total	3269		2540		726



www.nctj.com

NCTJ

The New Granary, Station Road, Newport,
Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3PL

Tel: 01799 544014

Email: info@nctj.com