

## **Diploma in Journalism Entrance Test 2025**

---

Candidate's name:

Date:

Centre where test is held:

This is a 2-hour test. It is recommended that you divide your time as follows:

- Journalism: 1hr 45 mins
- Current Affairs: 15 mins

## JOURNALISM

### Question 1 information

You are a reporter for a news website covering the London area. You receive a statement from an organisation called Mothers Against Knives which is responding to knife crime figures published this morning by the Office of the Mayor for London. All figures quoted in the statement have been checked and are correct.

### Information

**Media release:** Immediate

**From: Mrs Angela Curry, Chief Executive of Mothers Against Knives (MAK)**

Our organisation has been campaigning for the last five years to reduce the amount of knife crime on the streets of London. We are sick and tired of the number of young lives being ended or blighted by vicious stabbings and we long to see an end to the gang culture which is a constant shadow over the streets of our city.

The 2024 figures released today by the Mayor of London show that knife crime has risen by 4.6 per cent over 2023 – a new and unwelcome record high for our city.

The figures show there were 14,659 knife crimes in London last year compared to 14,015 the year before.

Three London boroughs – Kingston on Thames, Wandsworth and Camden – recorded increases of more than 40 per cent over the 12 months.

Our politicians are simply not doing enough to stem the tide of knife crime and so we are launching a new campaign to try and reduce these horrific numbers.

This coming weekend we are joining with community groups from across the city to march from the Houses to Parliament to Trafalgar Square to demand action on these dreadful figures. And we are delighted that the actor Idris Elba, who has taken a high profile in calling for action against knife crime, has agreed to speak at the rally's end in Trafalgar Square. We are also thrilled that he has agreed to give us £100,000 to produce educational material for use in London schools.

We would urge all those who want to see knife crime reduced to join our march or to lobby their MPs and the London Mayor. Anyone who wants more information can visit our website at [www.mak.co.uk](http://www.mak.co.uk)

### Question 1a

Write a Facebook post covering the statement of between 30 and 40 words (no marks for fewer than 30 words or more than 40 words)

**(10 marks)**

### Question 1b

Write a news story based on the information you have for immediate publication of no more than 80 words.

**(20 marks)**

**(One mark will be deducted for every three words over the word count to a maximum of 5 marks)**

### Question 1c

You can speak to Angela Curry and are able to ask her five questions.

List five questions you would ask.

**(10 marks)**

## Question 2

There are a number of spelling and punctuation mistakes in the following text. Circle the errors and write the correct word or words above and insert punctuation marks where appropriate. You are looking for spelling and punctuation errors, not matters of style. **DO NOT REWRITE THIS PIECE.** If you do, you will score a zero mark for this question.

**Do not use this information to answer question 1.**

**(10 marks)**

Email to the editor

Please consider this for the feedback section of your website.

Dear Editor,

The news that nife crime is on the rise should not be a surprise to anyone who has lived in this city for any length of time.

These figures underline what we all know too well – knives and gang's rule this city and parents of teenagers dont take there responsibilities seriously enough.

Many teenagers would of stayed away from knives if only their parents had set a better example at home. Unfortunatly so many teenagers come from broken homes where there is no father figure and this has led to the constant increase in crime

Can we put a stop to this spiral of violence I think we can.

It needs the mothers of the capitol to come together and spell out to the politicians and people of power and influnce that we have had enough. That is why I will be marching this weekend to let the world know that the mums of London have had enough and that its time for action

Yours sincerely,

Amina Patel

### Question 3

You work for a news website which covers the hospitality industry in the UK. Today the Office for National Statistics has published the latest figures for the number of pubs operating in the United Kingdom, along with comparative figures dating back to 1980.

#### Pubs operating in the United Kingdom

	Percentage decrease	Total number of pubs
2025	15.7%	38,989
2020	16.6%	46,235
2010	8.9%	55,432
2000	4.3 %	60,801
1990	8.2 %	63,513
1980		69,141

#### Worst-hit regions – decreases in pubs since 1980

Area	1980 - number of pubs	2025 – number of pubs and percentage decrease
West Midlands	6,123	3,119 (- 49%)
Yorkshire and Humberside	7,150	3,725 (- 48%)
London	6,509	3,590 (- 44.9%)
Scotland	5,020	2,795 (- 44.4%)
South-West	7467	4,205 (- 43.7%)

### Question 3a

Based on the statistics provided, write a 150-word story. This is a test of your ability to understand data and to explain the figures in simple language for your readers.

(15 marks)

**(One mark will be deducted for every three words over the word count to a maximum of 10 marks)**

**Question 3b**

You wish to develop the story by interviewing people. Name four people you would hope to interview.

**(5 marks)**

**Question 3c**

Write a headline for your story, which will be published on a website, of no more than ten words.

**(5 marks)**

**Question 3d**

Write a post for X to seek more information from people working in the pub trade for a follow-up story.

**(5 marks)**

**General Knowledge**

*Time recommended: 15 minutes*

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

1. Who is Vice-President of the United States?
2. Which 17-year-old Englishman became the youngest-ever winner of the PDC World Darts Championship in 2025?
3. Who defeated England in the final of the UEFA Euro Championships in 2024?
4. Which billionaire businessman controls the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter?
5. Which famous English actress, who played a Hogwarts professor in the Harry Potter films, died in September 2024 at the age of 89?
6. Sir Keir Starmer became Prime Minister in July 2024, but who was the last Prime Minister before him?
7. According to Charli XCX, what kind of summer did we all have?
8. Who stepped down at the end of 2024 as host of the Radio 2 Breakfast Show?

9. Who won the Formula One World Championship in 2024?
10. Who is the UK Government's Chancellor of the Exchequer?
11. Who is the Prime Minister of Israel?
12. Who became leader of the Conservative Party in November 2024?
13. January 2025 marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an infamous Nazi death camp. What was its name?
14. Which city hosted the 2024 Olympics?
15. Who was the BBC sports personality of the year for 2024?
16. True or false: summer 2025 was Britain's hottest on record?
17. Which pop star continued her Eras tour in 2024?
18. Premier League referee David Coote was sacked for making derogatory comments about which former manager?
19. What is a popular name given to a High Court dispute between Rebekah Vardy and Coleen Rooney?
20. Who played the half-time show at the 2025 Superbowl?

© NCTJ 2025