



DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM

Examiners' Report

2023-24

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DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM 2023-24

During the academic year 2023-24, a total of 1,388 candidates were registered on courses with the NCTJ to sit the Diploma in Journalism exams. There were 1,248 studying on accredited courses, 88 studying on apprenticeship courses, and 52 studying on non-accredited courses, but may have sat NCTJ exams. Candidates also sit NCTJ Diploma in Journalism exams on national exam dates, for example those 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 2023 and September 2024:



Essential journalism award – supported by Newsquest

Niamh Curran, PA Media Academy, part-time diploma course
Sep 2023 – Aug 2024 (87%)



Editing skills for journalists' award – supported by News Media Association

Josef Al Shemary, Liverpool John Moores University, MA Journalism 2023-2024 (78%)



Essential media law award – supported by Oxford University Press

Cerys Jones, University of Sheffield, BA Journalism Studies 2022 - 2025 (96%)



Practical magazine journalism award – supported by Mark Allen Group

Cara Wheeldon, Nottingham Trent University, MA Magazine Journalism 2023-2024 (79%)



Media law: court reporting award – supported by National World

Lucianne Bell, News Associates London, BA Multimedia Journalism 2022-2025 (98%)



Videojournalism award – supported by The Independent

Uma Gurav, PA Media Academy, Level 5 journalist apprenticeship
Feb 2023 – Aug 2024 (82%)



Public affairs award – supported by Oxford University Press

Lise Evans, Darlington College, Community News Project
2023-2024 (92%)



Sports journalism award – supported by The Premier League

Rosa Kama, News Associates London, fast-track diploma course
Feb - Jul 2024 (83%)



Shorthand award (100wpm) – supported by Sky Sports News

Ayaat Yassin-Kassab, News Associates London, fast-track diploma course
Feb – Jul 2024 (100% accuracy)



Journalism for a digital audience award – supported by Reach

Emily Davison, Darlington College, Level 5 Diploma in Journalism (85%)



Broadcast journalism award – supported by ITV News

Joshua Brooks, University of Salford, MA Journalism 2023-24 (79%)



Data journalism award – supported by The Telegraph

Thomas Picillo, News Associates London, multimedia sports journalism diploma 2023-2024 (80%)



PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S SUMMARY

Reviewing assessment pass rates across all subject areas covered by the NCTJ diploma shows a remarkable degree of consistency between results in 2023-24 and the previous academic year. More candidates sat NCTJ assessments in 2023-24 (+476) than in 2022-23 and, in most assessments, the results were broadly comparable.

In essential media law and regulation (EMLR) and journalism for a digital audience, the A-C (gold standard) pass rate was the same as in 2022-23. There were slightly fewer sittings in EMLR, but an additional 65 candidates sat the assessment in journalism for digital audience.

Two assessments achieved an A-C pass rate which was only one per cent higher or lower than the previous year – the newspaper magazine regulation test (despite a sizeable drop in total entries -241) and editing skills for journalists which had nine fewer sittings.

Gold standard pass rates in essential journalism, broadcast journalism (TV news), broadcast journalism – regulation and e-portfolio only varied by two per cent compared to 2022-23. In sports journalism, videojournalism for digital platforms and business and finance there was only a three per cent variation in 2023-24.

The fact that in 2023-24, eleven modules, including the three core diploma modules, had an A-C pass rate which was within three per cent of the gold standard pass rates in that subject area in 2022-23, emphasises the consistency in standards. In some modules there was greater variation in pass rates, but in several modules, this may be accounted for by the increase or decrease in the number of candidates sitting the assessment.

Court reporting and public affairs, both of which are elective modules, had a lower number of sittings in 2023-24 – court reporting (-100) and public affairs (-57). Ironically, this may have contributed to the seven per cent increase in gold standard passes in court reporting and six per cent increase in public

affairs, with fewer but more committed students taking both assessments.

The welcome improvement in A-C pass rates in both PR & communications for journalists and introduction to PR for journalists is a positive and this, again may be linked to the increase in sittings for both modules in 2023-24.

Data journalism similarly saw a significant improvement in the gold standard pass rate, which may be due to an additional 171 sittings compared to 2022-23, more than a three-fold increase in the number of candidates taking this module.

Practical magazine journalism saw a decline in A-C passes (-6 per cent) but more candidates sat the assessment (+48) in 2023-24.

In contrast, photography for journalists had an improved gold standard pass rate (+8 per cent) based on fewer sittings (-68).

Overall, the module assessment results from 2023-24 demonstrate broad consistency compared to the previous year and in modules where there have been more significant variations in A-C pass rates, the subject examiners will be looking closely at trends in pass rates and discussing any necessary changes in the assessment. There is also the added assurance that all NCTJ subject exam boards are required at least once a year to review standards and the validity of assessment methods.

In concluding my report, I want to highlight the hard work and dedication of examiners across all the subject boards, as well as the staff at the NCTJ, all of whom play a vital role in ensuring that the NCTJ diploma continues to provide an excellent pathway in journalism education and training, preparing the next generation of journalists for a fast-changing media industry.

Amanda Ball
NCTJ principal examiner

ESSENTIAL JOURNALISM

Physical and verbal conflict dominated screens last year and it became increasingly difficult for audiences to tell whether words or images were real or fake.

Misinformation, fake news spread unwittingly or mistakenly, and disinformation, fake news created and spread deliberately to mislead, is more widespread online than ever.

In this climate the best way for audiences to minimise the risk of being misled is to seek and use trusted, trained sources who check vigorously before posting or publishing words and pictures.

The essential journalism exam assesses that training. It sets a quality benchmark by testing core newsgathering skills i.e. the ability to select trustworthy facts and statements and produce a compelling, accurate, impartial narrative free from the writer's own opinions.

It's therefore heartening to report increasing recognition of the exam's importance with a total of 1,392 sittings in the 2023-24 academic year, an increase from 1,254 in 2022-23, 1,301 in 2021-22 and 1,233 in the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20.

The percentage of candidates achieving coveted gold standard (A-C grade) passes dipped slightly to 53 per cent from 55 per cent in 2022-23.

Topical scenarios give candidates realistic, fast-moving material for breaking-news stories. The ethics component provides a different scenario so candidates can explain how they would deal with often complex situations without breaching the IPSO code and Editors' Code of Practice.

This year exams included missing/stolen museum treasures, increasing suicide rates among farmers, a teenager missing on a riverbank walk, bodycams for abused national park wardens and moves to ban sewer-blocking wet wipes.

The consistency of pass rates is a tribute to the hard work of candidates, tutors, NCTJ staff and a UK-wide team of markers whose imperative is production of news reports that audiences can truly rely on.

Nick Nunn
Chief examiner, essential journalism

ESSENTIAL JOURNALISM E-PORTFOLIO

The variety of work submitted to the e-portfolio section of the diploma continues to improve as candidates embrace this element as a way to promote themselves to future employers.

This is particularly true of distance learners whose dedication and commitment to putting themselves through all diploma elements should be commended.

The use of video conferencing for interviews continues to increase, as is to be expected, but it is good to still see examples of students getting out and about to carry out face-to-face interviews in person, a core skill for any journalist.

There were no changes to the mandatory categories but a better understanding of these categories, both by students and tutors, has led to far less issues with missing elements.

The total number of e-portfolio submissions for the year was 840, an increase on the 777 submissions seen in 2022-23.

Excellent results have again been achieved with 95 per cent achieving gold standard in 2023-24, a slight increase compared to the previous year of 93 per cent, and the A-E achievement rate was 100 per cent for 2023-24.

The standard and variety of work across e-portfolios remains high and the use of different multi-media platforms should be commended.

Candidates gaining top grades are those going the extra mile, sourcing and developing their own stories, honing their interviewing and writing skills and exploring the legal and ethical issues surrounding their work.

I thank all tutors for continuing to mark to a high standard, with attention to detail, to help ensure quality and consistency across the board.

Clare Gladstone
Chief moderator, essential journalism e-portfolio

ESSENTIAL JOURNALISM ETHICS AND REGULATION

The numbers achieving gold standard in the essential journalism ethics and regulation test dropped for a fourth successive year, continuing a disappointing trend in a subject area of real importance.

This year 67 per cent of candidates achieved the A-C grade, compared to 68 per cent in 2022-23. It is worth remembering that in 2019-20 75 per cent of candidates were achieving the gold standard, while in 2020-21 it was 72 per cent and in 2021-22 it was 70 per cent.

The number of candidates achieving A-E grades was up by one per cent to 95 per cent, meaning 1,156 passed overall.

With journalists' ethical standards continually in the spotlight it is vital that journalists forging careers in a challenging world have a thorough grasp of the IPSO Editors' Code and are able to translate that understanding into dealing effectively with real-life situations.

The number of candidates taking the test showed a significant drop this year – there were 1,217 sittings, a decrease of 17 per cent on the previous year. However, it is worth pointing out that there had been a significant spike the previous year – 1,458 candidates took the test then, compared with 1,312 candidates the year before.

Question banks for the test will continue to be updated on a regular basis to ensure candidates are faced with fresh and relevant scenarios that provide a real challenge and ensure they are thoroughly prepared for their future careers.

John Wilson
Chief examiner, essential journalism ethics and regulation

ESSENTIAL MEDIA LAW & REGULATION AND MEDIA LAW COURT REPORTING

The essential media law and regulation course remains as popular as ever and again saw one of the highest candidate counts of any NCTJ exam.

Students and courses continue to see the value of a broad legal knowledge for their careers, and I am happy to say that we have maintained the standards this year for the module.

The gold standard pass rate was 66 per cent and the overall A-E pass rate 88 per cent – both in keeping with recent years.

Court reporting saw a 71 per cent gold standard pass rate and a 91 per cent overall – both up on last year but in keeping with historical pass rates.

The law board remains concerned in the continued drop in those taking the court reporting exam – down to 767 – a drop of 100 from the previous year.

We are exploring ways to encourage more centres to offer – and students to take up – the module as we remain convinced of the value of both court reporting skills but also the key knowledge that allows people to handle court copy.

I am, as always, hugely grateful to my law board colleagues whose generosity with their time and effort makes the course work so well. And of course, that extends to the NCTJ team and the law tutors and markers around the country for their continued great work.

Dan Townend
Chief examiner, essential media law & regulation and media law court reporting



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Public affairs (PA) continues to be highly relevant in politically interesting times and, despite a small decline in the numbers sitting the PA exam, it remains a popular option.

In 2023-24, 1019 candidates took the PA exam, which was 57 fewer than in 2022-23. Despite this slightly lower number, more candidates sat the PA assessment than any other elective module.

It was also pleasing that the gold standard (A-C grades) achieved by candidates sitting PA increased in 2023-24 to 64 per cent, which has been a consistent pass rate for this module over the years, and an improvement on the gold standard rate in 2022-23, which was 58 per cent.

The NCTJ PA board believes that editors welcome new employees with a sound knowledge of the political landscape, who understand the structures and operation of local and central government and know where to find stories and what issues are newsworthy.

The programme of study is reviewed each year, and we welcome feedback from PA tutors as part of this process. Much of last year was dominated by

the general election and, with a new government committed to changes in local and central government, PA remains highly topical and relevant.

We also strive to ensure that exam candidates are rewarded not just for demonstrating their PA knowledge but for their ability to apply that knowledge in journalistic situations. For example, this might mean indicating useful sources to interview, or suggesting questions that might be posed to a specified interviewee or providing story ideas related to a PA subject that could be developed as a news story or feature.

I would like to thank members of the PA board who work hard to ensure the programme of study is up-to-date and relevant and set PA exams. The topicality and currency of many questions which have featured in recent exams have been praised by both PA tutors and students.

Amanda Ball
Chief examiner, public affairs

SHORTHAND

Shorthand exams are run at speeds of 60wpm, 80wpm, 100wpm, 110wpm and 120wpm. Exams are held monthly with a selection of speeds available. The 60wpm and 100wpm exams are offered every month to give candidates as many opportunities as possible to sit the exam and achieve the industry gold standard diploma with success at 100wpm, or the standard diploma with success at 60wpm.

During 2023-24 most shorthand exams were sat in-centre but remote exams were still offered, where appropriate.

A total of 2,608 shorthand examinations were sat in 2023-24 (including resits) compared to 2,695 exams in 2022-23, a decrease of 87 exams in total. There was an increase in the number of sittings at 80wpm but a decrease at 60wpm and 100wpm.

Overall, the percentage pass rate across all shorthand exams increased by one percent, from 23 per cent in 2022-23 to 24 per cent in 2023-24. The pass rate increased at 60wpm and 80wpm. In 2023-24 the 100wpm exam pass rate was 16 per cent compared to 19 per cent in 2022-23.



The shorthand board continues 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

The editing skills for journalists assessment continues to provide a unique opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their ability to sub stories and write headlines in print. Candidates are required to edit a templated page which has a lead, picture story, anchor and a flight of shorts – all of which require cuts as well as subbing for grammar, style and punctuation. There is also an online picture story to edit which attracts up to a third of the marks available.

Although most publications operate an online-first policy there is still a requirement for print-based editing skills, particularly in headline writing and feedback remains positive for the syllabus and combined print and online platform assessment format.

This approach is reflected in the numbers sitting the assessment, which remains fairly steady compared to last year – 237 in 2023-24, slightly down from 246 in 2022-23.

Examiners are pleased that the high standards of attainment have not dropped, with 73 per cent of candidates achieving a gold standard A-C grade in 2023-24, virtually the same as the previous year when the pass rate was 72 per cent.

John Dilley
Chief examiner, editing skills for journalists

SPORTS JOURNALISM

The NCTJ sports journalism exam saw both an improvement in pass rates and an increase in the number of sittings (80) in 2023-24. From 318 entries, 207 (65 per cent) achieved gold standard – an increase of three per cent – and 315 attained A-E (99 per cent), an increase of two percentage points.

The sports journalism module is assessed by a two-part exam, which includes testing candidates' live match reporting skills. Candidates are asked to showcase a range of sports writing skills via preview, post-match reaction and data journalism exercises. They must also demonstrate interviewing skills by formulating questions to pose to managers and show their aptitude for social media use, including the ability to stimulate discussion and engagement. The examination itself did not see any changes in 2023-24 after being relaunched in 2022-23 with a new-look format.

There were five NCTJ sports journalism exams run in 2023-24 with January (142) and May (140) hosting the largest sittings.

I would like to extend special thanks to Sky Sports for continuing to provide the match footage for the exam, which places candidates in a simulated 'press-box' reporting scenario that closely resembles industry practice.

Simon McEnnis
Chief examiner, sports journalism





VIDEOJOURNALISM FOR DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The popularity of the videojournalism module goes from strength to strength, with 608 sittings this year. That is a rise of more than 60 per cent from 2022-23. Centres' interest in the module reflects employers' continuing requirement for journalists who are adept at creating visually compelling web and social media content.

The number of candidates achieving the gold standard has increased a little. This is, of course, because of students' hard work, but also due to the high quality of teaching from the centres that deliver this module. They should be applauded for their achievements.

With the rapid development of AI production tools, it is unclear how videojournalism might change in the immediate future. The assessment team are monitoring developments to ensure the qualification remains up to date and continues to reflect industry's needs.

Vanessa Edwards
Chief examiner, videojournalism for digital platforms



BUSINESS AND FINANCE JOURNALISM

Nine candidates sat the business and finance journalism module in 2023-24. The diploma gold standard was achieved by eight candidates which equates to 89 per cent, a decrease from 92 per cent in 2022-23. The overall pass rate for the module this year was 100 per cent. The small number of candidates taking this specialist module each year makes it difficult to make any meaningful comparison within the diploma qualification, but it is pleasing to see a consistently high success rate.



BROADCAST JOURNALISM (INCLUDING TV AND RADIO JOURNALISM)

Broadcast regulation numbers increased from 170 in 2022-23 to 244 in 2023-24. There was a 98 per cent pass rate at A-E and 87 per cent gold standard pass rate. This was consistent with the previous year, which saw a 99 per cent pass rate in 2022-23 and 85 per cent at gold standard.

There was, however, a slight decrease in TV and radio numbers – for TV there were 89 candidates compared to 104 in 2022-23 and for radio there were 136 candidates compared to 150 in 2022-23.

Results for radio news are much better however, with 100 per cent pass rate in 2023-24 and 97 per cent achieving the module at gold standard, compared to 83 per cent passing overall in 2022-23 and 76 per cent at gold standard.

The overall pass rate for TV was the same as the previous year at 98 per cent and 88 per cent achieving gold standard in 2023-24 compared to 86 per cent in 2022-23.

Due to requests from centres, we have added an extra set of exam dates in November for 2024-25.

So far in 2024-25 we have had 40 broadcast apprentices registered with the NCTJ, compared to 56 in 2023-24

Catherine Houlihan
Chief examiner, broadcast journalism

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR JOURNALISTS

A proliferation of high-end smartphones with multi-megapixel cameras has greatly expanded photographic opportunities for journalists. With social media apps now integral to news-sharing, powerful images are vital to illustrate stories and engage audiences. With this in mind, it was surprising that sittings for the photography module fell from 110 candidates in the previous year to just 42 in 2023–24. However, following an online examination workshop where centres shared creative ideas and best practice, 100 per cent of candidates passed the module, with 86 per cent achieving gold standard – a two-year high and an eight percentage point increase from the previous year.

Many candidates produced outstanding photographs but often overlooked the full potential of their smartphones, submitting extremely small images in non-standard file formats rather than high-resolution JPEGs. In addition, very few made use of third-party apps or Adobe Photoshop to optimise their images by adjusting exposure, contrast, colour saturation, or by making slight crops.

Caption writing also showed room for improvement, with some candidates missing basics like identifying subjects or locations, and more interaction with human subjects was definitely needed. It's also perhaps fair to say that the widespread use of smartphones to capture and share images in a social capacity may have led new journalists to underestimate the skills required to create powerful, engaging images – a craft traditional press photographers would have taken many months or years to master.

With a tool that can capture, edit and transfer high-quality images in almost everyone's pocket, hopefully more centres and candidates will take the opportunity to train and perfect this vital aid to visual communication.

Pete Coles

Chief examiner, photography for journalists

PR & COMMUNICATIONS FOR JOURNALISTS / INTRODUCTION TO PR FOR JOURNALISTS

The number of candidates taking the two PR qualifications rose sharply in 2023-24. Sittings for the PR and communications for journalists double module increased significantly, jumping from 24 candidates in 2022-23 to 125 candidates in 2023-24 (three times the number in 2021-22). Likewise, the number of candidates taking the single module, introduction to PR for journalists, rose to 104 candidates compared to 61 candidates in 2022-23 (a return to the 2020-21 level).

The A-E pass rate for PR & communications for journalists was 98 per cent, with 70 per cent achieving gold standard, continuing a steady improvement on previous years – 58 per cent in 2022-23 and 42 per cent in 2021-22.

The gold standard pass rate for introduction to PR for journalists continues to improve, increasing from 48 per cent to 63 per cent, in line with the trend seen over the past five years. The overall A-E achievement rate for introduction to PR for journalists rose to 96 per cent compared to 90 per cent in 2022-23.

We are confident the level of challenge has remained constant, and that rigorous moderation ensures marking is consistent. Again, some candidates could not achieve a pass mark as their written English fell short of professional standards.

Phillip Young

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

PRACTICAL MAGAZINE JOURNALISM

Examiners have been pleased to welcome more centres taking up the optional practical magazine journalism module. There has also been steady interest from distance learners.

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

This is a challenging assessment, with the in-person interview in particular taking candidates out of their comfort zone. However, this aspect is often cited by students as the most rewarding element of the assessment.

The number of candidates taking the module increased in 2023-24 to 184, up from 136 candidates in 2022-23. Examiners are also encouraged by the gold standard success rate which has remained steady with 86 per cent of candidates achieving gold standard in 2023-24, compared to 92 per cent in 2022-23.

John Dilley
Chief examiner, practical magazine journalism

JOURNALISM FOR A DIGITAL AUDIENCE

If Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves are looking for a model for sustainable growth, then they need look no further than the journalism for a digital audience module!

Every year the number of sittings rises. In 2023-24 we added another 65 candidates on the previous year for a total of 535 sittings. In 2019-2020 when we were at 253, so the module has more than doubled in size over a short period.

To cope with that we have continued to expand the marking team and welcomed several strong new colleagues aboard. I thank all the marking team for their energy in tackling the marking pile and creating the exams. The exam was tweaked in this period to include more practical assessment of comment moderation and better test SEO skills. Further marking guidance was also developed to benefit students who want to submit podcast and video for their coursework.

The gold standard pass rate is steady at 86 per cent and the A-E pass rate is 100 per cent. We continue to see a really high standard of work and I always look forward to the wide variety of coursework submissions we receive.

I am taking a year's sabbatical from the role in 2025 to work on another project and Tim Smith will lead the module in my absence.

Gavin Allen
Chief examiner, journalism for a digital audience



DATA JOURNALISM

Last year saw the number of data journalism candidates more than tripling to 241 compared with 70 in 2022-23.

At the start of 2023-24 we made changes to the exam to improve accessibility and consistency, including adding two factual questions on the data to directly test spreadsheet abilities. We also introduced word limits with penalties for some questions and these questions appear to be working well in assessing candidates. During 2023-24 we gradually enhanced the marking criteria for clarity and to assure consistency across markers.

The proportion of gold standard passes awarded rose from 54 per cent in 2022-23 to 64 per cent 2023-24, a similar level to other elective modules. The proportion gaining at least an E grade rose from 91 per cent to 98 per cent.

For 2024-25 we have revised the coursework marking scheme and guidance to promote and specifically reward good practice in the use of spreadsheets, interviews and data visualisation.

Steven Mathieson
Senior examiner, data journalism

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Diploma in Journalism (exam sittings) results summary 2023-24

Exam	No. of sittings	Gold standard		A-E pass rate	
Essential journalism	1392	734	53%	1338	96%
Newspaper magazine regulation test	1217	818	67%	1155	95%
Essential media law and regulation	1325	874	66%	1167	88%
Court reporting	767	548	71%	700	91%
Public affairs	1019	655	64%	922	90%
Sports journalism	318	207	65%	315	99%
Editing skills for journalists	237	173	73%	234	99%
Videojournalism for digital platforms	608	549	90%	608	100%
Business and finance	9	8	89%	9	100%
PR and communications for journalists	125	88	70%	123	98%
Intro to PR for journalists	104	65	63%	100	96%
Journalism for a digital audience	535	458	86%	533	100%
Data journalism	241	155	64%	237	98%
Practical magazine journalism	184	159	86%	184	100%
Broadcast journalism – TV news	89	78	88%	87	98%
Broadcast journalism – radio news	136	132	97%	136	100%
Broadcast journalism – regulation	244	213	87%	240	98%
Total no. of exam sittings	8550				



Over half of the exams marked in each module have been awarded the industry gold standard of an A-C grade, with the overall majority achieving an E grade or above.

Diploma in Journalism (assessments) results summary 2023-24

	No. of sittings	Gold standard		A-E pass rate	
E-Portfolio submissions	840	798	95%	839	100%
Photography for journalists e-portfolio	42	36	86%	42	100%
Total no. of other assessments	882				

In the 2023-24 academic year, 887 e-portfolios were submitted for assessment. Of these submissions, 93 per cent were awarded the industry gold standard of an A-C grade.

Shorthand exams results summary 2023-24

In 2023-24, 2608 of the diploma exams sat were for shorthand speeds, this is a decrease of 87 shorthand exams overall compared to the previous year. The achievement figures for the year have been tabled below.

Speed	No. of sittings	Number of passes	Pass rate
60	1426	381	27%
80	409	123	30%
100	749	121	16%
110	13	2	15%
120	11	3	27%
Total	2608	630	24%

In 2023-24, 16 per cent achieved 100wpm compared to 19 per cent in 2022-23.



DIPLOMA EXAM RESULTS COMPARISON 2023-24 and 2022-23

Exam	No. of sittings 2023-24	Gold standard 2023-24	A-E pass rate 2023-24	No. of sittings 2022-23	Gold standard 2022-23	A-E pass rate 2022-23	Difference in no. of sittings
Essential journalism	1392	53%	96%	1254	55%	97%	138
Newspaper magazine regulation test	1217	67%	95%	1458	68%	94%	-241
Essential media law and regulation	1325	66%	88%	1363	66%	89%	-38
Court reporting	767	71%	91%	867	64%	87%	-100
Public affairs	1019	64%	90%	1076	58%	86%	-57
Sports journalism	318	65%	99%	238	62%	97%	80
Editing skills for journalists	237	73%	99%	246	72%	98%	-9
Business of magazines*	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	50%	50%	n/a
Videojournalism for digital platforms	608	90%	100%	374	87%	99%	234
Business and finance	9	89%	100%	13	92%	100%	-4
PR and communications for journalists	125	70%	98%	24	58%	100%	101
Intro to PR for journalists	104	63%	96%	61	48%	90%	43
Journalism for a digital audience	535	86%	100%	470	86%	99%	65
Data journalism	241	64%	98%	70	54%	91%	171
Practical magazine journalism	184	86%	100%	136	92%	99%	48
Broadcast journalism – TV news	89	88%	98%	104	86%	98%	-15
Broadcast journalism – radio news	136	97%	100%	150	76%	83%	-14
Broadcast journalism – regulation	244	87%	98%	170	85%	99%	74
Total no. of exam sittings	8550			8076			476

DIPLOMA ASSESSMENT RESULTS COMPARISON 2023-24 and 2022-23

Assessment	No. of sittings	Gold standard 2023-24	A-E pass rate 2023-24	No. of sittings 2022-23	Gold standard 2022-23	A-E pass rate 2022-23	Difference in no. of sittings
E-portfolio submissions	840	95%	100%	777	93%	100%	63
Photography for journalists e-portfolio	42	86%	100%	110	78%	99%	-68
Total no. of other assessments	882			887			-5

SHORTHAND EXAM RESULTS COMPARISON 2023-24 and 2022-23

Speed	No. of sittings	Pass rate 2023-24	Number of sittings 2022-23	Pass rate 2022-23	Difference in no. of sittings
60wpm	1426	27%	1484	25%	-58
80wpm	409	30%	279	27%	130
100wpm	749	16%	917	19%	-168
110wpm	13	15%	11	36%	2
120wpm	11	27%	4	0%	7
Total	2608		2695		-87



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