

BA DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2020

PART III - English - Major Based Elective

JOURNALISM

Maximum : 50 Marks

Section A - (5x2 = 10)Answer All questions

①. How do hospitals provide human interest stories?

Hospitals are a good source of human interest stories. Disease outbreaks, unnatural births, lack of facilities, addition of new facilities, problems of doctors corruption and mis-management, success in tricky operation - all make news.

② What is depth reporting?

Depth reporting is one in which the reporter goes deep into the subject and communicates the information as effectively as possible. This type of reporting involves some investigation and necessary interpretation. It is also called as in-depth reporting.

③ Who is a reporter?

A reporter is one, who gathers information and present it in a written or spoken form in news stories, feature articles or documentaries. Reporters

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may work on the staff of news organisations, but may also work freelance, writing stories for whoever pays them. General reporters cover all sorts of news stories, but some journalists specialise in certain areas such as reporting sports, Politics or agriculture.

④ What is the role of a news editor?

The news editor who is the boss of the news room plays an important role in shaping of a newspaper after the editor.

⑤ Who are the Sub editors?

The news editor, the night editor, the chief sub-editor and the copy taster are all sub-editors.

Section-B (4 × 5 = 20)

Answer All questions

① Write short notes on beats?

The beat is the area allocated to the city reporter. All beats require background understanding of the subject and constant touch with the subject and sources. That is why newspapers allot

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beats to the reporters and correspondents.

But in to-day's world of interdisciplinary approach, beats are not water-tight compartments.

In fact, for doing a report on an event or an issue, the reporter has to have information from many different beats. Police courts, hospitals and jails are different beats. But while dealing with a crime story often the information has to be gathered from two or more of these beats.

While covering the different beats, a reporter should always keep an eye open for human interest and basic principles.

②. Explain investigative reporting?

Investigative reporting differs from routine reporting in degree of thoroughness. All reportings use the tools questions, interviews and research. Investigative reporting uses them more skillfully. Investigative reporting can be applied to any story that deals with a serious subject, involves obstacles which made gathering information on the subjects difficult and fully explain the significance of the subject. Investigative reporting deals with issues and conditions rather than incidents and events.

Investigative reporting is what results from digging out facts beneath the surface. It is like a scientific approach. Fact is laid upon fact. No conclusions are drawn until the facts themselves form a conclusion. Investigative or depth reporting tells the reader all the essential facts about the subject, the whys and wherefores of it. This type of reporting, the reporter needs a strong background of the subject. Before writing the story, the reporter should check all sources of information. In this type of reporting, the reporter can express his opinion based on analysis of facts but distortion of facts, to suit one's bias should be avoided. The reporter should have an open mind and should not try to mould facts to do his story.

③ Write short notes on the editorial department?

The editorial department is the creative organ of a newspaper. It is wholly responsible for providing news and reading matter for the newspaper. The editorial department is manned by writers and rewriters. The writers are the editor and his assistants as well as reporters and correspondents. The rewriters are sub-editors or copy readers.

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The editorial or the news department is the heart of a newspaper. It deals with news, features, comments columns and editorials. At the head of the department is the editor or editor in chief. Downward from him are assistant editors, special representatives, correspondents and reporters whose various functions are to gather news, prepare features and articles and write editorials and comments. The editor is assisted by the city editor or chief reporter who has a team of reporters to cover local events. The editor is also assisted by critics in special fields such as theatre, music, film etc.

Big newspapers have special correspondents covering different subjects. The editor of a small paper combines in himself almost all the functions, that is gathering, editing, and printing of news. He is not only the managing editor but his own reporter collecting and writing local news. He is the copy editor and headline and editorial writer.

④ point out the do's and don'ts of the sub-editor?

The sub-editor should pay minute attention to words in the story in order to improve its quality and appeal. He should explain technical

6 terms in simple words. He must use familiar words instead of unfamiliar ones. He must avoid time-honored expressions. The sub-editor must make the story simple where it is complicated.

The sub-editor should not use a metaphor or a simile or other figures of speech. He should not use a long word where a short word can do. If it is possible, he should cut out a word. He should never use a foreign word or scientific word or a jargon word. He should not use a passive word when an active word can be used. He must use direct quotes for colour, pace and emphasis. When he uses adjectives and adverbs, he should pin point them. He must keep the paragraphs short and should be human and should relate his writing to people. A sub-editor should avoid use of slang in news stories and should always be on the alert when handling a running story for late information that should properly be in the lead and carry the headline.

Section - C (2 × 10 = 20)

Answer All Questions

① Bring out the qualities of a reporter?

## Introduction :-

Getting facts is the key to newspaper reporting. A good reporter discovers as many important facts as possible, makes a selection and presents them in such a way that they provide a comprehensive story. The most respected and professionally best reporter are those who strongly assert their own independence and are willing to rely mostly on their own intellect and experience. Some of the qualities of a good reporter are the following.

### News Sense :-

Every reporter must have nose for news. He must have the instinct and intuition to gather news from various sources and should be able to compare various news values and decide on the order of priorities.

### Clarity of expression :-

The reporter must be able to express himself well both in writing and speech. He must be effective in oral expression because the reporter interviews many people in course of his work and very often he has to give details of the story on the telephone to the news desk.

## Accuracy:

A reporter should strive for accuracy. Guesses and surmises may lead to disasters. so he must check and recheck facts. The credibility of a reporter and the reputation of his newspaper and proportional to the veracity of the reports.

## curiosity and alertness:

A reporter must have an insatiable curiosity. It leads to the discovery of facts and the production of better stories. A reporter should always be alert while dealing with his subjects. Many major news breaks in the past were possible because of the alertness of reporters.

## Speed:

The reporter must work efficiently at top speed and he must not break under the pressure of time. He must be able to handle accidents, disasters and other spot news at hectic speed or the story may miss the deadline.

## Contacts with people:

The reporter must have ability to build contacts. He must maintain a long list of



friends and acquaintances who may be of help when stories break and he should know intimately person who can give authoritative information on every kind of story. He must maintain healthy relations with the police and high officials.

### Ingenuity:

The reporter must strive constantly for originality in news gathering procedure, especially in investigative reporting.

### Integrity :-

It is an eminent virtue that implies understanding, honesty and strict adherence to a stern code of ethics. It is important of all journalists, especially for reporters as they are more exposed to temptations than others.

### Tactfulness :-

A reporter should have the ability to handle sensitive people and situations gracefully without wounding anybody's feelings. He should be considerate and should not embarrass, upset or offend anybody. He should have an understanding of human behavior and emotions. This will help him in developing contacts

Which are very essential for news gathering.

Other Qualities:

The reporter must have a pleasing personality. He must know his news sources and should have a thorough knowledge of his beat. He must respect promises which he has made and should not miss direct quotes if they are made and form an important part of the story. The reporter should be diligent. His job requires pains taking exertion, intense care and effort, hard work and dedication, intelligence and industry.

Conclusion:

A reporter has to be a good researcher, a tenacious detective, a bit of a lawyer and down right nosy as well. An efficient reporter combines news sense with the power of adequate literary expression.

② Bring out the desired qualities of a subeditor?

Introduction:-

To be a good sub-editor what one needs is commonsense and command over language. These two requirements summarise the qualities newsman should have as other qualities flow from these two

and the basic human values. A good sub-editor must have the following qualities:

**News sense :**

News sense is the basic quality of news men. It is essential for a sub-editor. He is the first reader of a reporter's copy and if the reporter has made a mistake he has to correct it. A bad copy may have the most important element of the story buried in the fourth paragraph, it is the sub-editor's nose for news that has to bring it to the first paragraph.

**Clarity :**

A sub-editor is the judge of clarity of the copy. A good sub-editor will never allow a copy to escape him unless the meaning is crystal clear. He should see to it that the reporter writes in a clear simple language.

**Objectivity :**

The sub-editor should aim at objectivity while dealing with a story. He should not allow his personal bias or ideas to creep into a story. He should not take sides but try to cover all the different viewpoints to achieve balance in the story.

## Accuracy:

The sub-editor has to check for accuracy. It is very important when background is involved. In the case of dates and names, he must check them from reference material available in the newspaper office. When there is a doubt he should leave it out.

## Alertness:

The sub-editor has to be alert while working on news-desk.

His lack of alertness will introduce mistakes to be seen by the readers in the morning.

## Speed:

A sub-editor has to work with speed. A slow sub-editor is a misfit for the profession.

## Calmness:

The sub-editor has to remain calm and composed in the most exciting and tragic circumstances. He should stifle his emotions in the face of disturbing influences. He should develop a temperament to work under pressure of deadlines.

## Curiosity:

The sub editor should have an insatiable curiosity. This characteristic will keep on improving him.

### Scepticism:

This is a necessary quality which a sub-editor should cultivate. He should not take anything for granted.

### Punctuality:

It is a good habit which a sub-editor should have. If he is punctual he will be treated with respect by his co-workers.

### Patience:

Patience helps sub-editors as they work long hours in trying conditions.

### Integrity:

This quality is important for journalists and especially sub-editors.

### Diligence:

A sub-editor should be diligent. He should insist on perfection and should love his job for he can make or mar the newspaper.

### Conclusion:

Besides these qualities, a sub-editor should have imagination, far sightedness, frankness and self-discipline. He should also have a better command over language as they improve what reporters write.