



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2014

**Journalism in the Media and
Communications Industry**

AS Unit 1

Journalism in Print

[A1J11]

TUESDAY 27 MAY, MORNING

**MARK
SCHEME**

GCE AS JOURNALISM IN THE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

General Marking Instructions

Introduction

Mark schemes are intended to ensure that the GCE examinations are marked consistently and fairly. The mark schemes provide markers with an indication of the nature and range of candidates' responses likely to be worthy of credit. They also set out the criteria which they should apply in allocating marks to candidates' responses.

Assessment objectives

Below are the assessment objectives for GCE Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry.

Candidates must:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of journalistic concepts, contexts and debates (AO1);
- apply knowledge, understanding and skills when researching, planning and creating journalistic products (AO2); and
- analyse and evaluate existing journalistic products including their own practical work (AO3).

Quality of candidates' responses

In marking the examination papers, examiners should be looking for a quality of response reflecting the level of maturity which may reasonably be expected of a 17-year old or 18-year-old which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their GCE examinations.

Flexibility in marking

Mark schemes are not intended to be totally prescriptive. No mark scheme can cover all the responses which candidates may produce. In the event of unanticipated answers, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement to assess the validity of answers. If an answer is particularly problematic, then examiners should seek the guidance of the Supervising Examiner.

Positive marking

Examiners are encouraged to be positive in their marking, giving appropriate credit for what candidates know, understand and can do rather than penalising candidates for errors or omissions. Examiners should make use of the whole of the available mark range for any particular question and be prepared to award full marks for a response which is as good as might reasonably be expected of a 17-year-old or 18-year-old GCE candidate.

Awarding zero marks

Marks should only be awarded for valid responses and no marks should be awarded for an answer which is completely incorrect or inappropriate.

Types of mark schemes

Mark schemes for tasks or questions which require candidates to respond in extended written form are marked on the basis of levels of response which take account of the quality of written communication.

Other questions which require only short answers are marked on a point for point basis with marks awarded for each valid piece of information provided.

Levels of response

Tasks and questions requiring candidates to respond in extended writing are marked in terms of levels of response. In deciding which level of response to award, examiners should look for the 'best fit' bearing in mind that weakness in one area may be compensated for by strength in another. In deciding which mark within a particular level to award to any response, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement.

Quality of written communication

Quality of written communication is taken into account in assessing candidates' responses to all tasks and questions that require them to respond in extended written form. These tasks and questions are marked on the basis of levels of response. The description for each level of response includes reference to the quality of written communication.

For conciseness, quality of written communication is distinguished within levels of response as follows:

Level 1: Quality of written communication is basic.

Level 2: Quality of written communication is satisfactory.

Level 3: Quality of written communication is good.

Level 4: Quality of written communication is excellent.

In interpreting these level descriptions, examiners should refer to the more detailed guidance provided below:

Level 1 (Basic): The candidate makes only a limited selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. The organisation of material may lack clarity and coherence. There is little use of specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar may be such that intended meaning is not clear.

Level 2 (Satisfactory): The candidate makes a reasonable selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with some clarity and coherence. There is some use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently competent to make meaning clear.

Level 3 (Good): The candidate successfully selects and uses an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with a good degree of clarity and coherence. There is a good spread and accurate use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a sufficiently high standard to make meaning clear.

Level 4 (Excellent): The candidate successfully selects and uses the most appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is extremely well organized with the highest degree of clarity and coherence. There is extensive and accurate use of specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of the highest standard and ensure that the meaning is exceptionally clear.

Section A

AVAILABLE
MARKS

- 1 The following **two** articles, Article 1 and Article 2, relate to the same news story but are taken from different sources.

Spend **40 minutes** completing the following task.

Compare and contrast the following elements for article:

- News Angle and Content
- Language and Style
- Target Audience
- Ownership

Levels of response and indicative content for this question are located on the following pages.

Mark Band	Levels of Response	Marks
4	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a perceptive and insightful knowledge and understanding of both articles' use of news angle and content, language and style • sustained and confident awareness of different target audiences and purpose with thorough consideration of article sources • a highly developed ability to comparatively analyse and evaluate both articles in relation to content, style and ownership • clear critical judgement and independent thinking in their reasoning and arguments • a consistently high quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information, applying journalistic terminology fluently and effectively to justify arguments and responses 	16–20
3	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good knowledge and understanding of both articles' use of news angle and content, language and style • sound awareness of different target audiences and purpose with consideration of article sources • a good ability to comparatively analyse and evaluate both articles in relation to content, style and ownership • sound critical judgement in their reasoning and arguments • a good quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information, applying journalistic terminology appropriately to justify arguments and responses 	11–15

2	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of both articles' use of news angle and content, language and style • a straightforward awareness of different target audiences and purpose with some consideration of article sources • an uneven but satisfactory ability to comparatively analyse and evaluate both articles in relation to content, style and ownership • some critical judgement in their reasoning and arguments • a satisfactory level of quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information, with an uneven application of journalistic terminology to justify arguments and responses 	6–10
1	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic knowledge and understanding of both articles' use of news angle and content, language and style • a limited awareness of different target audiences and purpose with little attempt to consider the article sources • little ability to comparatively analyse and evaluate both articles in relation to content, style and ownership • limited critical judgement in their reasoning and arguments • a level of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information, that is characterised by repeated errors and misapplication of journalistic terminology 	1–5

AVAILABLE MARKS

[0] is awarded for a response not worthy of credit.

Indicative Content for both articles

News Angle and Content:

- Article 1 is broadly supportive of the government's position that fracking may provide an important part of the solution to the country's energy needs - though by way of balance it reports the views of critics. The content is based upon statements made by the Energy Minister at Westminster and a new report which appears to highlight the benefits of fracking such as jobs and cheap energy. Only the Energy Minister is quoted. It also highlights the energy industry's concern about green taxes which drive up costs for business and consumers alike. It devotes valuable space to some of the technical aspects of fracking.
- Article 2, in contrast, is broadly supportive of the environmental movement's concerns and reflects the strong feelings of people in many parts of Northern Ireland, particularly those from rural areas. It highlights support for the Stop Fracking campaign and quotes the views of its environmentalists. It highlights that regional government has the power to ban the controversial process and seeks a view from the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister. It devotes no space to the technical aspects of the fracking process.

- Although both articles approach the issue from very different perspectives they seek to present both sides of this emotive argument in the interest of providing balance – a basic journalistic requirement of news reporting whether at national or regional level.

Language, Style and Target Audience:

- Article 1 uses language which is relatively free of emotion and reflects the national dilemma over energy bills and the environment. Its tone is measured and it uses technical language. It has longer paragraphs and is characterised by complex sentences. It seeks to reassure those with concerns by highlighting the government's view that the fracking industry must work within a strong regulatory environment and that local concerns will be addressed at local level. This reflects the target audience of a quality national newspaper who are often people who are well-informed about national issues.
- Article 2 uses language which is more emotional and reflects the strong feelings generated in this debate at local level. It uses short paragraphs and is characterised by simple sentences. It refers to 'an environmental gamble' in a 'beautiful county' and challenges local politicians to respond to the majority view. It makes no effort to highlight the views of central government (e.g. that regulation is strong, jobs will be created and energy bills reduced). It does, however, reflect central government's assurance that local concerns can be addressed at local level. This reflects the target audience of a regional newspaper – a cross-section of people most interested in what is happening on their doorstep.

Ownership

- Candidates will be expected to recognise that both national and regional newspapers are often owned by national or multi-national companies. However, the angle from which issues are covered is dictated by editorial teams who will reflect the perceived views of the readers - where this does not clash with over-riding commercial interests. Indeed it would be commercial folly to present only a view to readers and advertisers which is at odds with the consensus. The national paper can take a broadly pro-government stance without fear. The regional paper must give prominence to the local view if it is to retain the loyalty of readers and advertisers.

Credit any other valid material
(AO1, AO3)

[20]

20

AVAILABLE
MARKS

- 2 You are a **reporter** for the **Beltown News**, which is a **Northern Ireland local weekly newspaper** published every Tuesday. It serves the large town of Beltown (population 30,000) and the surrounding rural area.

Complete the **two** writing tasks **(a)** and **(b)**.

- (a)** Spend **25 minutes** writing a **news story** of **250 words** for the Beltown News, which will be published the next day. Your news story should be based on the following information. A headline will not be required.

Levels of response and indicative content for this question are located on the following pages.

Mark Band	Levels of Response	Marks
4	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a perceptive and insightful knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • sustained and confident awareness of target audience and purpose with thorough consideration of the type of publication • a highly developed and discerning ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of both news value and reliability with confident and effective structuring and ordering of story content • an engaging, effective and persuasive style of language in the presentation of their story • a consistently high quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, organisation of information and an ability to work to the word limit (240–260 words) 	20–25
3	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • a sound awareness of target audience and purpose with consideration of the type of publication • a good ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of both news value and reliability with sound structuring and ordering of story content • a good and appropriate style of language in the presentation of their story • a good quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, organisation of information and an ability to work to the word limit (230–270 words) 	14–19

AVAILABLE
MARKS

2	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • a straightforward awareness of target audience and purpose with some consideration of the type of publication • an uneven but adequate ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of both news value and reliability with adequate structuring and ordering of story content • a straightforward but mainly appropriate style of language in the presentation of their story • a mostly accurate level of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, organisation of information and an ability to work to the word limit (220–280 words) 	7–13
1	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • a limited awareness of target audience and purpose with little consideration of the type of publication • little ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of either news value or reliability with basic structuring and ordering of story content • a basic and mainly inappropriate style of language in the presentation of their story • a level of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information that is characterised by repeated errors and minimal ability to work to the word limit (below 220 words and above 280 words) 	1–6

AVAILABLE
MARKS

[0] is awarded for a response not worthy of credit.

Indicative Content

Story Content and Structure:

- The candidate will be expected to adhere to the inverted pyramid structure in this hard news writing task (i.e. Who? What? Where? When? How? Why?).
- The candidate will be expected to ensure that all the most important information is included in the opening two paragraphs – as per a hard news format.
- The candidate will be expected to write facts and to cite and quote sources accurately.
- The candidate will be expected to select and prioritise information appropriately with the following considerations in mind:
 - The email from Beltown Police, though factual and worthy of inclusion, should not be in the first paragraph. It is better to lead with a more dramatic first line.

- The line from Lynne Stewart about visiting her friend who has just got engaged should be omitted as it is irrelevant to the story.
- The baby is a boy, as confirmed by two official sources (Beltown Police and the ambulance service), not a girl as Lynne Stewart says.
- Anne Smyth cannot be quoted directly about the train being 500 metres away, but the information can be used in the story without being attributed to her, e.g. ‘a source said’ or ‘it is understood that’.
- The incident happened at around 8.40am, as confirmed by Beltown Police, Anne Smyth and the ambulance service, not 8.15am as Jonathan Cowan says.
- Lynne Stewart’s comment that the mother’s actions were ‘practically child neglect’ is potentially libellous and should not be included.
- Who can be quoted (directly) or cited (in reported speech)? All sources in the material can potentially be quoted or cited other than Anne Smyth’s comments about the train being 500 metres away as she said this off the record. However, if a candidate chooses to use the information, they can do so without identifying Anne Smyth as the source of information.

Language and Style:

- The candidate will be expected to write in a style appropriate to the hard news brief (i.e. factual with no speculation).
- The candidate’s writing will be expected to reflect the sensitivities of the target audience (i.e. avoiding sensationalist language).

Credit any other valid material.
(AO1), (AO2)

[25]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

(b) You have received the press release below from politician Maryan McMahon.

Spend **20 minutes** writing a **headline** and the **first three paragraphs of a news story** based on this press release. **The headline and first three paragraphs must total 80 words.** This story will be for the next edition of the Beltown News.

Levels of response and indicative content for this question are located on the following pages.

Mark Band	Levels of Response	Marks
4	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a perceptive and insightful knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • sustained and confident awareness of target audience and purpose with thorough consideration of the type of publication • a highly developed and discerning ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of news value with confident and effective structuring and ordering of the content used in their story introduction • an engaging, effective and persuasive style of language in the presentation of their story introduction and headline • a consistently high quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, organisation of information and an ability to work to the word limit (75–85 words) 	12–15
3	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • a sound awareness of target audience and purpose with consideration of the type of publication • a good ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of news value with sound structuring and ordering of the content used in their story introduction • a good and appropriate style of language in the presentation of their story introduction and headline • a good quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, organisation of information and an ability to work to the word limit (70–90 words) 	8–11

AVAILABLE
MARKS

2	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • a straightforward awareness of target audience and purpose with some consideration of the type of publication • an uneven but adequate ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of news value with adequate structuring and ordering of the content used in their story introduction • a straightforward but mainly appropriate style of language in the presentation of their story introduction and headline • a mostly accurate level of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, organisation of information and an ability to work to the word limit (65–95 words) 	4–7
1	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic knowledge and understanding of the writing brief in terms of style and format and their role as a reporter • a limited awareness of target audience and purpose with little consideration of the type of publication • little ability to select and prioritise source material in terms of news value with basic structuring and ordering of the content in their story introduction • a basic and mainly inappropriate style of language in the presentation of their story introduction and headline • a level of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information that is characterised by repeated errors and minimal ability to work to the word limit (below 65 words and above 95 words) 	1–3

AVAILABLE
MARKS

[0] is awarded for a response not worthy of credit.

Indicative Content

Story Content and Structure

- The candidate will be expected to adhere to the pyramid structure in this news writing task (i.e. Who? What? Where? When? How? Why?).
- The candidate will be expected to ensure that all the most important information is included in this short word count.
- The candidate will be expected to write facts and to cite and quote sources accurately (e.g. paraphrasing the politician's comments to meet the word count whilst retaining original meaning).
- The candidate will be expected to reflect the main story in the headline – this may take different angles (e.g. focusing on the objections to using public money to carry out the demolition, or the removal of an eyesore on one of the main approach roads to the town).

Language and Style:

- The candidate will be expected to write in a style appropriate to this short brief (i.e. factual in the main text with a headline that reflects the story).

Credit any other valid material.
(AO1), (AO2)

[15]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

40

- 3 Below is a feature that has been written for a **Northern Ireland regional daily newspaper**. At the end of the article there are four photographs related to the article.

Spend **10 minutes** completing this task.

You are a sub-editor at the newspaper. You must read the feature article and then complete the following sub-editing tasks:

- **Correct** errors in **spelling** and **grammar** in the copy below. There are **10 errors** in total. The errors are in the **first three paragraphs only**. Write the corrections in the spaces provided on page 14 of this Answer Booklet;
- Compose an appropriate **headline** for the feature in the space provided on page 14 of this Answer Booklet;
- **Select one photograph** to accompany the article by indicating your choice in the space provided on page 14 of this Answer Booklet; and
- **Write a caption** for the photograph of no more than **10 words** in the space provided on page 14 of this Answer Booklet.

Levels of response and indicative content for this question are located on the following pages.

Mark Band	Levels of Response	Marks
4	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a perceptive and insightful knowledge and understanding of the brief in terms of style and format and their role as a sub-editor • sustained and confident awareness of target audience and purpose with thorough consideration of the type of publication • a highly developed and discerning ability to locate errors and correct them accurately (9-10 errors corrected) and choose an appropriate and effective accompanying photograph • an engaging, effective and persuasive style of language in the presentation of the headline and caption 	9–10
3	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good knowledge and understanding of the brief in terms of style and format and their role as a sub-editor • a sound awareness of target audience and purpose with consideration of the type of publication • a good ability to locate errors and correct them accurately (6-8 errors corrected) and choose an appropriate accompanying photograph • a good style of language in the presentation of the headline and caption 	6–8

AVAILABLE
MARKS

2	The candidate demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the brief in terms of style and format and their role as a sub-editor • a straightforward awareness of target audience and purpose with consideration of the type of publication • an uneven but adequate ability to locate errors and correct them accurately (3-5 errors corrected) and choose an appropriate accompanying photograph • a straightforward but mainly appropriate style of language in the presentation of the headline and caption 	3–5
1	The candidate demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic knowledge and understanding of the brief in terms of style and format and their role as a sub-editor • a limited awareness of target audience and purpose with consideration of the type of publication • minimal ability to locate errors and correct them accurately (0-2 errors corrected) with an ineffective choice of photograph • a basic and mainly inappropriate style of language in the presentation of the headline and caption 	1–2

AVAILABLE
MARKS

[0] is awarded for a response not worthy of credit.

Indicative Content

Sub-Editing Task

Corrections:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | economic to economic | (para 1) |
| 2 | foriegn to foreign | (para 1) |
| 3 | you're to your | (para 1) |
| 4 | relativly to relatively | (para 2) |
| 5 | desposal to disposal | (para 2) |
| 6 | is to are | (para 3) |
| 7 | quite to quiet | (para 3) |
| 8 | toliet to toilet | (para 3) |
| 9 | fasilities to facilities | (para 3) |
| 10 | if to of | (para 3) |

Headline:

The headline must reflect the main focus of the feature (staycation ideas) and be written in a style to appeal to its target readership – a cross-section of Northern Ireland's population.

Photo Selection: (from highest to lowest suitability)

- Photo 2 – Giant's Causeway - Northern Ireland's foremost tourist attraction.
- Photo 4 – country lane - not a recognisable tourist destination but covers options included in the feature such as walking and cycling. More convincingly appropriate than photo 1.
- Photo 1 – tent in a field - covers only one staycation option.
- Photo 3 – Houses of Parliament – an entirely inappropriate location in relation to the feature.

Caption:

The caption must enhance the main focus of the image and offer further insight to the reader.

Credit any other valid material.
(AO2)

[10]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

10

Section B

Candidates answer **one** question from this section.

Spend **25 minutes** writing your response.

You will be expected to use examples to illustrate your arguments.

4 Discuss the impact of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 upon journalism in the UK.

or

5 Discuss the relevance of the law of Contempt of Court to newspaper journalists.

or

6 Discuss how the ownership of a publication impacts upon its content.

Levels of response and indicative content for these questions are located on the following pages.

Mark Band	Levels of Response	Marks
4	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a perceptive and insightful knowledge and understanding of the chosen issue with confident awareness of different perspectives • effective and purposeful use of examples taken from their own study to illustrate arguments • a highly developed ability to analyse the main discussion points with clear critical judgement • a consistently high quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information, applying journalistic terminology fluently and effectively to justify arguments and responses 	25–30
3	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good knowledge and understanding of the chosen issue with sound awareness of different perspectives • purposeful use of examples taken from their own study to illustrate arguments • a good ability to analyse the main discussion points with evidence of sound critical judgement • a good quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information, applying journalistic terminology appropriately to justify arguments and responses 	17–24

AVAILABLE
MARKS

2	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the chosen issue with straightforward awareness of different perspectives • satisfactory use of examples taken from their own study to illustrate arguments • an uneven but satisfactory ability to analyse the main discussion points with evidence of some critical judgement • a satisfactory quality of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as organisation of information, with an uneven application of journalistic terminology to justify arguments and responses 	9–16
1	<p>The candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic knowledge and understanding of the chosen issue with straightforward awareness of different perspectives • a limited use of examples taken from their own study to illustrate arguments • little ability to analyse the main discussion points with limited evidence of critical judgement • a level of written communication including spelling, punctuation and grammar, that is characterised by repeated errors and misapplication of journalistic terminology and a lack of organisation 	1–8

AVAILABLE
MARKS

[0] is awarded for a response not worthy of credit.

Indicative Content for Questions 4, 5 and 6 is provided on the following pages.

- 4 Discuss the impact of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 upon journalism in the UK.

Indicative Content

- The Act has had a significant impact on government departments, at national, regional and local level.
- Government departments have been obliged to disclose detailed information of real public interest.
- The Act is unpopular with people in power and in many areas of public administration.
- The Act has had a significant impact upon our democracy and parliament.
- The Act has imposed significant costs upon the public purse and has inspired many frivolous or malicious demands for information.
- The Act forced MPs to try to limit public access to their private correspondence and records – culminating in the expenses scandal in 2009.
- The Act is generally regarded as a popular piece of legislation with the public because it acts as a powerful watchdog upon government, parliament and the civil service where power can be abused or duty neglected.
- The Act is popular with journalists because it provides them with a powerful tool to flush out important information from people in power.

- The Act applies only to public bodies. The Data Protection Act protects individuals from unfair questions about their private lives and finances.

Key examples of where the Act has been effective:

- The Daily Telegraph revealed Tony Blair's generous pension arrangements.
- The London Evening Standard revealed 21 doctors, convicted of child pornography offences, were allowed to return to work.
- The Belfast Telegraph revealed Lord Laird's huge taxi bill as chairman of the Ulster Scots Agency.
- The Irish News revealed the primary schools with the best GL Assessment results.
- The News Letter revealed the Water Service of Northern Ireland spent £400,000 renaming itself Northern Ireland Water.

Key examples of where the Act has been abused:

- The Ministry of Defence was inundated with questions about aliens and UFOs.
- The Royal Navy received a request from a retired seaman who wanted a recipe for the curried meatballs he enjoyed while in service.
- The Deputy Prime Minister's office was asked for the 'exact weight of John Prescott'.
- Angela Wright asked for a list of the 'eligible bachelors within Hampshire constabulary between the ages of 39 and 49, their salaries, pension arrangements and e-mail addresses.'

Credit any other valid material
(AO1, AO2, AO3)

[30]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

- 5 Discuss the relevance of the law of Contempt of Court to newspaper journalists.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Indicative Content

Definition of contempt: *Contempt of court occurs when somebody is deemed to have interfered with the administration of justice, thus compromising the integrity of the legal process.*

Contempt can take many forms but the most serious for journalists is **publishing material which creates ‘a substantial risk of serious prejudice or impediment to legal proceedings which are active’** (Section 2, Contempt of Court Act 1981).

Key areas

- A criminal case becomes active when a person is arrested, an arrest warrant or summons is issued, or a person is charged orally.
- Publication includes: writing, speech, broadcast, website material or any other communication to the public.
- A serious prejudice might include the publication of previous convictions, or merely suggestions that a suspect is guilty, e.g. that he has a bad character or is dishonest. Such material could be argued to ‘prejudice’ the deliberations of the jury.
- The strict liability rule in this Act means that contempt can occur regardless of whether or not the journalist intended to interfere.
- When the question of a defendant’s identity is central to a case, it is contempt to publish their picture.
- If a newspaper publishes an opinion piece discussing a topic which is relevant to an ongoing trial, it could be accused of contempt. However, it can defend itself under Section 5 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 if the piece did not name the trial. Section 5 says: “A publication made... as a discussion in good faith of public affairs will not be treated as contempt of court...if the risk of impediment of prejudice to particular legal proceedings is merely incidental to the discussion”.

Contempt of court can also include:

- *Using sound recording equipment or publishing a sound recording* (Section 9). It is felt it would be a strain on witnesses if their testimony is broadcast. Secret recordings made in the public gallery could intimidate a prosecution witness or help dishonest witnesses collude in false corroboration.
- *Photography, filming and sketching in the courts and precincts.* Artists draw court scenes from memory.
(NB – The rules on filming and recording have been somewhat relaxed recently, with restricted filming allowed in the Court of Appeal from October 2013.)
- *Interfering with a jury.* Section 8 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 says it is a contempt to obtain or solicit any statements made, opinions expressed, arguments advanced or votes cast by members of a jury during its deliberations. After a trial a juror can be interviewed by a journalist about general impressions only.
- *Failing to reveal a source to a judge.*
- *Disobeying an injunction.* It is contempt of court to reveal somebody’s identity that had been protected by the courts by means of a super injunction. A number of high profile celebrities have recently used super

injunctions to prevent the press publishing stories about them.

Examples of contempt of court

- The Daily Mirror and the Sun were fined £50,000 and £18,000 in 2011 over coverage of the arrest of former teacher Chris Jeffries, the landlord of murdered Joanna Yeates. Attorney General Dominic Grieve said the articles gave an “overall impression” that Jeffries had a “propensity” to commit the kind of offences for which he had been arrested. Grieve said the articles meant that had Jeffries (who was arrested and then released) been charged, he would not have had a fair trial.
- In 2002 the Sunday Mirror was found guilty of contempt for an article it published during the trial of Leeds United footballers Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate. The article, released while the jury was deliberating, strongly suggested that the assault with which the two men were charged had been racially motivated. It was found by the court that the article created an atmosphere in which justice could not be done, and a re-trial was ordered.
- In 1997, the Evening Standard was fined £40,000 (plus £50,000 legal costs) for revealing that three of the six men on trial for an escape from Whitemoor Prison were convicted IRA terrorists.

Credit any other valid material
(AO1, AO2, AO3)

[30]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

6 Discuss how the ownership of a publication impacts upon its content.

AVAILABLE
MARKS

Indicative Content

- Who owns the media is a matter of public concern because a variety of media voices is essential if the media is to scrutinise powerful groups, including governments and big business.
- If one person or company controls large parts of the country's print media then there is also a danger of them having undue influence on public opinion or politicians. This was touched on by the Leveson Inquiry into media ethics which said that control of the media should not be concentrated in too few hands.
- Most publications are commercial enterprises and exist primarily to make money. The opinions of advertisers may have a chilling effect on newspapers' content, especially in the case of local papers operating in a relatively small market.
- Some newspapers are owned by large companies with wide-ranging commercial interests. In the UK national newspaper market, Australian media baron Rupert Murdoch is dominant, and his company News Corp publishes papers including the UK's biggest selling daily, the Sun.
- The Sun was a big supporter of Margaret Thatcher and backed the Conservatives in the 1992 General Election, running a lot of negative coverage about then Labour leader Neil Kinnock. When the Tories won, the paper ran the famous headline: "It's the Sun wot won it". The Sun later switched allegiance to Tony Blair's New Labour, with the headline: "The Sun backs Blair".
- It has also been alleged that Murdoch has directly tried to influence government policy. For example, the former Prime Minister Sir John Major told the Leveson Inquiry in June 2012 that Murdoch had indicated in 1997 that unless the Conservatives changed their European policies, they would lose the support of his newspapers.
- The Guardian and its sister newspaper the Observer are unique in the UK in being published by a charitable trust, the Scott Trust. Any profits are reinvested into journalism, rather than going to shareholders or an owner. However, it is traditionally seen as a Labour paper (with reservations).
- In the Republic of Ireland, the Irish Times has a broadly similar comparable structure. It is owned by the Irish Times Trust, and says it aims to be independent and free from personal or party political, commercial, religious or other sectional control. However, it too has been accused of having a Liberal bias.
- On the other side of the political spectrum, the Daily Telegraph is seen as a Conservative and pro-business newspaper. It is owned by the billionaire British businessmen Sir David Rowat Barclay and Sir Frederick Hugh Barclay. They also own the news and current affairs magazine the Spectator, also known for its right-wing slant.
- Many local and regional newspapers are owned by large companies that may have business interest in the UK, Ireland and beyond. The Belfast Telegraph and its sister paper the Sunday Life are owned by the Dublin-based Independent News & Media which also owns Irish newspapers including the Evening Herald, the Irish Independent, and the Irish Independent on Sunday. The Belfast Telegraph is read by the Nationalist and Unionist communities in Northern Ireland and strives to reflect both communities' interests and concerns.
- The News Letter is part of the large Scottish media group – Johnston

Press. It owns scores of local and regional newspapers across the UK and Ireland; however the News Letter strongly reflects the concerns and interests of the mainly Unionist reader. Johnston Press also own the Derry Journal – the content of which reflects a mainly Nationalist readership.

- The Irish News has been owned by the Fitzpatrick family since 1982. It has been independently owned since it was founded in 1891 - rare in a market increasingly dominated by big companies.

Credit any other valid material.
(AO1, AO2, AO3)

[30]

Total

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

100