



(University of Choice)

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(MMUST)**

MAIN CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

FOR THE DEGREE
OF

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

COURSE CODE: JMC 204

COURSE TITLE: NEWS WRITING AND REPORTING

DATE: 01/03/2018

TIME: 3:00-5.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE

Answer **Question 1** and any other **TWO (2)** questions.

TIME: 2 Hours

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

This paper consists of 4 printed pages. Please turn over. ►

1. (a) Journalists are normally advised to follow the 'inverted pyramid' style of writing a news story. Explain what the inverted pyramid means. (10 marks)
 (b) Rewrite the following paragraphs of the story in the inverted pyramid format.

Rebeca's husband, Dr Fredrick Ogolla-a Strathmore University lecturer- was arrested following her death on New Year's Day.

A postmortem exam on the body of the wife of a university lecturer arrested over her death has revealed that she had no physical injuries.

"She also had a blood clot in the left atrium (in the heart)... but we cannot attribute this to anything at the moment," Dr Oduor said, adding that samples from her body have been taken for further analysis.

Chief Government Pathologist Johansen Oduor, who examined the body of Rebecca Gobi Mwachongo said the 27-year old had fluid in the lungs.

He said in an interview yesterday that he was just playing with his wife and denied there was a fight between them.

He is detained at the Kabete Police station after the court granted the police a 10-day custodial order to allow investigations into the death of his wife-Rebecca Gobi Mwachongo.

"There was no fight. This was a play, she had asked me what my programme was and I told her that my plan was to drop the letters. She told me that I would not be gong and I asked her what she would do to stop me," Dr Ogola said, adding that this wife pushed him and he fell on thier matrimonial bed.

During an interview at the Dagorette Police Station where he was initially detained, Dr Ogola denied having killed the woman he said "I have loved her very much." He termed the death as "very unfortunate".

"When a woman pushes you, you do not resist. She sat on me and tried to remove the phone from my pocket and I told her "Sweetheart you are going to tear my pocket," he said of the woman, whom he said, was determined to confiscate the phone from him.

Dr Ogola said during the "play" his wife suddenly exclaimed and fell back on the bed.

Dr Ogola took her to the MP Shah Hospital and later the Aga Khan University Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

"I thought this was a joke because we had been playing. I left the bedroom and rushed to deliver the letter, then I called the house help to ask her whether Becky was up taking care of the baby

and she said 'No', so I rushed back and found her still down where she had fallen," Dr Ogola said.

The don was arrested on Tuesday evening at his home in Lavingtone, and was taken to court on Wednesday, but did not take plea following a request by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations to have him detained.

Dagoretti OCPD Rashid Mohamed said several people had been interrogated. He, however, refused to name or give details of their accounts, saying that would jeopardize investigations.

(20 marks)

2. Explain, giving relevant examples, the following terms as used in journalism:

- (i) A slug
- (ii) A lead
- (iii) A nut graph
- (iv) Hard news story
- (v) Soft news story

3. You are reporting for Kenyan Daily from Western Kenya. The following are pairs of events taking place concurrently and because of space and timing you can only cover one of them and subsequently only one of them can be fitted into your publication the following day. Explain what would guide you in the choice of the story to cover or what would guide the news desk on the story to fit into your daily.

- (a) (i) A fatal accident involving many vehicles along Webuye-Bungoma road-50 people dead and over 100 in critical condition in various hospitals in Western Kenya.
(ii) A soccer match between Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards at Bukhungu Stadium in Kakamega.
- (b) (i) A political rally at Bukhungu Stadium to be attended by the former Prime Minister Raila Odinga and other NASA co-principals.
(ii) Matatu Owners Association meeting at the Golf Hotel, Kakamega to be opened by CS Ministry Trade and Industry, Adan Mohammed.
- (c) (i) A plane crash in Kampala, Uganda, killing 60 people.
(ii) Plane crash in Kisumu, killing 60 people. (Look at this from the point view of being allocated space in the newspaper.)
- (d) (i) Thirty six people died in a road accident a Salgaa in Nakuru County, yesterday.
(ii) Forty people died in a road accident at Salgaa in Nakuru County, last year.
- (e) (i) A 90-year old granny has given birth to triplets at a hospital in Bungoma.
(ii) A 30-year lady has given birth to quadruplets at a hospital in Kakamega.

(20 marks)

4. (a) Explain why the following should be avoided in writing for broadcast media:

- (i) Abbreviations. Give examples of some exceptions.

- (ii) An incomplete a sentence on one page.
- (iii) A person's middle name or initial.

(b) Explain how you would express the following in broadcast copy:

- (i) A person's title.
- (ii) A person's racial or ethnic background.

(c) Rewrite the following to reflect good broadcast style:

(i) Moses Kajwang, the ODM Senator from Homa Bay, said he would vote against the Supreme Court nomination.

(ii) Julius Karangi, Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was scheduled to address the Parliamentary Committee on Security tomorrow.

(iii) The Nyajanja Mixed Secondary School Management Board approved a budget of 1.5 million shillings.

(iv) There were 49,883 people at the game. (20 marks)

5. Use the following facts to write a hard news story to be published in the next day's issue of your paper. (20 marks)

Heavy rains caused flooding in Kano plains in Kisumu County

Several homes were destroyed by the flood

Several schools were destroyed

10 bodies were recovered and taken to a local mortuary

6 of the bodies have been identified

The relatives of the dead are pleading with the central government and county government to help them bury their relatives.

One of the relatives of the dead who lost two close relatives, Joanna Omolo said, "We are requesting the government to help us with the burial arrangements. We have taken our children to school and spent all the money. So now we don't have anything." He added that apart from losing his two relatives, he also lost 8 heads of cattle.

The County Commissioner John Msingi confirmed the deaths. He said, "we are trying everything to ensure that no more lives are lost. We are working closely with the county government to see how these are helped." He added, "So far we have moved many families to high grounds and supplied them with the basics like maize flour, rice, cooking fat and beddings. We are also working closely with the local Kenya Red Society officials."

The area Kenya Red Cross Commissioner, James Musungu said that so far they have donated 100 bags of maize, and 50 bags of rice to the victims. Mr Musungu added that they are distributing mosquito nets to the locals.

The Governor of the County and the local MPs were not available for interviews as they were held up in an emergency meeting.

The area is known for flooding.

In 2005 over 20 people and several heads of cattle were lost.

The worst was in 1963 when floods killed over 100 people.