



(University of Choice)

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

MAIN CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR SEMESTER I EXAMINATIONS

**FOR THE DEGREE
OF
BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION**

COURSE CODE: JMC 204

COURSE TITLE: NEWS WRITING AND REPORTING

DATE: 20/12/2023

TIME: 3.00 pm-5.00 pm

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE

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

TIME: 2 Hours

MMUST observes **ZERO** tolerance to examination cheating

This Paper Consists of 2 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

1. Write a story based on the following sets of notes. In each case, explain at the end of your story your choice of the lead.

(a.) Kochia Police Chief
 Okode Omito and
 His wife, Nyangoro Elizabeth,
 Arrived at home
 About 11 p.m. from
 A City Symphony concert
 He noticed a neighbour's garage
 Was standing open
 When he went to investigate
 Three masked gunmen
 Stepped from shadows
 Pointed a gun at his head
 Demanded his money
 He handed a wallet and
 His cellular phone
 Ordered to lie on ground
 He refused when one gunman
 Started to approach his wife
 He started to reach for
 His gun in his pocket
 And the gunman fled
 Next day three men arrested
 During invasion at
 A nearby home
 One still had Omito's wallet
 Rateng' Nyandusi, 19,
 Maina Onduto, 21, and
 Wafura Japap, 20, charged
 With armed robbery

(b.) Aoko Wanjiru, 32, filed suit
 In High Court
 Challenging the will
 Of Sidney Nyakwatha
 Her companion of 10 years
 He made millions
 Manufacturing bathroom fixtures
 When he died at age 60
 He left his home and
 Most of his 100 million estate
 To his beloved mother
 Hellena Wambogo

He left Ms Wanjiru
 Ksh 60,000 a month as long as
 She took care of the mother
 When the mother dies
 The house and money
 Go to charity
 She is seeking sh 50 million
 Of the sh 100 million estate
 "I gave him the best
 Years of my life," she said

(c.) Van carrying 14 farm workers
 Blew a tyre and rolled over
 On Nakuru-Naivasha road about 7.00 am
 Yesterday morning
 Traffic Commandant Joseph Boss
 Sais four men were killed
 Five others injured
 All treated at Naivasha Level 5 Hospital
 Jacob Kamau, 23 and
 Caleb Abong'o, 38
 Died at the scene
 John Kilunda, 38 and
 Mohammed Hakim, 19
 Died at the hospital
 Van was en route to
 Nyandarua for
 Potato harvest season

(d.) County Fire Chief John Mbuta
 Said five-story commercial building
 Along Mumias road
 Extensively damaged by fire that
 Started around 8.50 this morning
 Roofers putting a new roof on the building
 Apparently started the blaze with
 With a propane torch, Mbuta said
 "The torch got out control
 And ignited things"
 No one was injured in the two-alarm fire
 But there was extensive
 Smoke and water damage
 Tenants will have to move
 Until building is repaired

2. Virtually all stories in a newspaper or broadcast media are results of interviews.
 - (a) Explain the two main types of interviews. (5 marks)
 - (b) Discuss the four basic principles or guides to good interviewing. (15 marks)

3. You have been invited for a job interview for the position of a news writer/reporter in one of the media houses. The panelists have asked you to explain to them guidelines to follow in an inverted pyramid news style. (20 marks)

4. Explain how the following techniques are used in broadcast news:
 - (i.) Race
 - (ii.) Numbers
 - (iii.) Marital status and children
 - (iv.) Ages
 - (v.) Names and titles

5. You have been assigned a health beat to go cover a story of impending strike by doctors in Nairobi County.
 - (a) Prepare at least five questions that will guide you in writing the news story. (5 marks)
 - (b) Write a news story, about the impending strike, of about 300 words. (15 marks)