

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: 2007/2008

TITLE OF PAPER: ECONOMICS FOR JOURNALISTS

COURSE CODE: JMC 212

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer **four (4)** questions.
2. Number 1 is **compulsory**.
3. Write **legibly**, that is, **boldly and clearly**.
4. Evince the principles of **composition and grammar**.

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN  
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

## JMC 212: ECONOMICS FOR JOURNALISTS

1. Answer A or B. (30 marks)
- A: Of all the social science subjects, economics is the one that has been selected to be taught to budding journalists that you are.
- (i) **Advance** three reasons why economics should be taught especially to journalists. (10 marks)
  - (ii) **Relate** the etymology of economics; then, **comment** on how it enables you to gain an insight into the significance of the subject. (10 marks)
  - (iii) **Identify** the main categories of journalists according to the basic functions of journalism; then, **state** how each category can employ the knowledge of economics profitably. (10 marks)
- B: To facilitate its reporting, the economy may be framed in certain ways.
- (iv) **Illustrate** how the economy may be conveniently framed for *economic reporting*. (10 marks)
  - (v) **Explain** the components of the framework (15 marks)
  - (vi) **State** three reasons why *economic reporting* is a peculiar journalistic endeavour. (5 marks)
2. One pertinent way of telescoping the study of economics for journalists is through "The Wealth-Work-Welfare Chain." **Explain** what each of these W's means in economic terms, paying particular attention to the relationship that exists among them. (10 marks)
3. **State** the popular three *basic economic questions*; then **sketch** how they are answered in different *economic systems*. (10 marks)
4. **Assume** you have been assigned a story on the planting season in Swaziland. **Identify** and **explain** the main activities, agents and elements that you would gather information about for your story. (10 marks)
5. **Assume** you have been assigned a story on sugar manufacturing in Swaziland. **Outline** how you would cover the assignment, specifying your sources of information and elements of interest. (10 marks)
6. **A: Scarcity** is a fundamental concept of economics. **Define** *scarcity*; then, **identify** and define four other concepts that are closely related to scarcity. (10 marks)