

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: MAY 2011 MAIN

TITLE OF PAPER: **ECONOMIC NEWS REPORTING AND WRITING**

COURSE CODE: JMC 219

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

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

JMC 219: ECONOMIC REPORTING AND NEWS WRITING

Answer three questions. Number 1 is compulsory and carries 30 marks, others 15.

1. The economy may be framed in a particular way to facilitate economic reporting.
 - (i) **Illustrate** how the economy may be conveniently framed for economic reporting. (10 marks)
 - (ii) **Explain** each of the components of such a framework. (10 marks)
 - (iii) “Generally, a reporter needs to *frame* his/her assignment.” **Expose** the meaning of this assertion, with regard to the etymology of “reporting.” (10 marks)
2. Besides literacy, *numeracy* is a requirement for economic reporters. **Explain** what numeracy consists of and why it is required of economic reporters
3. **Write** a news story based on Attachment 1.
4. **Discuss** the nature of economic information and the methods that may be used to gather economic information/data.
5. **Assume** you have been assigned a story on the opening of a new mall in Matsapha in June. Identify the **elements** of interest, **sources** of information, and **methods** of information/fact gathering for the assignment.
6. “Economics is a quantitative subject, and every economy spews a great deal of numbers and statistics. However, economic news stories are not ‘a flurry of figures,’ but figures that are ‘understandable and interesting’ to readers, listeners, or viewers.”
Discuss this statement, with illustrations of how figures SHOULD be handled in economic news stories.