UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

2018/2019 EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: MAIN

TITLE OF PAPER: DATA JOURNALISM

COURSE CODE: JMC 430

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer any THREE questions.

Spelling and grammar will count in grading.

Use your own examples to illustrate your answer(s).

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1

a) Define Data Journalism?

b) What is the distinction between structured and unstructured data? Illustrate your answer with examples.

c) Computers are inherently different from humans. Explain this statement giving examples to support your answer.

d) Data literacy skills encompass the ability to clean and prepare data for analysis Discuss, giving examples to illustrate your answer.

QUESTION 2

a) Name any three types of spreadsheets.

b) Based on the three spreadsheets in (a) complete the table below.

Name of Spreadsheet			
Usage (free/commercial)			
Data Storage			
Needs Internet			
Installation Required			
Sharing Results			
Visualizations			

c) Microsoft Excel is a powerful tool that will handle most tasks that are useful for a journalist who needs to analyse data to discover interesting patterns. Explain the tasks, giving examples to support your answer.

d) i) GIS stands for

a) Geographic Information System
b) Generic Information System
c) Geological Information System
d) Geographic Information Sharing

ii) GIS deals with which kind of data

    a) Numeric data
    b) Binary data
    c) Spatial data
    d) Complex data

iii) Which of the following statements is true about the capabilities of GIS?

    a) Data capture and preparation
    b) Data management, including storage and maintenance
    c) Data manipulation and analysis
    d) Data presentation
    e) All of the above

iv) By *'spatial data'* we mean data that has

    a) Complex values
    b) Positional values
    c) Graphic values
    d) Decimal values

v) What is *'Metadata'*?

    a) It is ' data about data'
    b) It is 'meteorological data'
    c) It is 'oceanic data'
    d) It is 'contour data'

QUESTION 3

"Day-to-day data journalism is neither especially transparent nor interactive, though it is more diverse than its closest predecessor and perhaps more susceptible to a dependency on institutional sources and information subsidies. As such it has a long way to go before it can live up to the optimism and idealization that generally characterizes the data turn in journalism," (Rodrigo Zamith 2019, p. 2). Discuss this statement, aiding your answer with examples.

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 4

Discuss the challenges of data journalism in the Kingdom of eSwatini, illustrating your answer with examples.

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 5

Ethics is fundamental in the journalism profession. Discuss the ethical issues associated with data journalism, aiding your answer with examples.

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 6

Discuss any five areas where open data, especially government data is creating value. Illustrate your answer with examples.

(20 Marks)