

**To the Student:**

After your registration is complete and your proctor has been approved, you may take the Credit by Examination for the first semester of Journalism.

**ABOUT THE EXAM**

This test will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the Essential Knowledge and Skills as outlined by the Texas Education Agency.

The Credit by Examination is composed of:

- 15 matching questions on vocabulary/terms (1 point each)
- 12 multiple choice questions on general journalism concepts (1 point each)
- 6 multiple choice questions on style (2 points each)
- a paragraph to edit using editing symbols (36 points)
- an essay question on *one* of the following (34 points each)
  - The Communication Process
  - Influence of Mass Media
  - Responsibility of the Press
- a news story to write based on information/quotes provided (100 points)

You will have three hours to complete the exam. Sample questions similar to those found on the exam are provided on the following pages.

The examination is based on the Essential Knowledge and Skills for this subject. Since questions are not taken from any one source, you can prepare by reviewing any of the adopted textbooks that are used at your school. If you do not have a textbook or any other study material available locally, you may contact the Outreach & Distance Education Bookstore. The Bookstore carries the textbook and cassette tape used with our first semester Journalism Distance Education course. The textbook is *Journalism Today* by NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group, Inc. (1998). The stylebook contained at the back of this textbook provides information for the style questions. If you are using another text, you should review style in the *Associated Press Style Guide*.

For more information about CBE policies, visit <http://www.ode.ttu.edu/takeacbe/> or see your course Policies & Forms Guide.

Good luck on your examination!

# JOUR Sample Exam

## Essay Question Pointers

In order to answer the essay question, specific information and supporting examples may be required. Be sure to include enough examples to adequately explain or support statements you make to prove you understand the concepts. If you were asked to explain press freedoms, you would include information such as:

A person is free to write, speak, or publish anything he desires, but he must be willing and prepared to face the consequences of libel if the exercise of his freedom infringes on the rights of others. An example of this is the national tabloid newspapers found at the checkout counter. They are frequently sued by movie stars who have their lives disrupted. Carol Burnett sued the National Enquirer and won when the stories they wrote about her caused her embarrassment and ridicule.

Other topics that might need to be covered and supported would be:

- What freedoms of the press are available  
*Support:* access to public records and the right to criticize the government
- What freedom of the press does not include  
*Support:* inciting rebellion against the government
- Problems or types of writing that would cause problems for a high school publication  
*Support:* gossip columns and class wills and prophecies
- How to avoid examples of libel  
*Support:* Be sure your source is an authority and keep your own opinion out of the story.
- Definition and examples of libel  
*Support:* Fair Comment is the idea that an opinion cannot be false as long as it is reasonably supported.
- How modern journalism has changed from the days of yellow journalism and muckraking  
*Support:* Muckraking aroused people's discontent with specific issues but the stories offered no practical solution... Today, papers strive to not only draw attention to a problem, but to show ways that things like ecological problems can be helped. For example, diagrams, charts, stories, and names and addresses of support groups help people understand methods of recycling material.

## Sample Questions

**Vocabulary.** Study the terms in Column A and then the phrases in Column B. For each term in Column A, find a phrase in Column B which describes the term. Write the letter of the phrase in the blank provided in front of the term which it describes.

### Column A

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. inverted pyramid
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. beat
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. paraphrase

### Column B

- A. territory covered regularly by a reporter
- B. organizing a news story with facts in descending order of importance
- C. putting the speaker's words into your own words

**Journalistic Style.** According to the *Associated Press Style Guide*, circle the letter of the correct answer.

- 4. The robber was identified as Michael Smith,
  - A. Junior.
  - B. Jr.
- 5. The teacher said that the books weighed 25
  - A. pounds.
  - B. lbs.
- 6. I am not going to take
  - A. Algebra II,
  - B. algebra II,but I am going to take a
  - A. biology course.
  - B. Biology course.
- 7. The class had
  - A. nine
  - B. 9students in it who all paid
  - A. \$25 for the course.
  - B. 25 dollars for the course.

## Answers to Sample Questions

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. A, A
7. A, A