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**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
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QUESTION PAPER

(June - 2018)

(Solved)

REPORTING, WRITING AND EDITING

Time: 3 hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. What is the importance of news values? Explain news values with examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'News Values'.

Q. 2. How does a reporter cover news? Explain the whole process of reporting till the point it reaches the audience.

Ans. News reporters and correspondents (also known as journalists), gather news and information to keep the public informed about important events. They obtain their information through a number of sources. These may include personal interviews, contacts, wire services (news transmitted via satellite dishes), news briefings, and question-and-answer periods. A news reporter gathers and assembles this information to be relayed to the public. Newspapers, magazines, television and radio stations rely on news correspondents to keep their readers, viewers and listeners informed.

News reporters play an active role in gathering information on current events. A large portion of their day is spent investigating news before sending it in as a story. Some work as correspondents in offices located far from head office. They are sent to the places that important events are likely to happen.

News production starts with the reporters going out to their respective beat to gather stories and cover events and also the marketing department getting advertisement into the newspaper on daily basis. It starts with reporters getting their stories ready daily and sending their stories in electronically through their mails to the editor. Each reporter works with a particular desk in the newsroom, some of these desks are: Metro desk, Sport desk, Business desk, Political desk, Education desk and others. News gathering and dissemination is paramount to every newspaper as this

is the responsibility of the newspaper house to the people and this can determine their level of advertiser's patronage. After stories are gathered, the Sub-Editors are saddled with the responsibility of editing copies submitted by the reporter using a red pen or red font color, the Chief Sub-Editor uses blue while the Editor uses green. This tells that each of the editing done on a particular story is still subjected to the final editing done by either the Chief Sub-Editor or the Editor. Some newsrooms have started to automate parts of the news gathering on digital and social platforms.

Q. 3. Write ten questions that you will ask a leader of an organization agitating for reservation. Also explain the dos and don'ts of such an interview.

Ans. Following is the list of ten questions I will ask to the leader of agitation for the reservation.

- What is your demand?
- Why do you need reservation?
- How will you approach to the higher authorities?
- How many people do you have supporting your agitation?
- Is your agitation will be peaceful?
- From which part of country you belong to?
- How you will planning to create a pressure on the government?
- Do you have any political agenda as well?
- Are you attached with any political party?
- What will be your plans if you get the reservation?

Also Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 25, 'Do's and Don'ts For an Interview'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on:

(a) Breach of Privilege

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 37, 'Breach of Privilege'.

(b) Zero Hour

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 36, 'Zero Hour'.

(c) Question Hour

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 36, 'Question Hour'.

(d) Legislative Business

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 37, 'Legislative Business'.

Q. 5. What is the importance of language in science reporting? Explain how scientific facts can be made comprehensible for the common people.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 44, 'Language in Science and Technology', 'Reporting for Popular Appeal' and Page No. 41, 'Brushing up Knowledge of Science'.

Q. 6. What is a lead? Explain any five kinds of leads with examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 68-69, 'The Lead'.

Q. 7. What is freelancing? Explain the difference between a newspaper and a magazine in terms of content, visuals and designing.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 77, 'Introduction', 'How Freelance Writing Works?' Chapter-20, Page No. 115, 'Newspaper Sizes and Formats', 'Daily Newspaper Front Page', Page No. 116, 'Inside Pages' and 'Periodicals/Magazines/Journals'.

Q. 8. Develop the script for a radio news feature on the state of railways in India.

Ans. Radio News Script on Current Status of Indian Railways Given the magnitude of the network and the passengers it carries every day, little augmentation of safety procedures has been made. The absence of composite and workable safety mechanism in one of world's largest railway systems is now more glaring than ever before. It is out of tune with modern, easily available technology that could prevent or at least minimise deaths of passengers. In last week alone 4 fire accidents have been reported, costing 2 lives and leaving 14 injured. Even next week another train will catch fire in some other region. To

this day, 17,000 unmanned railway crossings exist that are said to cause nearly 70 per cent of the fatalities. A special £2.5-billion railway safety fund has been set up to introduce safety measures, but this money remains ineffectually used.

The 2013 railway budget announced, introduction of much hyped and expensive Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) on automatic signalling systems. It offers protection function with high design integrity, however it does not provide significant enhancement to line capacity. Moreover, TPWS is a warning system, not a protection system. It has malfunctioned in the past. Experts feel that the TPWS can function effectively only if the driver's cabin is air-conditioned. They pointed out that the TPWS that follows a European design was a misfit in India, indicates lack of its tropicalisation and customization to Indian conditions. However, the government has once again ignored the indigenous and cost-effective Anti-Collision Device (ACD) system developed by the Konkan Railway and has instead opted for an expensive foreign technology.

The TPWS is estimated to cost Rs.70 lakh per km, and will be implemented over an 828-km rail stretch. The total cost for installing the TPWS would be about Rs. 579.60 crore. On the other hand, the ACD will provide a more efficient and cheaper overall protection against collisions. ACD, which is a no-signal equipment, has superior wide-area safety-enhancing capability, while costing much less individually.

The public entities like Railways cannot be run purely in profit grounds. So something has to be done, but the only way of increasing productivity without increasing fares is resource mobilization.

The railways has been experimenting with new models of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) for financing its projects for past many years, but has been dogged by poor and unimaginative marketing strategies. Though some steps are being taken like – R3i (Railway Infrastructure Investment Initiative) policy aimed at attracting private sector participation, the response remains lukewarm. The main reason should be the hegemony and monopoly of government.

Now railways did some introspection and realised that the complex procedures and legal framework within which the Public-Private-Partnership projects are required to operate in railways have not been able to incentivise the private sector in participating in

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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REPORTING, WRITING AND EDITING

NEWS REPORTING



What is News, News Value, Sources of News

INTRODUCTION

News is a piece of information which is new to the receiver. It can be about an incident, an accident, a calamity, an announcement by the government and a visit of some dignitaries. News can be local, state, regional, national as well as international types depending on its demand and interest. Everyone is interested in news. We get news from various sources like television, radio and newspaper. Reporters collect news for the news publishers and broadcasters. In this chapter, we will discuss what makes a news, various elements of news and sources of news.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

DEFINITION OF THE NEWS

We read newspapers, listen to radio and watch news channels for news. We take keen interest in knowing what is written on the newspapers and what the newsreader is reading. The hidden motive in us while doing all these is to get new information. This new information that relates immediately to our day-to-day life and our surrounding socially, politically and economically is news. News is a new piece of information about a recent event that affects the audience and is of interest to them.

We read fresh newspapers in the morning everyday and do not like to read Sunday's newspaper on Friday to update ourselves. Of course we often refer to the old newspapers to confirm certain information. Thus, news

is something timely that interests a large number of people and the big news is the one that has the greatest interest for the greatest number.

News is an abstract concept whose shape changes as the interests of humans change. A news item thus is depends on the following factors:

- The interest and focus of the community (readers/audience in Delhi may not be interested in Panchayat elections in Orissa.)
- The size of the community that gets the news.
- The periodicity of the publication, daily, weekly, fortnightly or monthly.
- The social character and economic base of the community.

Jhon B. Bogart, City Editor of the *New York Sun*, gives an interesting example to define news. "When a dog bites a man, that is not news; but when a man bites a dog, that is news". With this, he pointed out that unusual events fall under the purview of the news.

Another famous Editor of the *Sun* defines the news as, "...everything that occurs, everything which is of sufficient importance to arrest and absorb the attention of the public or of any considerable part of it".

For Joseph Pulitzer, the publisher of the *New York World*, news is something which is "original, distinctive, dramatic, romantic, thrilling, unique, curious, quaint, humorous, odd and apt-to-be-talked-about".

Walter William, the founder of the first School of Journalism, says: "...news, in its broadest sense, is that which is of interest to the readers—the public...".

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A former managing Editor of the *New York Times* defines news as "...anything you can find out today that you didn't know before."

Following are some of the characteristics of news:

- *News is perishable:* It means news has short life. News will not be news a day or two after the happening.
- *It is of interest to a large number of people:* People are interested to know about it and it creates much interest in the community.
- *News is unusual event or happening:* It can be anything, a cyclone, a crime, a cultural programme or an epidemic.
- *It is new to the public:* News is fresh information about an event put forward by a reporter without whom a news item does not exist.

The general notion of the news may vary with people and situations. Basic features of news are however universally the same.

Hard News and Soft News: News can be categorized as hard news and soft news depending on the types of information. News which are event-focused are hard news. Hard news items concentrated on "what, where, when and why". Given below is an example of news item published in *The Times of India* on December 30, 2009.

Fire in N-hub-2 researchers burnt alive in BARC lab,

Mumbai: A fire broke out in a chemistry laboratory in India's top nuclear zone, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, on Tuesday afternoon, killing two Ph.D. students who were at work. Experts have ruled out any danger of radioactive radiation following the accident. The researchers who died were Umang Singh of Mumbai and Partha Bag of Kolkata, both around 25. They were the only researchers in the lab when the incident occurred; usually there are seven. The bodies were badly charred by the time BARC firemen managed to enter the laboratory on the third floor after extinguishing the fire in about 45 minutes.

Major focus of newspapers is hard news. However, another type of news covered by newspapers is soft news. Analysis, backgrounds and interpretations are soft news. Given below is an example of soft news, published in the same edition of *The Times of India*.

The Global Crisis of Consumerism: Major economic crises are inevitably also structural milestones. There is no simple return to a pre-crisis normalcy.

Something changes permanently. As we learned in 2009, patterns of expectations and demand take a new shape.

Our current crisis is not simply a blowback effect of financial globalization. Financial globalization misfired because it took a bet on a type of economy that was becoming unsustainable. During the past quarter-century, but especially over the five years leading up to 2008, the world seemed to revolve around the American consumer.

INGREDIENTS OF THE NEWS

News items have some particular features. Some of them are discussed below:

(i) Timeliness: News has short life and must be timely. It will not be news if it is already known or reported long after its happening. A train accident happens on Monday will not be news on Thursday.

(ii) Nearness or Proximity: The community, the reader, is more interested in what happens in his locality, village, town or country rather than in distant places. A football match in New York will not be of any interest to the people in Mumbai. People are more interested in the news which has an immediate impact on them. Rise in milk prices in Orissa will be of no interest to the readers in Delhi.

(iii) Conflict: Conflicts of all types make news. It may be clash between two rival gangs or groups of people in a street or conflict between two countries, they are news.

(iv) Prominence: The prominence of the person involved in an event or in any occurrence enhances the value of news. Assassination of US President will make the world headlines, but the murder of a village chief may be carried only in a local daily.

(v) Government Action: A government order, action or announcement makes news. The Indian government decision on giving most favoured nation status to Pakistan makes news.

(vi) Development Projects and Issues: Progress in any development projects or some developments in an issue make news. Completion of Dadri power plant in Uttar Pradesh makes news. Similarly, the India Government's invitation to Kashmiri separatists for talks makes news.

(vii) Human Interest: A happening or an event if is of human interest, that will be news. The death of the tallest person in the world makes news.

(viii) Weather and Sports: The weather and the sports make news. Newspapers take arrival of monsoon or cyclones news on front page. Newspapers have separate section for sports.

(ix) **Follow-up:** Follow-up and update of some events or on issues make news. The development two days after a plane crash will make news – what the probe over the accident says, what the government action over it and how the families of victims have been affected – is news.

NEWS VALUES

The value of news depends on the community (readers and audience). It also depends on the country where it is being reported or published. In a country where there is no freedom of the press, and a dictator or an authoritarian ruler is ruling the country, a news against the government will never be published. But in countries like India and the US, newspapers can report anything under the sun if they have the authentic source to support whether it goes against the Prime Minister or the President. However, while reporting news the reporters and newspapers should be careful in their use of words and that should not be derogatory which is unethical as well. Also a news item, which may be news worthy for a community, will not be carried by a newspaper if it is of no interest to its readers. For example, the local government body election in South Africa will never be carried by a daily regional newspaper in West Bengal. South Africa's election news does not have any value for the newspaper readers in West Bengal.

Fundamental Qualities of the News: Some Basic qualities of news are: Accuracy, Balance, Objectivity, Clarity and Impact.

(i) **Accuracy:** News should be accurate. If a news item fails in accuracy, it loses credibility. Reporter and people involved in writing and editing news should always cross check facts and information. The spellings of names should always be checked. Rumours or gossips should not be given in news.

(ii) **Balance:** News report should always be balanced. If it is about a controversy, both sides of the story should be presented. For example, when reporting a strike, give the claim of the authorities and that of the workers on how far it is successful. Reporters can also visit the spot to know the exact position. An imbalanced news item will be biased, if it has too much of government views or any rival party's comments.

(iii) **Objectivity:** Reporter should be objective in their writing. Facts and people's opinions should be presented without mutilations. News should not take sides.

(iv) **Clarity:** News should be written in simple and clear sentences. Intro should be short and in active voice

WHAT IS NEWS, NEWS VALUE, SOURCES OF NEWS / 3

to the maximum extent possible. The ideal length of each paragraph in the news should have one-two-three small sentences. Very complex sentences should be avoided in news presentation. Statistics and technical items should be presented in simple language. Given below is an example.

Conan O'Brien signs \$45m exit deal

New York: NBC said on Thursday it has reached a \$ 45 million deal with Conan O'Brien to exit the Tonight Show, allowing Jay Leno to return to the show he hosted for 17 years.

Under the deal, which came seven months after O'Brien took over, he will get more than \$ 33 million. The rest will go to his staff in severance, NBC said in an announcement on the Today Show. His final show will be on Friday, and Leno will return to Tonight on March 1.

"In the end, Conan was appreciative of the steps NBC made to take care of his staff and crew, and decided to supplement the severance they were getting out of his own pocket," his Manager, Gavin Polone, said.

He will be free to begin another TV job as soon as September, NBC said. O'Brien landed the Tonight Show after successfully hosting Late Night since 1993. But he quickly stumbled in the ratings race against CBS' David Letterman. Under Leno, the Tonight Show was at the top at 11.35 pm Eastern, but he proved an instant flop with his experiment in prime time.

(v) **Impact:** News items should have some impact. News about a dilapidated and overused bridge in time to move the authorities to take up repairs may help avert a tragedy. Reporter should develop a "nose for news", particularly news that will make a positive impact.

NEWS SOURCES

News can be collected from different sources. Public meetings, press conferences, workshops, seminars, press releases and official functions are some sources of news. These sources are available to all. Contacts with top officials in government, political parties or in business are sources of exclusive information for the reporter. A reporter should have a variety of reliable and highly placed contacts.

Sometimes a valuable tip-off may also come from an ordinary person like the driver of a Minister's personal car. Some of the contacts may be interested to get quoted for the story as it gives them publicity. In case of a critical story, some sources will ask the reporter not to quote them. In that case, the reporter should quote "sources" as saying and not mention any body's name as source. It is the responsibility of a reporter to ensure the truthfulness of a news report. In such cases, the reporter

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should keep some documents or/and audio tape to prove the news when needed.

A reporter may face confrontation with the government or political leaders or some group members while collecting news, particularly of critical and investigative nature. A reporter should dare to face such situations. He should also treat his sources as “sacred”. There may be pressure from the government and the judiciary at times to disclose the sources, reporter should protect source at any cost.

ACTIVITIES

1. You must be very familiar with a newspaper. In this chapter, we shall be discussing mainly news and its nature. You also have an idea about the news and the elements which characterise the news from other writings.

The following news item is taken from the front page of *The Hindustan Times*, New Delhi, Thursday, February 3, 1994. Read it carefully and write the reasons as to why you consider it a news item.

**Budget Session to begin from Feb. 21
NEW DELHI, Feb. 2 (HTC)**

The Budget Session of Parliament will commence from Feb. 21 and end on May 13 with a month-long recess from March 19 to April 17 to enable Parliamentary Standing Committees to consider demands for grants of various ministries and departments.

A Lok Sabha announcement today said the session would begin with the customary President’s address to a joint sitting of both Houses. This sets at rest all the speculations about the commencement of the Budget Session.

It is expected the Railway Budget will be presented on Feb. 24 and the General Budget for 1994-95 on Feb. 28. The General Budget would be the fourth consecutive one that Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh would present.

There are as many as 17 Standing Committees to consider the demands for grants of various ministries and departments. The month-long recess is expected to enable a better parliamentary control over the demands for grants of various ministries as it would enable the Standing Committee to minutely study the demands and analyse annual reports on the performance of various ministries and departments.

Of course, Parliament is not bound to accept the report of the Standing Committees and is free to use these reports as it likes while voting the demands.

Ans. This write-up provides information that the Budget Session of Parliament will begin from Feb. 21 and end on May 13 with a month-long recess from March 19 to April 17 to enable Parliamentary Standing Committees to consider demands for grants of various ministries and departments. Besides there are other facts about the Parliament session. This is news because it informs. The source of the news is an announcement by the Lok Sabha.

2. Take a newspaper. It will have a lot of news items. Some are hard news, probably the major part of the issue will have hard news items and some will be of soft nature. List all the news items in a piece of paper.

News Items	Soft News/ Hard News
(i) Police-CRPF ring sold arms to Maoists	Hard News
(ii) Kiwis win thriller in World T20	Hard News
(iii) Downpour brings respite	Hard News
(iv) 5 killed in stampede at Dera	Hard News
(v) Civilian dies in J&K stone-pelting	Hard News
(i) Unruly porters at stations to be taught manners	Soft News
(ii) After celebrating common culture and heritage new, the real tests	Soft News
(iii) Surge in unorganized labour post-slowdown	Soft News
(iv) Despite ban, kids continue to be hired as domestic help	Soft News
(v) Hats off to B’lore, Pune girls.	Soft News

Write against each of them whether hard or soft.

Ans.

Newspaper: *The Times of India*

Issue Date: May 1, 2010.

3. So far, we have touched upon some of the very important aspects of the news in this chapter. In the next section we shall discuss the primary qualities of a news item. Before we enter into that section, let us engage ourselves in an activity.

What do you think about the good qualities of a news item (for example simple language can be considered a good quality of a news item).