



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
14-16 AHMADU BELLO WAY, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

JUNE/JULY 2013 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: JLS 721

COURSE TITLE: NEWS WRITING

TIME ALLOWED: 3HRS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS

1. (a) You have been working for a newspaper firm as a reporter for the past five years; discuss the importance of leads to your news stories. **(15Marks)**
(b) Explain fully five of the five of the types of lead you have been using to give your news stories good directions. **(10 Marks)**
2. Which mass media theories do you think will be appropriate for the type of media system being practised in Nigeria? Discuss extensively why the media theory you have suggested is suitable for Nigeria. **(25 Marks)**
3. (a) Of what importance is the existence of the press exists in Nigeria? **(25 Marks)**
(b) Discuss at least five of the activities involved in newsgathering. **(25Marks)**
4. With the aid of a well labelled diagram, discuss fully the Inverted Pyramid style of writing news story. **(25 Marks)**
5. Discuss fully at least five ways in which Nigerian journalists can run afoul of the law of Contempt of Court. **(25 Marks)**
6. Discuss with relevant examples the following ethical issues in journalism and their effects on balanced and objective reporting:
(a) Self-censorship **(5 Marks)**
(b) Moonlighting **(5 Marks)**

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| (c) | Afghanistanism | (5 Marks) |
| (d) | Sensationalism | (5 Marks) |
| (e) | Sycophancy. | (5 Marks) |