

*Not To Be Taken Away*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES CENTRE**

**Writing Test For Master of Journalism /  
Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Programme**

Exam No: \_\_\_\_\_

Over the next two hours you will have sufficient time to complete the following exercises. The test is designed to assess your English-language writing skills and general knowledge. Try to write in simple, clear sentences.

Recommendations:

1. Read the instructions before you begin.
2. **Answer Exercises 1 and 5 in the answer book. Answer the other questions in the space provided**
3. Each exercise has a recommended time limit. Use your time wisely.
4. For the essay portion of the test, we recommend that you compose a brief outline on each topic before starting to write.
5. **Double space** your text so that you can edit it and rewrite as needed.
6. The word count is suggested only as a rough guide.

## Exercise 1

**Use the facts presented below to write a news report of around 250 words on the events that are described. Write it so that the most important information comes first. Your report should be grammatically correct and clearly written.**

**30 minutes**

- Over 100 people believed killed in fighting today according to residents.
- "Dozens of people are under the rubble with no way to get to them because they are firing at anyone who moves in the street," an eyewitness said.
- An EU diplomat said the European Union had agreed to impose sanctions on the Syrian central bank as part of new measures to force Syrian President Assad out.
- Syrian forces began assault on opposition forces in the city of Homs today.
- Revolt against Syrian President Bashar al-Asad began 11 months ago, sparked by similar uprisings in the region during the Arab Spring.
- One resident said bombardment had lessened by dusk; tanks had moved closer to the city; no water, electric or telephone for several days.
- Another resident: "There is rubble in everywhere. There is not a single person on the street."
- Mortars began to fall steadily a few minutes after 6 a.m according to witnesses.
- The UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki- moon said "I fear that the appalling brutality we are witnessing in Homs, with heavy weapons firing into civilian neighbourhoods, is a grim harbinger of worse to come." He was speaking at the United Nations headquarters in New York.
- The Syrian government blames violence on foreign-backed groups and says Homs offensive will continue until "order" is restored.
- Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Turkey planned to host an international meeting to help end violence. He was planning to fly to the United States to meet the US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, to discuss a common strategy on Syria.
- Doctors are struggling to cope with the dead and wounded according to residents

**Exercise 2.**

**The following public notice contains errors in grammar, vocabulary and syntax. Rewrite it to correct as many errors as you can find and to provide clarity of content. You can make your corrections with pen in the text .**  
**(20 minutes)**

The E-Business Technology Institute (ETI) of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) mark their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Today, ETI has organized a celebration seminar feature with keynote speeches and technical talks at the University's Cyberport Campus (HKUCC).

ETI is one of the most successful R&D institute within the University which actively involved in the research and development of innovative e-business technologies for the local communities. Since its establishment in 1999, ETI was awarded over HK\$90 millions from various governmental authorities to conduct applied researches in various areas such as e-business, logistics and supply chain management.

Many of its developed technologies has been successfully commercialized in different solutions for Hong Kong multi-national corporations and small and medium enterprises. For example, their RFID document management solution was deployed by one of the listed bank in Hong Kong to allow optimize their operational process. Another solution would be launched next month by leading local financial institution. Besides, ETI actively collaborates with universities in Mainland China on different technologies that address to the industry needs.

“We are very proud of ETI’s achievements during these 10 years and would try our best to do even better in coming 10 years.” Said ETI Chairman Liu Bing-wong.

### Exercise 3

Circle the correct word in each of these sentences.

(5 minutes)

- 1) He asked the organizers for complimentary/complementary tickets to the event.
- 2) While reporting on an election campaign, journalists should avoid taking the side of one political party or the other. They should try and be disinterested/uninterested observers.
- 3) “I have no idea who’s/whose book this is”, he said.
- 4) The children were deeply affected/effectuated by the tragic death of their parents.
- 5) I hope its /it’s not going to rain today.
- 6) The prize money had to be shared between/among the three winners.
- 7) The doctor who/whom I normally see has gone on holiday.
- 8) He was a person with strong moral principles/principals.
- 9) Each of the students has/have completed his/her/their assignment.
- 10) He had dinner at a restaurant that/which specializes in seafood.

### Exercise 4

Each of the sentences below contains one error of grammar, usage or punctuation which you should correct. Excessive rewriting **is not necessary**.

(10 minutes)

1. He completed his researches for the project on time.
2. The police said the murder occurred at 4 a.m. in the morning.
3. The professor is an expert on Taiwan, he also focuses on the tensions in North Korea.
4. The head teacher said he was very concerned with the welfares of all his students.
5. Two of the proposals aim to make the council more transparent and to dismissing accusations of conflicts of interest.

6. The housing department has denied involvement in the scandal, but vowed they would investigate.
7. By the time negotiations began, many pessimists have expressed doubts about them.
8. The greatest American film ever made *Citizen Kane* won only one Academy Award.
9. The package of reform measures were released by the finance minister.
10. The businessman said that the secret of his successes were hard work.

**Exercise 5. Write a brief essay on the following topic. ( 400-500 words, 40 minutes)**

**“The press is the best instrument for enlightening the mind of man, and improving him as a rational, moral and social being.” These are words that Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1829. Do you think his idea of the press as a way of enlightening and improving people is relevant today? What do you think the role of the press in society should be in this day and age?**