



Rewarding Learning

GCSE Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry

STUDENT
GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Journalism is a dynamic, challenging and important field of work that presents many opportunities to develop new critical and practical skills, knowledge and experience. You will be given many opportunities on this course to research, write and present news stories for both print and broadcast. The course will help you to develop a confident and versatile writing ability, with opportunities to write for a variety of different audiences and formats. You will develop proficiency in working with a range of digital technologies when designing, recording and presenting your work. You will carry out research and news gathering throughout the course that will also help you to develop your initiative, independence and organisational skills.

WHY STUDY JOURNALISM IN THE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY?

You will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- codes and conventions of journalism and its role in the modern world;
- how to research and write news for multiple platforms, including print, online and broadcast;
- how to use technologies confidently and effectively to design, format and present your news writing across a range of visual, audio and audiovisual formats; and
- how to adapt your style of writing to suit a range of different story types, including hard news, package scripts, bulletins and reviews.

You will be able to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding in an examination and two practice-based controlled assessment portfolios.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

UNIT	AREAS OF STUDY
Unit 1: Cross-Platform Research Portfolio	You will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• news gathering, research and evaluation;• writing and editing for print and online news platforms; and• presenting and packaging news using modern industry technologies.
Unit 2: Radio and Review Portfolio	You will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• working with news stimulus material and evaluation;• script writing and editing skills for radio;• film review writing and editing; and• presenting and packaging news using modern industry technologies.
Unit 3: Industry, Theory and Practice	You will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the role and purpose of journalism;• technology, conventions and modern journalism;• professional roles within journalism;• journalism law, regulation and ethics;• the skills of the editor and sub-editor;• public relations;• journalism analysis; and• working with sources.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

UNIT	ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Unit 1: Cross-Platform Research Portfolio	Controlled assessment Two tasks (you produce one local print story and one online regional or national story) (50 marks available for each task) Teachers mark the tasks and we moderate the results.	25%
Unit 2: Radio and Review Portfolio	Controlled assessment Two tasks (you produce one radio bulletin or package and one film review) (50 marks available for each task) Teachers mark the tasks and we moderate the results.	25%
Unit 3: Industry, Theory and Practice	External online examination 100 marks You will answer a combination of short, structured questions and questions requiring extended writing. You will also complete journalistic tasks in response to stimulus we provide. We set and mark the paper.	50%



Unit 1
Cross-Platform
Research Portfolio

25%



Unit 2
Radio and
Review Portfolio

25%



Unit 3
Industry, Theory
and Practice

50%

WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?



CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS AT KEY STAGE 4 COMMUNICATION, USING MATHEMATICS AND USING ICT

You may have opportunities to develop these skills in a variety of ways, for example:

- writing your film review or radio bulletin script;
- carrying out primary research for your local print story;
- calculating broadcast timings against word counts;
- carrying out statistical research;
- recording and editing audio and/or audiovisual interviews; and
- formatting news pages.

THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES AT KEY STAGE 4 SELF-MANAGEMENT, WORKING WITH OTHERS AND PROBLEM SOLVING

You may be encouraged to, for example:

- manage ongoing research using a detailed log book;
- write copy for an evolving news story under time-restricted examination conditions in response to phased release news materials;
- record audio or audiovisual interviews with primary sources and members of the public; and
- work in news teams with fellow students.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN JOURNALISM?

This course will enable you to begin developing the knowledge, understanding and skills of a cross-platform journalist. You will develop and apply a range of skills in your role as a journalist, including analysing, writing, researching, debating and presenting news. You will develop proficiency in using digital technologies to design and present your work and will become confident in making complex analytical decisions, justifying and defending your judgements and choices with solid and persuasive arguments. These skills and abilities will equip you well for a variety of future career opportunities in addition to those linked directly with journalism, communications and the media. The course will also prepare you for progression to further study of journalism and other related qualifications.

