

CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM SAMPLE ADMISSIONS EXAM

APPLICANT NAME: _____

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EXAM HAS NINE PAGES, AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN 120 MINUTES TO TAKE IT. USE YOUR TIME WISELY; EACH SECTION HAS A STRICT TIME LIMIT.

OUTLINE: SECTION I: 70 MINUTES TOTAL

- IA. NEWS ANALYSIS (35-45 MINUTES)
- IB. NEWS WRITING DRILL (20-25 MINUTES)

SECTION II: 50 MINUTES TOTAL

- IIA. GRAMMAR (10-15 MINUTES)
- IIB. CURRENT EVENT IDENTIFICATION (30-35 MINUTES)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) ON THIS PAGE AND ON THE TOP OF GRAMMAR AND CURRENT ID SECTIONS OF THE EXAM, PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. PRINT LEGIBLY AND IN INK.
- 2) EACH SECTION HAS A TIME LIMIT. SECTION I (PARTS A AND B) HAVE A COMBINED TIME LIMIT OF 70 MINUTES, AND SECTION II HAS A COMBINED TIME LIMIT OF 50 MINUTES. EACH SUB-SECTION HAS A SUGGESTED TIME LIMIT. THE TEST MONITOR WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE TIME, AND WILL GIVE YOU A 5 MINUTE WARNING BEFORE TIME IS UP.
- 3) IF YOU FINISH SECTION I BEFORE THE 70 MINUTES ARE OVER, YOU MUST WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE TEST MONITOR. DO NOT TURN THE PAGE OR MOVE AHEAD IN THE EXAM.
- 4) REMEMBER THAT SPELLING AND GRAMMAR ARE IMPORTANT.
- 5) ONCE THE EXAM BEGINS, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE ROOM. THERE WILL BE A SHORT BREAK BETWEEN SECTIONS I AND II.
- 6) AT THE END OF THE EXAM, YOU MUST TURN IN ALL PAGES OF THE EXAM TO THE MONITOR.

News Analysis

Write a news analysis of 400 words or fewer on ONE of the following five topics. Aim for a factual, editorial-style piece or an expository essay; use specific examples to add strength to your piece.

FORMAT: Be sure to place your name and social security number in the upper left hand corner. The document should be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, and please indicate which question you have chosen. *You are not allowed to use spelling or grammar check software on the computer. If you do, your test and application for admission will be voided.*

TIME: You should spend a maximum of 45 minutes on this section; it is suggested that you spend the first five to ten minutes outlining the analysis, and the last five editing it.

1. Discuss the likely impact of Sam Alito on the U.S. Supreme Court.
2. Johns Hopkins Professor Michael Mandelbaum has written: "The greatest threat to America's role in the world today is not China. It's Medicare." Discuss why this might be so, and the options facing Congress as it grapples with Medicare's future.
3. The National Security Agency has been eavesdropping without a court warrant on overseas phone calls involving American citizens in the US. Such acts are illegal, but the Bush Administration claims they are necessary to deter terrorism. Discuss.
4. Crime rates are dropping in most major American cities. Why? [Optional: And why are they dropping faster in New York than most other big cities?]
5. Some people say the outsourcing of jobs in the US to India and China is hurting the US economy. Others disagree. Discuss the pros and cons of outsourcing.

News Writing Drill

Here are notes gathered from a phone interview with Sgt. John Oliver of the NYC Police Department's Public Information Office. Use them to write a short news story, no longer than 250 words. Type your story double-spaced, in 12-point Times Roman font; be sure to place your name and social security number in the upper left hand corner. *You are not allowed to use spelling or grammar check software on the computer. If you do, your test and application for admission will be voided.*

It is recommended that you save 20- 25 minutes to work on this section.

- ∞ 43-year-old Emily Sawyer is dead.
- ∞ She lives at 38-42 Nottingham Court, Forest Hills, Queens. She grew up in the Bronx.
- ∞ She has three children under the age of 10 and an 86-year-old mother.
- ∞ Police received a cell phone report of young males throwing debris from the 103rd Street overpass to the FDR just before the 8 a.m. accident today.
- ∞ Mrs. Sawyer is a breast cancer survivor. She underwent a lumpectomy and chemotherapy two years ago.
- ∞ She had been driving her mother to church in Manhattan.
- ∞ Anyone with information about the accident can call 212-NYC-TIPS.
- ∞ Mrs. Sawyer was taken to New York University Hospital. Pronounced DOA.
- ∞ Relatives at the hospital held a news conference and said fences should be erected on overpasses around the state.
- ∞ A rock the size of a football crashed through the front windshield of Mrs. Sawyer's 2001 Ford Galaxy, splitting open her head. The rock landed in the backseat.
- ∞ The car crashed into the protective railing separating oncoming traffic on FDR Drive.
- ∞ The 103rd Street overpass is used by bicyclists and pedestrians to get to Ward's Island.
- ∞ Mrs. Sawyer's mother, Celine Taylor, was treated at NYU Hospital for a broken arm and multiple bruises. She was "disoriented" after the accident.
- ∞ Mrs. Sawyer was divorced. She was an administrative aide for the NYC Department of Education.
- ∞ Her two sisters, Felicity Shrove and Donna Taylor, issued this statement at the hospital: "This was a senseless tragedy. Emily was a wonderful mother and caring daughter. Who would do this to a perfect stranger, just for kicks? It could have been any one of us, or any of our kids. We hope that steps can be taken to prevent this from happening to anyone else."
- ∞ No other vehicles were involved in the crash. Several motorists stopped to offer help.
- ∞ Last year, a prominent Westchester lawyer was killed when a can of gasoline was dropped from an overpass on the Sprain Brook Parkway in Yonkers.
- ∞ Relatives said that ever since her father died four years ago, Sawyer had carried on her tradition of taking her mother to St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday morning and then shopping and having lunch together on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx.
- ∞ A pendant of St. Theresa was found on the driver's seat following the accident.
- ∞ Police estimated that the piece of granite weighed 10 pounds.

**END OF SECTION
I.**

**PLEASE STOP HERE, AND DO NOT TURN
THE PAGE UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**

SS#: _____

NAME: _____

GRAMMAR (recommended time 10-15 minutes)*Using a pen, circle the correct option for grammatical correctness and clarity.*

- 1) The game (**which/that**) intrigues me the most is poker.
- 2) (**Who/whom**) do you think will win the prize tonight?
- 3) She is one of those people (**who/that**) never (**forget/forgets**) to send a thank-you note.
- 4) (**You/Your**) gaining admission to the school is very exciting! Where is (**its/it's**) main campus?
- 5) Neither Joe nor James (**has/have**) ever attended CUNY.
- 6) Come (**quick/quickly**) or you will miss the bus to Grand Central.
- 7) Judy was (**the best/the better**) of the two sisters at karate.
- 8) The operation (**affected/effected**) not only her appearance, but also her self-esteem.
- 9) Of (**who, whom**) were you speaking?
- 10) My boss talked so much about the tight budget that I (**inferred/IMPLIED**) I won't be getting a new computer.
- 11) Sunday, after this test is over, I plan to (**lay/lie**) in my bed all day.
- 12) The (**welfare/welfares**) of the boys and girls who make up this school (**is/are**) my prime concern.
- 13) If we split it evenly (**among/between**) the three of us, no one will be unhappy.
- 14) She tells everyone that I'm her friend, (**regardless/irregardless**) of our recent argument.
- 15) I feel (**bad/badly**) about revealing your imprecise use of the English language.
- 16) The criteria for the evaluation (**was/were**) decided by him and (**me/I.**)
- 17) The reason he left is (**that/because**) he was frustrated. Please (**lend/loan**) him some money.
- 18) Each of the reporters (**have/has**) completed (**their/his or her**) assignment.
- 19) (**Fewer/less**) than half of the people who work for our company (**lives/live**) outside of Manhattan.
- 20) That reporter is known for his ability to (**hone/home**) in on potential troublemakers.

SS# : _____

NAME: _____

SECTION II: 20 IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONS (recommended time: 30-35 minutes)

Please identify and/or state the *news or historical significance* of each of the following. Please be brief, 1-3 sentences will suffice.

1. **Judith Miller**
2. **Tom DeLay**
3. **John Roberts**
4. **Al Sharpton**
5. **Freddie Ferrer**
6. **50 Cent**
7. **Darfur**
8. **Condoleezza Rice**
9. **Nancy Pelosi**
10. **Karl Rove**
11. **Rosa Parks**
12. **Abu Ghraib**
13. **Maureen Dowd**
14. **Derek Jeter**
15. **Tony Blair**
16. **Ben Bernanke**
17. **Rick Wagoner**
18. **Sergei Brin and Larry Page**
19. **Kanye West**
20. **Shiites and Sunnis**