

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Journalism



The Industry

There are a variety of roles in journalism including news correspondents, reporters, sub-editors, photo journalists, football reporters, music or food critics or property specialists. Traditionally journalists have been employed by local, regional, and national newspapers, radio or television. Now with increasing use of technology journalists can also work for online media companies.

The role of a journalist is diverse and can include interviewing people, producing articles for a newspaper, researching and reporting on fraud in local government or recounting events such as at a village summer fair. Many journalists specialise with their reporting. This can include working in war zones, politics, sports or finance and some journalists work under cover to expose the truth about a product or service. Today people need and want information about everything and journalists are employed to deliver this.

How to be a Journalist (National Council for the Training of Journalists)
Broadcasting Journalism Training Council <http://www.bjtc.org.uk>
National Council for the Training of Journalists
<http://www.nctj.com/want-to-be-a-journalist>

Skills and Requirements

Important skills are 'excellent plain English writing, accurate note taking, proofreading skills and verbal communication skills.'

Other skills required are:

- The ability to research extensively
- Resourcefulness to find topics
- Tenacity to complete a story or article
- The ability to analyse complex information and ideas
- Problem solving, data analysis, critical thinking
- Organisational skills, with work task prioritisation, time management and an ability to withstand pressure
- High levels of emotional intelligence when seeking to extract information from reluctant subjects
- Self motivation and management
- Attention to detail
- The ability to listen and to work productively in a team
- Being able to overcome criticism.

Journalists also need proficient IT and multimedia skills such as film-making and editing.

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Working and Learning in Journalism



Job Roles & Progression

To enter the industry you need to build a portfolio of work so volunteer or complete relevant work experience.

You can also develop your own online presence through LinkedIn, Twitter or set up your own blog.

Study Programme
Levels 2 and 3
Business Studies.



Further study

BA (Hons)
Journalism.
Music Journalism.
Broadcast Journalism.
Multi Media Sports Journalism.
English and Journalism.
Fashion Journalism.
FdA
Journalism.
Journalism and Practical Media.



Apprenticeships
Advanced
Junior Journalist.



Career roles

Many journalists specialise in subjects such as Education, Science, Social Media, Sport, Business, Politics, Defence or in a country e.g as an American correspondent.
People working in the industry can be full time, part-time or self-employed.

Calculation including problem solving

Tasks

1. Present a news magazine show reviewing a variety of sports cars to compare speeds, pros and cons of each car.
2. Monitor word count of a number of articles for a daily newspaper to ensure they fit into the allocated space.
3. Analyse third party data sets to determine their accuracy and validity for a TV show.
4. Work out the percentage change when reporting on retail sales over a month.
5. Estimate the number of people marching to Downing Street at a demonstration.

Links to GCSE Maths

1. **Geometry and measure** (units of measure - speed).
Ratio, proportion and rates of change (percentages - expressing one number as a percentage of another).
2. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction; fractions - fraction arithmetic; decimals - adding and subtracting decimals).
3. **Statistics** (collecting data - types of data, sorting data).
Solving problems (solving statistical problems).
4. **Ratio, proportion and rates of change** (percentages – percentage change).
5. **Number** (approximation – estimating calculations, rounding numbers and to decimal places).

Communication, all forms

Tasks

1. Interview people about a match they have attended to give audiences a real feel for the tension and mood.
2. Write an article with a catchy headline that synthesises the content of an article.
3. Produce an erudite article that casts a new light or insight on an idea or topic.
4. Produce a factual account of a local incident to help readers understand the scope and scale of the event.
5. Research to analyse enquiry reports to extract key information.

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose; personal presence - eye contact, voice - pitch and volume).
2. **Writing** (writing non-fiction – an article; organising information and ideas - paragraphs, sentence structure and variety; literary techniques - informative language).
3. **Writing** (context, audience and purpose; writing non-fiction – an article).
Spelling, punctuation and grammar .
4. **Writing** (writing non-fiction – audience and purpose; planning - a structure; organising information - paragraphs, building sentences; literary techniques - informative language).
5. **Analysing non-fiction** (context - examples of context; non-fiction text types - review).