

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 2016/17 (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:

- Research and analysis with the ability to analyse and translate complex information and ideas
- Problem solving, data analysis, critical thinking
- Work task prioritisation, time management and an ability to withstand pressure
- High levels of emotional intelligence when seeking to extract information from reluctant subjects
- Resourcefulness and tenacity, and being able to overcome criticism
- Self motivation and management
- Attention to detail
- The ability to listen and to work productively in a team
- The right attitude

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

Journalism is a buoyant sector. There are approximately 64,000 people working in journalism in the UK.

Source: <http://www.pressgazette.co.uk>

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Working and Learning in Journalism



Job Roles & Progression

To enter the industry you will 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 freelancers

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 (expressing one number as a percentage of another)
2. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction; fractions, decimals)
3. **Statistics** (collecting data - sorting data)
Solving problems (solving statistical problems)
4. **Ratio** (percentages – percentage change)
5. **Number** (approximation – estimating calculations, rounding numbers and to decimal places)

Communication, all forms

Tasks

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

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening; personal presence - eye contact, voice - pitch and volume)
2. **Writing** (writing non-fiction – organising information and ideas; literary techniques)
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; text types - review)