

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate A

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The first and second bullet points of the answer were attempts to express the idea of 'stable and settled truths'. The comments were too limited to gain marks at Higher level and were awarded **0 marks**.

The third bullet point of the answer correctly identified one reason why the invention of the printing press was important – the length of time the medium lasted. The expression 'for five centuries' is an acceptable own words explanation of 'for the next 500 years' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'implies that things are unsteady and unclear' is a basic comment on 'dizzying' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, on the list 'between truth...cruelty' was awarded **0 marks** as the candidate did not analyse how the list emphasised 'the lack of clarity', but only asserted that it did.

The third bullet point, on the semi-colon, was awarded **0 marks** as it is too limited to gain marks at Higher level.

The fourth bullet point, 'People are being led to believe a false truth' is a basic comment on 'misguided' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The comment 'a lack of communication on the basis of finding out fact' is a basic, own words explanation of 'no consensus about...achieve this consensus' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The comment 'there is no longer a designated truth' is a basic, own words explanation of 'we cannot agree what those truths are' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The comment 'how fast news travels' is a basic, own words explanation of 'speed'/'quickly' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The comment 'unable to salvage any truth' is a basic, own words explanation of 'difficult to correct such fake news' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'light brainwashing being done by those who create these fake stories' is a basic comment on 'deliberate manipulation' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'too fast to come back from/reverse', is a basic comment on 'unstoppable' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'Rioting through without knowing the damage' is a basic comment on 'cascade' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point was awarded **0 marks** as the comment is too limited to gain a mark at Higher level.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

The answer is a limited comment on 'to reinforce our pre-existing beliefs' and was awarded **0 marks**. There is no sense of 'negative impact' in the answer, as required in the question.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point is a limited comment on 'steered' which relies on the words of the text, 'steered themselves away from public interest journalism' and was awarded **0 marks**.

The second bullet point is a basic comment on the list 'attracting clicks, advertising or profit'. The candidate correctly commented on the use of the list 'to emphasise the variety of malicious benefits' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point is a basic comment on the image 'junk food news', comparing the qualities of junk food – 'addictive yet extremely bad for you' – to news which is 'likely false and not good for us to hear'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The first bullet point is a basic comment on 'embraced'. The candidate accurately commented on the importance of keeping 'the old ways of sharing news...in high regard' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point comments on the use of the list but does not convey why this contributes to the inspirational tone. It was awarded **0 marks**.

The third bullet point is a limited comment on 'scrutinises' and was awarded **0 marks**.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point attempted to identify a disagreement – 'the fact that fake news should be abolished'. This was not sufficiently clear and the accompanying evidence did not help to clarify the point. It was awarded **0 marks**.

The second bullet point inaccurately identified the disagreement 'fake news is a natural thing in which everyone is okay with' and was awarded **0 marks**.

The third bullet point accurately identified the disagreement about whether 'the problems in the internet should be dealt with', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'responsibility/regulation'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The evidence supporting this point is appropriate and was awarded **1 mark**.

Note that, as only one key area of disagreement has been identified accurately in the answer, the maximum mark available for evidence is 1.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **15/30** marks for this paper.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate B

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point correctly identified one reason why the invention of the printing press was important: the fact that 'news was always delivered in the same way'. This is an acceptable own words explanation of 'fixed format' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point correctly identified another reason. The comment 'solid, legitimate information' is an acceptable own words explanation of 'stable and settled truths', which the printing press encouraged people to believe in. This comment was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'we are becoming confused and cannot keep up with its evolution' is a basic comment on 'dizzying' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'the internet creates a war between the truth and lies' is a basic comment on 'battles' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point is a basic comment on the list of contrasts 'between truth...cruelty'. The candidate correctly commented on the use of the list 'to emphasise the variety of conflicting information' on the internet and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point is an attempt to comment on 'gated enclosures'. The comment is limited as it focuses on the idea of 'an area designed to prevent escape' rather than 'exclusivity/insularity' and was awarded **0 marks**.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'harder to trust the news and detect fact from fiction' is a basic, own words explanation of 'we cannot agree on what those truths are'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'increasingly difficult to find information that is believed by everybody. Nobody trusts the same truths', is a basic, own words explanation of 'no consensus about...achieve this consensus'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The comment 'rapidly' is a basic, own words explanation of 'speed'/'quickly' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The comment 'shared across the globe' is a basic, own words explanation of 'reach' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The comment 'information that was untrue but that the public regarded as the facts' is a basic, own words explanation of 'rumours' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The comment on the struggle faced by 'legitimate news companies...to get the public to stop believing the made-up stories' would also have been awarded 1 mark but the candidate had already been awarded the maximum of 3 marks.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'in the hopes to scare or hurt others' is a basic comment on 'malice' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'with the intention of twisting the viewpoints of the public to meet theirs for their own personal gain' is an insightful comment on 'deliberate manipulation' and was awarded **2 marks**.

The third bullet point is a basic comment on the list 'false, misleading or incomplete'. The candidate correctly commented on how the list 'emphasises the large scale' of untrue information and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point is a detailed/insightful comment on 'cycle' and would have been awarded 2 marks, but the candidate had already been awarded the maximum of 4 marks.

The fifth bullet point is a detailed/insightful comment on 'momentum' and would have been awarded 2 marks, but the candidate had already been awarded the maximum of 4 marks.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'feeds us information that has been tailored to support what we think is true, whether it is true or not', is a basic, own words explanation of 'to reinforce our pre-existing beliefs' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'discards news that exposes the lies posted by other news companies', is a basic, own words explanation of 'less likely to encounter...others have shared'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'encourages us to have a fixed and narrow viewpoint' is a basic, own words explanation of 'less likely...broadens our worldview.' It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first bullet point is an attempt to comment on the parenthesis 'in recent years'. This is a limited comment which does not convey the idea of criticising aspects of social media and was awarded **0 marks**.

The second bullet point is a detailed/ insightful comment on the image 'junk-food news' which compares the 'guilty pleasures' of 'fake news' with junk food 'which is bad for the body but people still love it'. It was awarded **2 marks**.

The third bullet point is a basic comment on the image 'chasing page views', comparing chasing 'after someone when you are desperate for them to come back' to 'media platforms' which 'want people to read their articles so badly that they will say anything'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point is a basic comment on the list 'attracting clicks, advertising or profit'. The candidate correctly commented on how the list 'emphasises the variety of responses which truly matter to the online news platforms' more than providing the truth. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Note that, in this question, both imagery and sentence structure must be covered for the maximum mark of 4. This candidate was awarded 3 marks for imagery (2+1) and 1 mark for sentence structure.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point is a basic comment on the short sentence, 'It need not be like this'. The candidate accurately commented on the 'gut punching effect' of this sentence which inspires hope in the reader and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point is a basic comment on the word choice of 'active public'. The candidate accurately commented on the idea that 'us ordinary people can play a part in legitimising the news we read' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point is a basic comment on the word choice of 'scrutinises'. The candidate accurately commented on the idea that the reading public can 'overthrow the fake news' if we 'look hard enough and dig down deep' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point is a basic comment on the list 'reporting...statements'. The candidate accurately commented on 'the variety of different ways we can work together' to 'defeat' fake news. This comment would have been awarded 1 mark but the candidate had already been awarded the maximum of 3 marks.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The first point accurately identified the disagreement about whether 'we can influence the future of the internet', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'attitude towards/threat posed by the internet'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point accurately identified the disagreement about whether 'We need to stop fake news', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'responsibility/regulation'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point accurately identified the disagreement about whether 'The news we receive is filtered', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'our ability to control our experience online'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth point accurately identified the disagreement about whether 'Fake news wants to brainwash us', another acceptable reference to the idea of 'our ability to control our experience online'. The candidate had already been awarded a mark for this reference and had already gained the maximum 3 marks for identification of key areas of disagreement.

The evidence supporting these points is detailed/insightful and was awarded **2 marks**.

Overall, this candidate was awarded **29/30 marks** for this paper.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate C

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The first bullet point is an attempt to express the idea that the printing press was the 'main form' of conveying facts. The comment is too limited for Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The second bullet point correctly identified one reason why the invention of the printing press was important: the fact that printing news made it 'easier for readers to think it was accurate information'. This is an acceptable own words explanation of 'stable and settled truths' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first point, 'an era with the internet is confusing', is a basic comment on 'dizzying' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point is a basic comment on the list of contrasts 'between truth...cruelty'. The candidate correctly commented on the use of the list 'to show the scale of things on the internet which now give rise to confusion and debate' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point, 'people don't know what to believe', is a basic comment on 'confusing' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth point, on the semi-colon, was awarded **0 marks** as it is too limited to gain marks at Higher level.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The first bullet point, 'Truth has become hard to define', is a basic, own words explanation of 'we cannot agree on what those truths are' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point was an attempt to explain 'the diminishing status of truth'. The comment is too limited for Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The third bullet point was an attempt to explain 'chaos soon follows'. The comment is too limited for Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The first bullet point is an attempt to explain the pace of online news. The word 'quickly' was lifted from the passage and so the comment was awarded **0 marks**.

The second bullet point, 'can have a catastrophic impact', is a basic, own words explanation of 'consequences are enormous' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point was an attempt to explain the idea of 'rumours'. The comment is too limited to gain marks at Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first point, 'to cause pain and upset', is a basic comment on 'malice' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point is a basic comment on the list 'false, misleading or incomplete'. The candidate correctly commented on how the list is 'used to show the multiple problems' relating to online information and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point is an attempt to comment on the tone of 'in the know'. The comment is too limited to gain marks at Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The fourth point, 'used to only share part of a story which may have a different context than if the full story was shared', is a basic comment on 'incomplete'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'Social networking shields us from debating issues', is a basic, own words explanation of 'less likely to be exposed to information that challenges us or broadens our worldview'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second and third bullet points are further references to 'less likely to be exposed to information that challenges us or broadens our worldview'. The candidate had already been awarded a mark for this point and was awarded no further marks here.

The fourth bullet point, 'Discourages people from coming across information which proves incorrect information wrong', is a basic, own words explanation of 'less likely to encounter facts that disprove false information that others have shared'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first point is a basic comment on the list 'attracting clicks, advertising or profit'. The candidate correctly commented on how the list 'is used to criticise the different reasons that organisations display rubbish news'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point is an attempt to comment on the image 'junk-food news'. The comment is too limited to gain marks at Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The third point is an attempt to comment on the image 'steered', but was too limited to gain marks at Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The fourth point is an attempt to comment on the image 'fake news farms'. The comment made no reference to the idea of mass production of news and was too limited to gain marks at Higher level. It was awarded **0 marks**.

The fifth bullet point (at the end of the script) is a basic comment on the parenthesis '- and often more widely -'. The candidate correctly commented on the use of the parenthesis to 'reinforce' the idea that 'not only is fake news read as much as true news but in modern news, sometimes people read more of the falsehoods'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The first point is a basic comment on '(elaboration of) the struggle is worth it'. The candidate accurately commented on the connotations of 'worth it': that 'although the battle to eliminate fake news will be difficult, the benefits will outweigh the struggle'. This comment was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point is an attempt to comment on the list 'reporting...statements'. This comment was too limited to gain a mark at Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The third point is a limited comment on 'scrutinise' which was awarded **0 marks**.

The fourth point is an attempt to comment on the expression beginning '- not an ill-informed...' This is a limited comment which inaccurately focuses on the 'people in power' rather than online gangs, which is the focus of this expression in the passage. It was awarded **0 marks**.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The first point accurately identified the disagreement 'on the opinion of fake news', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'attitude towards/threat posed by the internet'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point accurately identified the disagreement 'on the effect of social media on people', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'impact on individuals'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point accurately identified the disagreement 'on people being able to stop fake news', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'responsibility/regulation'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The evidence supporting these points is detailed/insightful and was awarded **2 marks**.

Overall, this candidate was awarded **19/30 marks** for this paper.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate D

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first comment correctly identified one reason why the invention of the printing press was important: the point that facts were presented to the readers 'in a definitive manner.' This is an acceptable own words explanation of 'fixed format' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second comment correctly identified another reason: the belief of readers that 'all the information was 100% correct'. This is an acceptable own words explanation of 'stable and settled truths' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first point, 'leading everyone to believe information is totally true when quite often it isn't' is a basic comment on 'misguided' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point, 'there is so much contradictory information', is a basic comment on 'confusing' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point, 'nobody is able to enter', is a basic comment on 'gated enclosures' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth point, 'very disorientating', is a basic comment on 'dizzying' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'People have widely varying ideas as to what the factual information is' is a basic, own words explanation of 'we cannot agree on what these truths are'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point is a limited comment on 'the diminishing status of truth' and was awarded **0 marks**.

The third bullet point, 'big arguments and general madness soon ensues' is a basic, own words explanation of 'chaos soon follows' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first point, 'rapidly' is a basic, own words explanation of 'quickly' and was awarded **1 mark**.

There is also an attempt to explain 'rumours' but this was too limited to gain a mark at Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The second point, 'Tabloid companies...believed it' is a basic, own words explanation of 'difficult to correct' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first point, 'it will keep on being seen by more and more people who will believe the information to be true when it's not' is a basic comment on 'momentum' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Note that, although the candidate identified 'unstoppable' in the answer, the mark has been awarded for the comment on 'momentum'.

The second point, 'people are spreading gossip online that isn't factual purposely in order to get inside your head and think a certain way' is a basic comment on 'deliberate manipulation'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point, 'very nastily with the intention to harm and hurt people' is a basic comment on 'malice' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth point is a basic comment on the list 'false, misleading or incomplete'. The candidate correctly commented on how the list 'emphasises how the information is often untrue or sly in a vast amount of ways' and was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate also correctly commented on 'the range of ways in which the information is bad and false' but had already been awarded the mark and reached the maximum of 4 marks.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first point, 'which solidifys our opinions that we already had as that is the only opinion that we see being shown to us as the apps have made it for us with our exact opinions in mind' is a detailed/insightful own words explanation of 'to reinforce our pre-existing beliefs'. It was awarded **2 marks**.

The second point, 'we don't get the opportunity to be able to develop our opinions' is a basic, own words explanation of 'less likely to be exposed...broaden our world view.' It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point, 'there isn't the opportunity ...contrary information' is a basic own words explanation of 'less likely to encounter...others have shared' and would have been awarded 1 mark, but the candidate had already been awarded the maximum mark of 3.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first point is a detailed/insightful comment on the image 'junk food news'. The candidate commented that 'the tabloids keep churning out story after story about drivel that is of quite a bad standard, but people find it addictive, just like junk food, so keep reading it' and was awarded **2 marks**.

The second point is a basic comment on 'farms', comparing a farm 'which creates more and more of the animal which is then sold off to be fed to people' to fake news 'being created tons of times so it can be given to us, the consumers who eat it all up'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point is a basic comment on the parenthesis '– and often more widely –'. The candidate correctly commented on the use of parenthesis, 'making the reader aware of the total extent of how often it is read that it is read more than facts' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth point is an attempt to comment on the image 'traffic' but it is too limited to gain marks at Higher level and would have been awarded **0 marks**. Note that the candidate had already been awarded the maximum mark of 4 and had commented on both imagery and sentence structure to gain these 4 marks.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first point is a basic comment on the short, emphatic sentence, 'It need not be like this.' The candidate accurately commented that the sentence is 'short and punchy and to the point' which has the effect of 'making the reader instantly aware that things can still change' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point is a basic comment on '(elaboration of) the struggle is worth it'. The candidate accurately commented on the connotations of 'worth it': 'that the reward at the end of the tunnel is amazing...a great feeling by the end which overshadows the short time of pain they must go through'. This comment was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point is a basic comment on the repetition of 'must'. The candidate accurately commented on the effect of this repetition 'emphasising that action against fake news is essential right now and we should all make a change right this second'. This comment was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first point accurately identified the disagreement 'whether fake news should be eradicated from the internet', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'attitude towards/threat posed by the internet'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point accurately identified the disagreement 'whether social media is causing a problem for us [in terms of covering up info]', an acceptable reference to the idea of 'our ability to control our experience online'. This identification was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point inaccurately identified the disagreement 'whether social media is hidden and shady and quite secretive' and was awarded **0 marks**.

The fourth point accurately identified the disagreement 'whether we should just embrace the problems or make a change instead', a reference to 'attitude towards/threat posed by the internet'. The candidate had already been awarded 1 mark for referring to this disagreement and so no further marks were awarded at this point.

The evidence supporting the first and second points is appropriate and was awarded **1 mark**.

Overall, this candidate was awarded **27/30 marks** for this paper.