

Sample copy-editing test

At The Cincinnati Enquirer, prospective copy editors are given several tests, including a 25-sentence grammar/style quiz and a current events/history quiz. Job candidates are also asked to copy-edit and write headlines for 3-5 short news stories. We do not allow the use of dictionaries or stylebooks during the tests.

Following are a few sample questions from the grammar/style quiz, and a piece of a rather dated current events quiz. *(Not for distribution, please.)*

Grammar and style

Correct the following sentences. Follow AP style.

1. President Bill Clinton said the Japanese would try and correct their trade imbalance.
2. He is not here at the present time, so we will wait for awhile.
3. The U.S. is comprised of fifty states.
4. The new building to be constructed on Eighth street will include 29 floors.
5. After the controversy centering around his last debate, the mayor decided to lay low.

Current events/history

Briefly identify the following:

Janet Reno

Tony Blair

Ehud Barak

Yanni

Jeff Bezos

Alan Greenspan

Ted Kaczynski

Steve Case

Kofi Annan

Marge Schott

Al Sharpton

Sara Jane Olson

Osama Bin Laden

Ruth Bader-Ginsburg

Maya Angelou

Buddy

Steven Fossett

Regis Philbin

Toni Morrison

Briefly answer the following:

What is the current minimum wage?

What is the approximate population of the world?

Who painted the Mona Lisa?

Who painted the Sistine Chapel? And where is it?

Who turned in the man convicted of the Unabomber bombings?

What country oversees Hong Kong and what country did power transfer from in 1997?

What's the closest planet to Earth?

What happened Jan. 28, 1986?

What happened Nov. 22, 1963?

What happened Aug. 9, 1974?

Who are the Little Rock Nine?

Who won the 1999 NCAA college basketball championship?

Who is president of the National Rifle Association?

Name three members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Name three members of President Clinton's Cabinet.

Name at least one of the three newest members of NATO.

Who are the leading contenders for each major party's 2000 presidential nomination?

Who won the 1999 Super Bowl?

Name one of the Spice Girls.