PDF 1 - Streaming, News & Our Media Habits.



MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & INFLUENCE

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Focus: Streaming platforms, binge-watching, news consumption, algorithms, fake news and changing entertainment habits.

A. Warm-Up – How Do We Consume Media Today?

Discuss:

1. How much time do you spend watching television or online videos?
2. Have streaming platforms improved entertainment?
3. Do you prefer watching one episode at a time or several episodes in one sitting?
4. Where do you normally get your news?
5. Do people read less because of social media?
6. Can we trust information simply because it appears frequently online?

B. Media Habits – The Ranking Challenge

Rank the following activities from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important) in terms of their value to society.

- Watching films and documentaries.
- Following international news.
- Listening to podcasts.
- Using social media.
- Reading books and long-form articles.
- Watching educational videos.

Compare your rankings with a partner.

Discuss:

1. Which activities provide the most reliable information?
2. Which are mainly for entertainment?
3. Can entertainment also educate people?
4. Has the distinction between news and entertainment become less clear?

C. Streaming Platforms – Convenience or Dependency?

Consider these statements.

Statement 1: Streaming services have given people more freedom to choose what they watch.

Statement 2: Binge-watching encourages unhealthy viewing habits.

Statement 3: Streaming platforms are gradually replacing traditional television.

Statement 4: Algorithms make entertainment more convenient but reduce our exposure to new ideas.

Statement 5: People spend too much time watching content rather than participating in real-life activities.

Choose two statements you agree with and one you disagree with.

Explain your position and give examples.

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D. Algorithms – Who Chooses What We See?

Imagine you watch several videos about travelling in Japan.
Within a few days, your social media feeds and video recommendations are filled with Japanese travel content.

Discuss:

1. Why do platforms recommend similar content?
2. Is personalisation helpful or potentially limiting?
3. Could algorithms influence people's political or social opinions?
4. Should users have more control over what platforms recommend?
5. Can an algorithm ever be completely neutral?

Challenge: Explain one advantage and one disadvantage of personalised content.

E. Fake News & Media Reliability

Read these situations.

1. The Viral Story

A dramatic news story is shared thousands of times. However, nobody seems to know where the original information came from.

2. The Misleading Headline

An article has a headline suggesting that a new scientific study has proved something important. When you read the article, the research actually describes a possible connection rather than proving a direct cause.

3. The Altered Video

A short video circulates online showing a public figure making a controversial statement. The original recording later reveals that important context was removed.

4. The Unqualified Expert

A popular online personality gives confident advice about an important scientific issue without having relevant qualifications.

Discuss:

1. Why do misleading stories spread so quickly?
2. Should social media platforms remove questionable content?
3. What responsibility do readers have?
4. How can ordinary people check whether information is reliable?

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F. Role-Play – The Media Review Panel

A streaming platform is reviewing its future direction.

Three people have different priorities.

Student A – The Entertainment Director

You believe the platform should focus on popular films, series and entertainment. You want to keep viewers subscribed.

Student B – The Educational Content Director

You believe the platform should invest more in documentaries, educational programmes and reliable news content.

Student C – The Consumer Representative

You are concerned about excessive screen time, addictive viewing patterns and algorithms that repeatedly recommend similar content.

Your task: Agree on three changes that would improve the platform.

G. Final Discussion

1. Has the internet made people better informed?
2. Are traditional newspapers and television news still important?
3. Should media companies be responsible for the information they distribute?
4. Will artificial intelligence make it harder to distinguish real news from fabricated content?
5. What might media consumption look like in ten years?

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