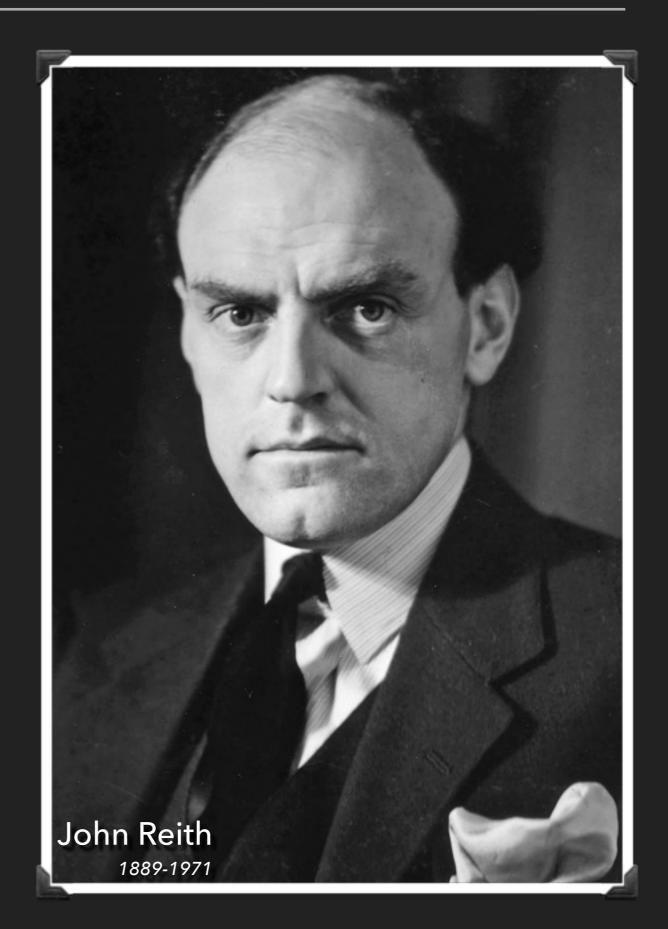


HIGHER MEDIA:

ROLE OF MEDIA

THE ROLE OF MEDIA

At its most basic level, the role of the media is to **entertain** as defined by one of the key founders of the BBC, John Reith, whose ethos/belief was that it was the media's responsibility to 'inform, educate and entertain' the public.



SQA APPROACH

- The **analysis** of the role of the media is an integral aspect of the course. You are expected to be able to **discuss** the role of the media in terms of how it:
 - achieves particular purposes (profit, promotion, public service)
 - meets needs (information, education, entertainment)
 - influences behaviour and attitudes (intentionally, unintentionally)

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA (SQA)

MEDIA COMPANIES WITH **PURPOSES**:

- **PROFIT**
- **PROMOTION**
- **** PUBLIC SERVICE**



- *** ENTERTAINMENT**
- **** EDUCATION**
- **INFORMATION**



USE/ INTERACT

INFLUENCE

ATTITUDES (<u>THOUGHTS</u>, <u>BELIEFS</u>, <u>FEELINGS</u>) AND BEHAVIOURS (<u>ACTIONS</u>):

- *** INTENTIONAL**
- *** UNINTENTIONAL**

SQA APPROACH

The role that the media play is wide ranging and it integrates with all the other key aspects –

as you develop your skills and language you will see a **close connection** with between Reithian ethos and the purpose of a text **(categories)***.

SQA ADVICE

- Every example that follows, and all you have seen up till now, are valid sources for the SQA exam...
- With this in mind, you should consider in what way the following roles shape the media you look at:
 - achieves particular purposes (profit, promotion, public service)
 - meets needs (information, education, entertainment)
 - influences behaviour and attitudes (intentionally, unintentionally)

THE ROLE OF MEDIA

PURPOSE









ACHIEVING A PURPOSE

In terms of the texts you have just watched:

- Who is behind the text (the institution); i.e. who made it?
- What are they trying to do with the text (purpose); i.e. why make it?
- What response do they wish me (the **audience**) to have to the text; i.e. how do I **feel** after watching and what have I

learned?









THE ROLE OF MEDIA

MEETING NEEDS

Media institutions **construct texts** with the **needs of the audience** in mind. Often, they will commission market research into specific elements of this.

As an audience we have different needs e.g.



The BBC and Sky Atlantic will broadcast cutting edge political comedy satire formats such as The Thick of It and Veep for a more sophisticated audience on the JICNAR scale (A) which not only entertain us but warn us of the inner world of Government workings in a light-hearted way; in turn they will broadcast lowbrow, slapstick sitcoms such as Mrs Brown's Boys and Not Going Out for pure entertainment.



The Thick of It







It is vitally important that you recognise that different audiences have different needs and you must also be aware that different texts meet these needs in a range of diverse, complex and often contradictory ways.

SOME EXAMPLE NEEDS TO CONSIDER:

- Need for Information e.g. Watchdog
- Need for Stimulation e.g. Sherlock
- Need for Escapism e.g. The Hotel
- Need for Spoon-feeding e.g. Geordie Shore
- Need for **Debate** e.g. *Newsnight*
- Need for Entertainment e.g. Minions (2015)
- ▶ Need for **Inspiration** e.g. *The Island with Bear Grylls*
- Need for Nostalgia e.g. Cinderella (2015)
- Need for **Routine** e.g. Christmas 'Specials' of popular shows
- ▶ Need for **Comfort** e.g. *The Great British Bake-off*
- Need for Gossip e.g. E! News
- Need for Education e.g. Sesame Street

Duck Quacks Don't Echo is a television comedy panel show broadcast by Sky UK Limited and owned by Sky plc (the majority shareholder of this company is media tycoon Rupert Murdoch).





Duck Quacks Don't Echo

GROUP TASK

- Having watched a clip from the show, in your groups discuss and write down all the needs you believe this text aims to fulfil.
- You must have **evidence** from the clip to **support** your argument and you may also like to refer to the previous examples discussed as a starting point; remember that you could also identify **any other justifiable** needs that do not appear on the example list.

The BBC, Sky Atlantic and Comedy Central will broadcast very clever improvised and topical comedy shows such as Mock the Week and Last Week Tonight with John Oliver for a more sophisticated audience on the JICNAR scale* which not only entertain us but warn us of the dangers of political 'spin' and the controlling and manipulative nature of the media; in turn they will broadcast low-brow, slapstick sitcoms such as Miranda and Red Dwarf for pure entertainment.



Mock The Week





Miranda



It is vitally important that you recognise that different audiences have different needs and you must also be aware that different texts meet these needs in a range of diverse, complex and often contradictory ways.

SOME EXAMPLE NEEDS TO CONSIDER:

- Need for Information e.g. Food Inspectors, Rogue Traders
- ▶ Need for **Stimulation** e.g. The Tunnel, Wayward Pines
- Need for **Escapism** e.g. Educating Essex
- ▶ Need for **Spoon-feeding** e.g. Ex on the Beach, Geordie Judge
- Need for **Debate** e.g. Channel Four News
- Need for Entertainment e.g. Furious 7 (2014)
- ▶ Need for **Inspiration** e.g. Man versus Wild
- Need for **Nostalgia** e.g. The Artist (2011)
- Need for **Routine** e.g. Coronation St., Hollyoaks, EastEnders
- Need for Comfort e.g. Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers
- Need for Gossip e.g. Fashion Police
- Need for Education e.g. Dora the Explorer

A League of Their Own is a television comedy panel show broadcast by Sky UK Limited and owned by Sky plc (the majority shareholder of this company is media tycoon Rupert Murdoch).



GROUP TASK

- Having watched a clip from the show, in your groups discuss and write down all the needs you believe this text aims to fulfil.
- You must have **evidence** from the clip to **support** your argument and you may also like to refer to the previous examples discussed as a starting point; remember that you could also identify **any other justifiable** needs that do not appear on the example list.



That was...

THE ROLE OF MEDIA

MEETING NEEDS



ROSIE THE RIVETER





INFLUENCING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

- You need to be able to identify and recognise when attitudes and behaviours of audiences have been influenced, either intentionally or unintentionally by a text.
- To develop your understanding of this, **question** your own experiences with media texts in order to develop an understanding of the link between institutions, behaviours and attitudes



INFLUENCING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

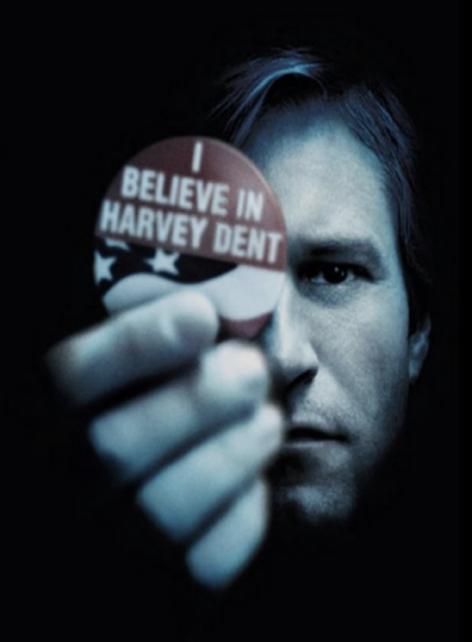
e.g. the intended behavioural influence behind the propaganda poster, Rosie the Riveter (1942) would be to persuade women to take up the job vacancies left by the men who signed up during WWII, thus ensuring that they were doing their bit for the war effort







D



N





INFLUENCING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

- You need to be able to identify and recognise when attitudes and behaviours of audiences have been influenced, either intentionally or unintentionally by a text.
- To develop your understanding of this, question your own experiences with media texts in order to develop an understanding of the link between institutions, behaviours and attitudes



INFLUENCING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

behavioural influence
behind the film poster, The
Dark Knight (2008), would be
to persuade audiences to
watch the film which in turn
generates profit for the
institution (Warner Brothers)



Watch the trailer for the film The Dark Knight (2008), in your groups discuss and write down all the intentional behaviours/ attitudes you believe this text aims to fulfil.



THE FOLLOWING PREVIEW HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ALL AUDIENCES

BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

www.filmratings.com

www.mpaa.org

GROUP TASK — PART 2

Now watch the trailer again, but this time...

discuss and write down all the unintentional behaviours/attitudes you believe this text may promote.



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INTENTIONAL & UNINTENTIONAL... DISCUSSION

- Is there a **difference** in how you view the text if you are **actively looking** for unintentional effects?
- Consider your normal viewing habits... do you simply accept what you view without questioning it, or are you ever aware of unintentional effects?

FLASHBACK TASK

SIGN, SIGNIFIER & SIGNIFIED

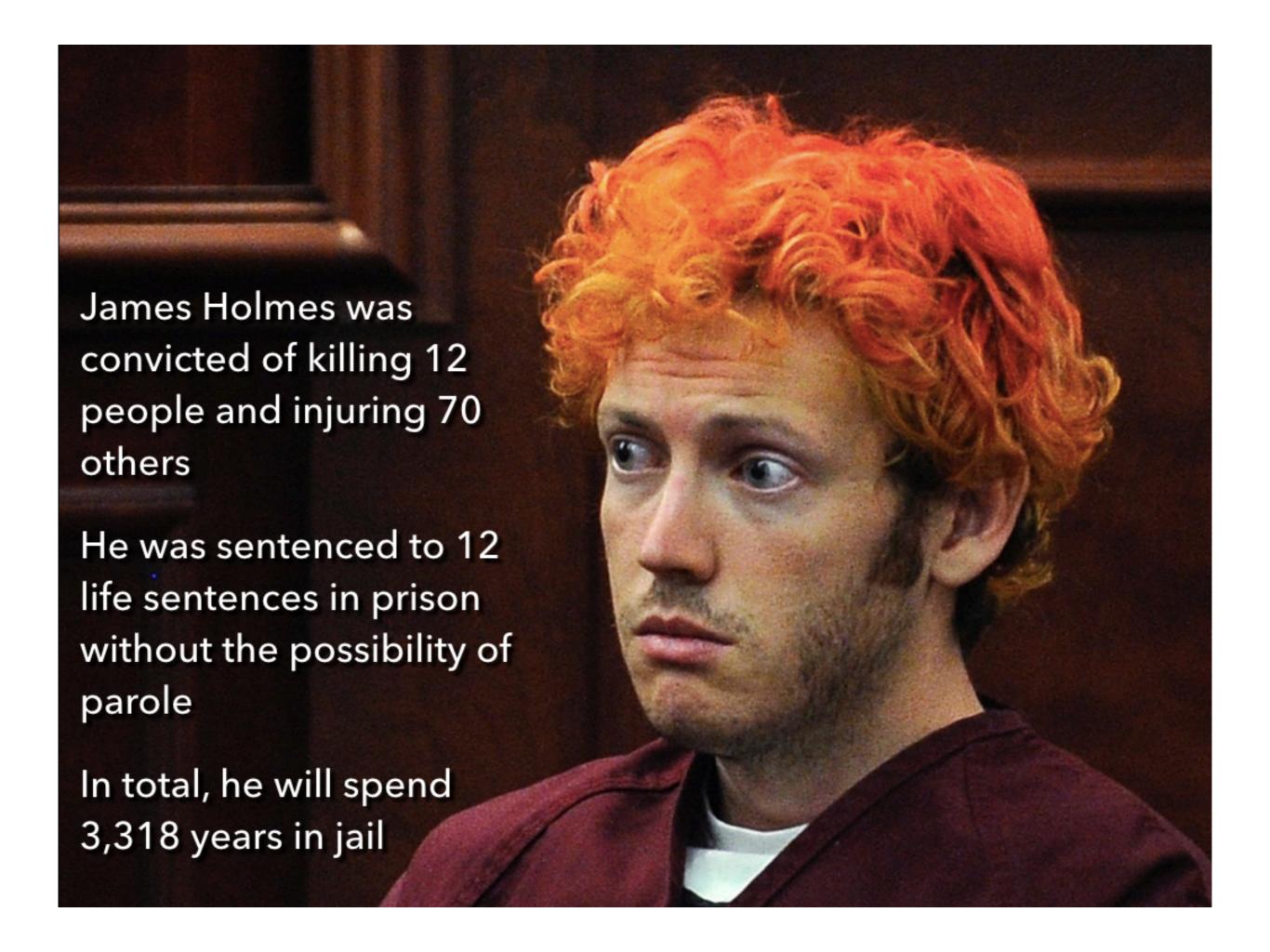
- Before we proceed, look closely at this photograph.
- What signs can you see?
- Tell me about the person featured.











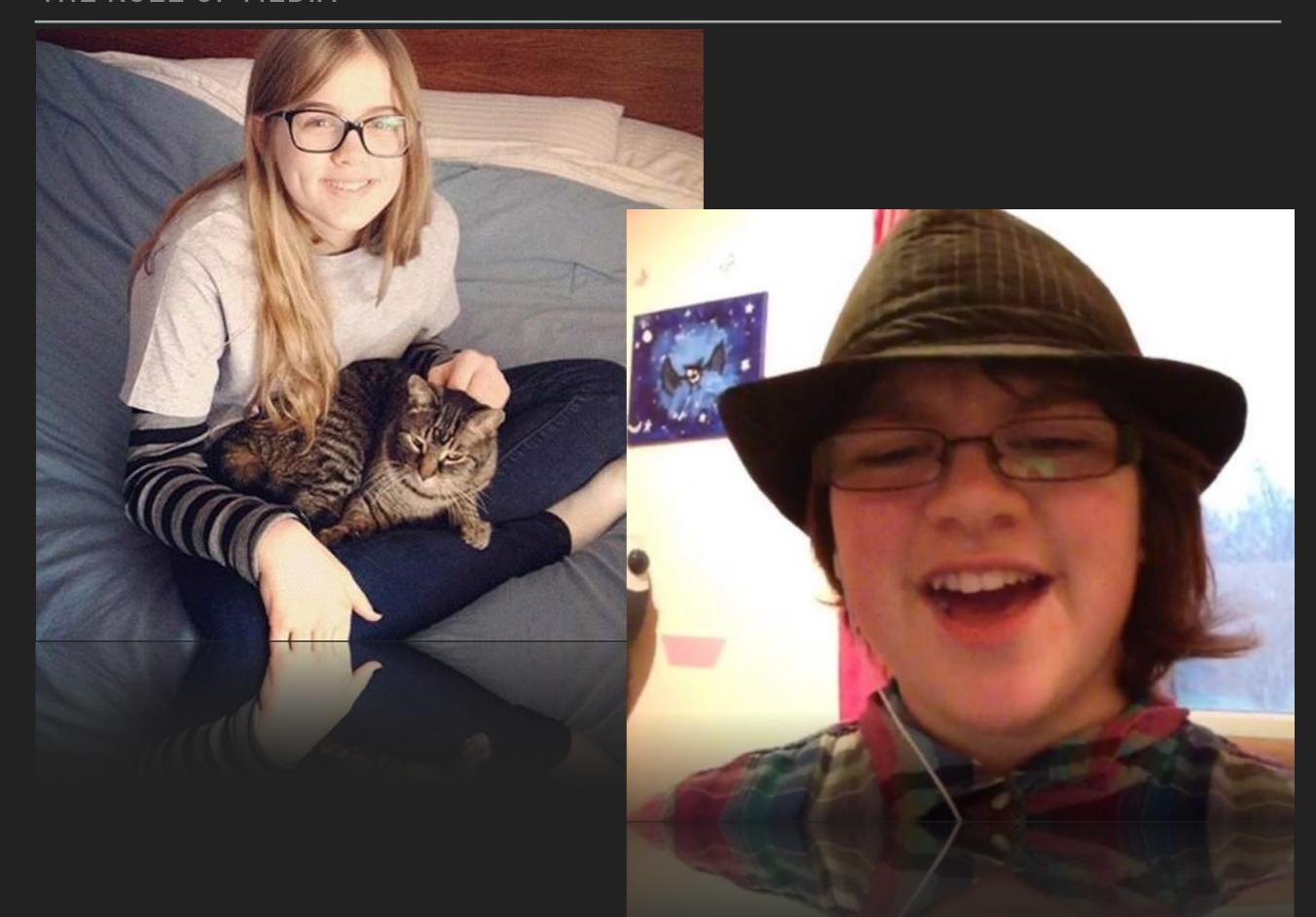
INFLUENCING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

- You need to be able to identify and recognise when attitudes and behaviours of audiences have been influenced, either intentionally or unintentionally by a text.
- To develop your understanding of this, **question** your own experiences with media texts in order to develop an understanding of the link between institutions, behaviours and attitudes

INFLUENCING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES GROUP TASK

- Having watched the information regarding the fictional Slenderman, in your groups discuss and write down all the intentional behaviours/ attitudes you believe this game/app aims to fulfil.
- Discuss and write down all the unintentional behaviours/attitudes you believe this text may promote.

THE ROLE OF MEDIA







In your groups, analyse and write notes (nominate a writer) that cover all the bullet points below to reveal your understanding of the role of the media, in relation to the selected text, and how it:

- > achieves particular purposes (profit, promotion, public service)
- > meets needs (information, education, entertainment)
- influences behaviour and attitudes (intentionally, unintentionally)

Remember to support your analysis with evidence from the text and be prepared to feedback your responses to the rest of the class

CHOOSE WISELY...



• Brain Warehouse (2006) is a short film funded by the United Kingdom Department of Health and Government Home Office in association with the public health education service FRANK (friendly, confidential drugs advice).

- ► Top Gear (2010)
 Following a complaint that Top Gear did not cover any 'real' cars, they reviewed the Ford Fiesta for the programme.
- Top Gear is the BBC's top selling export with a reputation for 'laddish' humour and occasional controversy.



Using the aspects identified below, how successful did you/your group find **Brain Warehouse**?

- > achieves particular purposes (profit, promotion, public service)
- meets needs (information, education, entertainment)
- influences behaviour and attitudes (intentionally, unintentionally)

BLACKFISH

INDIVIDUAL TASK

- Blackfish (2013) is a documentary directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite. The film premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival on January 19, 2013, and was picked up by Magnolia Pictures and CNN Films for wider release/distribution; to date it has grossed \$2,073,582 at the box office.
- Blackfish focuses on Tilikum, an orca held by SeaWorld and the controversy over captive killer whales.

INDIVIDUAL TASK

Individually write notes that cover all the bullet points below to reveal your understanding of the role of the media, in relation to the selected text, and how it:

- achieves particular purposes (profit, promotion, public service)
- > meets needs (information, education, entertainment)
- influences behaviour and attitudes (intentionally, unintentionally)

THE FOLLOWING PREVIEW HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR APPROPRIATE AUDIENCES

BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

THE FILM ADVERTISED HAS BEEN RATED



www.filmratings.com

www.mpaa.org

INDIVIDUAL TASK

Remember to support your analysis with evidence from the text. Collate your findings on the paper provided to create a poster that reflects the role of the media and be prepared to feedback your thoughts to the rest of the class.

EXAMPLE TEXTS TO CONSIDER

Fiction

Brain Warehouse (2006)

Slenderman: the Eight Pages (2012)

The Dark Knight (2008)

UKIP - The First Hundred Days

(2015) Channel Four

Non-Fiction

Duck Quacks Don't Echo (2014)

A League of their Own (2010-

Present)

Blackfish (2013)

The Imposter (2012)

He Named Me Malala (2015)

Catfish (2010)

The Cove (2009)

Dismaland - Bemusement Park

(2015) Channel Four news coverage

Benefits Street (2014-15) Channel

Four

Black Friday (BBC news, ITV news,

Channel Four news coverage)

Print

Rosie the Riveter (1942)

Black Friday coverage (tabloids)

Advertising

Soylent (2013)

Pablo the Mule Dog - Talk to Frank

(2009)

Live with it = THINK! (2009)

CREDITS

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This version by N Winton. All errors and mistakes are mine and mine alone.