

## 7. THE MEDIA - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1. What do you understand by the phrase “the media”? Name different types of media.**

By the phrase “the media” I understand any kind of communication channel such as newspaper, the TV, the radio, any website on the internet, etc.

**2. Where do most people in your country get their news?**

Well, in my country I believe there are two types of people: those who still go to buy the newspaper at newsstands and those probably younger who read the same newspaper but online without spending any money.

**3. Where do you usually get the news from? Why do you choose that medium?**

I usually get the news from newspaper websites in my phone every morning. I choose this medium because it's the fastest and the most **convenient**. But if I don't read the newspaper one day and it happens something relevant, I'm notified via twitter.

**4. Do you regularly read any magazines? What kinds of topics do they cover?**

**5. Do you often read a newspaper? Why/ Why not?**

I read the newspaper every morning on my phone because I like being **up to date with** what's happening in my country or in the world. Probably **if I had to get dressed and buy the newspaper, I wouldn't read that much.**

**6. In which kinds of circumstances do you usually listen to the radio? Would you like to listen more often? Why/ Why not?**

I listen to the radio every day on my way to university, in the car but I don't listen to the news, I listen to music. But **I'm sick of the radio!** I would like to listen to it less because they always repeat the same songs. It's like living the same day again and again.

**7. Does the media in your country report the whole truth, mostly truth, or mostly lies?**

Well, I believe **it depends on** the newspaper or tv channel you watch. It's easy to be informed about which newspaper is more honest and which tries to **bias /bias/** their consumers.

#### **8. How has the internet changed the news in your country?**

**The** Internet has changed everything! Now it's easier to get information, but also it's easier to be tricked by fake news. You must read a lot of news or opinions on the same issue **to work out** the truth. Also, it has changed the way people **find out about** important events because when something important happens, instantly, it's on the internet. It's difficult not to know something nowadays.

#### **9. Who has the most control over the media in your country?**

I'm not sure but I would say the government. I don't believe **neither** in conspiracy theories about them hiding information **nor** in politicians being completely honest. But I'm almost sure they control some newspapers and they know when a **piece of news** is going to come out.

#### **10. How does the media help create a healthy society?**

I believe that the media could help creating a healthy society if they informed with quality and with honesty, but these are values that not all newspapers or tv channels have. **On the contrary**, there are many newspapers and tv channels which contribute to **creating** an unhealthy society by publishing poisoned news.

#### **11. Should the media just report the facts, or should the media interpret the facts?**

I consider that **there might exist** media which interpret the facts and media which only expose the facts but, **unfortunately** this doesn't happen. Currently, the media only interpret the facts, so news depends on who is giving the information. **There should be** at least one or two newspapers where you read the news and you know it is telling the truth as it is.

#### **12. Can you think of a politician who used the media in a successful way/to their advantage?**

#### **13. How about a politician who was destroyed by the media?**

I don't know any politician but, in Spain, there are two or three newspapers who try to destroy the image of politicians who are opposite to their ideologies. **Unfortunately**, many people only read these newspapers without contrasting this news with other newspapers so, at the end, they believe these lies.

**14. How has the media changed in your country during recent years?**

It has changed in two ways: on the one hand due to the internet and on the other hand due to the **arrival of new parties** to the political scene.

**15. What is the most fair and balanced media outlet in your country?**

I don't know the name of any newspaper, but I know there are some newspapers where you **pay a fee** of six or seven euros per month and you get access to **impartial** information written by journalists who **can't afford to set up** their own newspaper, so they need to be paid by their consumers.

**16. How much do you think the government should get involved in making sure the media are well balanced?**

I think that **in order to prevent the media from being** corrupted by politicians, the government should **stay on the sidelines**. Maybe there should exist an organization who checked if the media are well balanced.

**17. Do large media organizations have too much influence?**

**18. Should the media show graphic violence? Why or why not?**

On the one hand, I consider that sometimes it's not important to show graphic violence when they tell a news story because it's **irrelevant** in this case, but, **on the other hand**, there is news where it's necessary to show what's happening and, if that means showing graphic violence, we must **put up with it**.

**19. Do you think your government is doing enough to protect children from sexual and violent images?**

I don't think the government should be **responsible for** protecting children from sexual and violent images. **First and foremost**, the parents should educate their children in a **sensible use** of technology and set **parental control filters** on their

devices so that they do not have access to any type of violent or dangerous information or website.

**20. How important are newspapers? What is their future in the age of the internet?**

**21. How reliable are newspapers, television news and the Internet as news sources, what do you think?**

I don't think that any source is **reliable enough**, so I always read or watch the same news from different sources and, in this way, I get to know the objective news **without being biased** by any source.

**22. Are the news sources we have becoming better or worse? What about the content of an average newspaper or television channel?**

Since Spain is **lost in constant political transition**, news sources are **becoming worse** because we are always in election campaign where there is a lot of **propaganda** and each source tells the news favoring their favorite party.

**23. What are the advantages and disadvantages of people getting the news from the internet?**

The main advantage is that it's easier for people to stay up to date and the main disadvantage is that it's easy **to be tricked by fake news**. It's in these cases when it's important to contrast the news we read because they are not always reliable.

**24. What can be done to make the media better quality in your country?**

Maybe **there should exist** an organization who checked if the media has the best quality and does not fool their consumers.

**25. What could be the consequences of the decline of newspapers?**

**26. What is the future for newspapers?**

The future for newspapers in the internet era is to disappear. They are becoming useless in a period where everybody can get the news from their phones, **whenever they want** and for free.

**27. What is the most important medium for people in your country? What about people your age?**

**28. When will the Internet become the most important medium?**

From my point of view, **the Internet is already the most important medium** but, if I'm wrong, probably in one or two years it would be the most important one.

**29. If you could design a form of communication media, what would it be and what topics would you cover?**

I would design a website or a twitter account and I would cover topics like the movie billboard, music, series and programs.