

Media Studies

GCSE



Component 1: Exploring the media - Newspapers (Section B)

Media industries and audiences

Set product: The Sun complete edition and selected webpages.

Media industries Audiences

Media industries are shaped by production, personnel, and evolving technologies.

Advances in digital tools have changed how newspapers are produced and distributed, with many now accessible via websites, smartphones, and laptops.

Funding comes from advertising and cover prices, but the rise of digital media has led to falling print sales, forcing newspapers to find new income sources.

Ownership also plays a key role, News UK, for example, is owned by the global conglomerate News Corp, showing vertical integration and diversification across platforms.

Media industries are driven by profit and often aim for global reach.

In the UK, regulation by bodies like IPSO ensures newspapers follow ethical standards and respond to public complaints.

Newspapers target large, mass audiences using media language and values that appeal to broad groups.

Marketing strategies and digital platforms help reach different demographics (age, gender, class) and psychographics (lifestyle, beliefs).

Technology allows newspapers to engage younger audiences through apps, social media, and interactive content. Audiences are no longer passive, they are active, engaging through comments, shares, and feedback.

The Uses and Gratifications theory explains why people consume media: for information, personal identity, entertainment, or social interaction.

Audiences may also interpret content differently, depending on background and beliefs, meaning that intended meanings may not always be understood the same way.