

# Media Institutions

## The future of the media and the significance of state regulation

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Name and date begun:

**Time allocation:**

2 lessons

**Learning objectives:**

- Students should understand that the control of media companies is tended towards massive media conglomerates owned by a very few people.
- Can governments limit the power of the media through legislation?
- Do proprietors use their influence to affect politics and policy within countries?

**Key Concepts and vocabulary**

See your lesson notes for a list of ideologies and philosophies. These must be learned in addition to the following:

- Satellite
- Cable
- Internet
- Censorship
- Hegemony
- Power and domination

**Additional reading and references**

Graeme Burton (1998) *Access to Sociology: Media and Popular Culture* Chapter 4

Paul Trowler (1996) *Sociology in Action: Investigating the Mass Media (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)* page 63 ff.

Graeme Burton (1990) *More than meets the eye* p 54 - 62

(This book contains excellent factual detail and the section is worth photocopying and revising on a regular basis)

Mike O'Donnell (1997) *Introduction to Sociology 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* Chapter 17, p 502 ff  
(very good stuff here, but at a high level)

## **Personal Development ideas**

- List new technologies and the variety of ways we will have of receiving the media. Consider if this technological development actually means more choice for the consumer or more control for the media companies
- List the variety of bodies and the variety of laws that we have to control the output of the media in this country. Consider how effective or useful these actually are.

## **Overview of the debate**

- Can owners control governments?
- Can governments control the journalists?
- How effective is state control of the media?
- Do we need state control of the media?

## **Revision tips**

- Be sure that you fully understand the key concepts of technology, censorship and control, and resistance.
- Consider the importance and significance of the independent media.
- Are governments in the hands of media companies? Are media companies in the hands of governments?

## **What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:**

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Acceptable lesson notes.
- Evidence that you have looked the two textbooks and made notes
- A list of all of the variety of laws and restrictions available to the Government
- A list of some of the regulatory bodies
- A consideration of the actual ability of the government to control the activities of companies which do not broadcast from Britain and which are not controlled by British laws.