Barthes: worksheet

Media Theory for A Level

Revise it: chapter 1 page 11-12

1.3 Discuss it: what effects does the media have on society?

Use the following questions to help you prepare your thoughts in advance of a whole class discussion

1.4 Discuss it: what effect does the media have on society?	
Can you think of a media product that consistently turns complexity into a simplified or reductive message?	
Do any of your set texts deploy message reduction? Where and why?	
Can you think of an idea, behaviour or norm that the media naturalises? Which specific media products reinforce these messages?	
Are modern audiences more suspicious of the media than Barthes suggests?	
Does the media reinforce existing power structures? Can you think of any media products that challenge those who have power?	

Master Media Vocab

Use pages 11-12 of the Media Theory for A Level book to help you write definitions for the four terms listed on the right.

Message Reduction

Naturalisation

Ideology

Power reinforcement