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Hayes, An Introduction to Crime and Criminology, Fifth edition

Chapter 1: The media and crime

LO 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Multiple choice: Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. The _____ refers to instruments of communication related to news and entertainment.
 - A. media
 - B. report
 - C. crime stories
 - D. facts

Answer: A

Learning Objective 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Difficulty: Basic

A-head: The media and crime stories

2. What is the term for something which is simplistic and misleading but are commonly held views about current topics of interest?
 - A. Morals
 - B. Bias
 - C. Myths
 - D. Facts

Answer: C

Learning Objective 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Difficulty: Basic

A-head: The media and crime stories

True or False: Choose whether “True” or “False” best matches the statement.

3. Agenda setting is deciding which issues receive attention and how different perspectives on issues are portrayed.
- A. True
 - B. False

Answer: A

Learning Objective 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Difficulty: Basic

A-head: The media and crime stories

4. Agenda setting is a free market wherein the media must give customers what they want or they will simply turn off or switch channels.
- A. True
 - B. False

Answer: B

Learning Objective 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Difficulty: Basic

A-head: The media and crime stories

Short Answer: Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

5. Why are violent crimes of more concern to the public than white collar crimes or corporate crimes?

Answer: Responses could include:

- Violent crimes are concerning to the public and heavily reported
- People are interested in the bizarre and unusual
- The media responds to public interest
- These types of crimes are over reported and sensationalised

- We rely heavily on the media for knowledge of crime even though research shows that reporting is distorted and misrepresents the overall amount of crime.

Learning Objective 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: The media and crime stories

6. What is the difference between right-wing and left-wing views?

Answer: Responses should include:

- Right-wing views tend to support private wealth, economic competition and personal freedom, while often opposing choice in areas like abortion and euthanasia from a moral or religious perspective.
- Left-wing views tend to support greater collective ownership or regulation of economic institutions, greater equality through the redistribution of wealth, and personal choice on moral issues.

Learning Objective 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: The media and crime stories

Essay: Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

7. List and describe the criteria regarding newsworthiness or news values.

Answer: Responses should include each of the following, with descriptions.

- Immediacy
- Dramatisation
- Personalisation
- Simplification
- Titillation
- Conventionalism
- Novelty

Learning Objective 1.1: Describe the role of the media in informing the general public about crime

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: The media and crime stories

LO 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime ‘myths’ and ‘facts’.

True or False: Choose whether “True” or “False” best matches the statement.

8. Approximately 20% of the Australian population relies on commercial television, radio, and newspapers for their daily source of news.
- A. True
 - B. False

Answer: B (80%)

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime ‘myths’ and ‘facts’.

Difficulty: Basic

A-head: Media representations of crime

9. 70% of Australians believed crime had increased in the preceding two years.
- A. True
 - B. False

Answer: A

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime ‘myths’ and ‘facts’.

Difficulty: Basic

A-head: Media representations of crime

Short Answer: Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

10. What are the major crime myths as described by Hinds (2012)?

Answer: (1) Crime rates are ‘high and rising’. (2) Violent crime is the main type of crime. (3) Victims are all innocent. (4) Offenders are all evil predators. (5) The police are highly efficient and effective. (6) The courts are soft on crime and out of touch with public opinion.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime ‘myths’ and ‘facts’.

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Media representations of crime

11. Discuss the case of baby Azaria Chamberlain.

Answer: Students should outline the case, including how the baby disappeared, information on the baby's family, how the court case developed, sentencing, and the role of the media in the case.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime 'myths' and 'facts'.

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Media representations of crime

12. Discuss the case of Frank Serpico.

Answer: Students should outline the case, including the issues of police officers receiving payments for ignoring crimes and covering things up; should also include the extortions and various ways the officers were complicit themselves; include Serpico's involvement in the articles in *The New York Times* and the result of the articles.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime 'myths' and 'facts'.

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Media representations of crime

13. Discuss the case of the Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry in Queensland.

Answer: Students should outline the case, including the journalist investigation of serving police officers, articles published in *The Courier Mail*, the *Four Corners* television program, and the most far-fetched reforms of the system of policing and government in the state's history.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime 'myths' and 'facts'.

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Media representations of crime

14. Discuss the case of the disappearance of Sarah Payne.

Answer: Students should outline the case, including who Sarah Payne was and what occurred prior to her disappearance. They should describe where she was found and how, and what the result was, including the 'name and shame' campaign of convicted paedophiles. Include information related to the involvement of *News of the World*. Discuss the end result of Sarah's disappearance and the arrest of William Roy Whiting.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime 'myths' and 'facts'.

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Media representations of crime

15. Discuss the comparison of how victims and offenders are portrayed on shows such as *Law & Order* compared to those in actuality.

Answer: Students should include that homicides constitute 0.2% of crime in New York City but make up 79% of crime on *NYPD Blue* and 92% of crime on *Law & Order*. 29% Twenty-nine percent of violent crime in the United States were officially cleared, compared with 78% of cases on *NYPD Blue* and 61% in *Law & Order*. In the shows, criminal justice professionals were overwhelmingly depicted as males and offenders were disproportionately depicted as ethnic minorities.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime ‘myths’ and ‘facts’.

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Challenging myths

Essay: Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

16. What is a ‘moral panic’? Use examples to show how moral panics occur.

Answer: Student responses could include:

- Introduction of topic
- Definition of moral panic (by Stanley Cohen)
- Identify the phases of a moral panic
- Discuss the role of the media in creating moral panics
- Examples of moral panic could include: mods and rockers; bodgies and widgies; Cronulla Riots; Macquarie Fields Riots; satanic music
- In using examples, students should show how the event moved through the phases of moral panic.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime ‘myths’ and ‘facts’.

Difficulty: Complex

A-head: Media representations of crime

17. What are some recent examples in Australia of ways the media can expose crime and generate positive change in response to victimisation?

Answer: Students could discuss the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2017), and the Banking Royal Commission (2018). Students should describe of these.

Learning Objective 1.2: Identify examples of alleged crime ‘myths’ and ‘facts’.

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Challenging myths

LO 1.3: Identify methods of improving the reporting of crime issues

True or False: Choose whether “True” or “False” best matches the statement.

18. ‘Cash for comment’ is when secret commissions are paid for favourable opinions.
A. True
B. False

Answer: A

Learning Objective 1.3: Identify methods of improving the reporting of crime issues

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Policy implications

19. Right-to-information legislation is essential to ensure a fair process for information requests to governments and to prevent prosecution of insiders who make public interest disclosures to the media.
A. True
B. False

Answer: A

Learning Objective 1.3: Identify methods of improving the reporting of crime issues

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Policy implications

20. Whistleblower protection legislation is detrimental to a fair process for information requests to governments and to prevent prosecution of insiders who make public interest disclosures to the media.
A. True
B. False

Answer: B (it is essential)

Learning Objective 1.3: Identify methods of improving the reporting of crime issues

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Policy implications

21. The online environment is extremely detrimental for information about crime and responses to crime by criminal justice agencies.
A. True
B. False

Answer: B (it is beneficial)

Learning Objective 1.3: Identify methods of improving the reporting of crime issues

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Policy implications

22. Citizens can access crime statistics online.

A. True

B. False

Answer: A

Learning Objective 1.3: Identify methods of improving the reporting of crime issues

Difficulty: Moderate

A-head: Policy implications