

B1.4 The Media and T.V. - Handout

- 1** These questions are, of course, very relevant to the U.K. in recent times, with the troubles in the Murdoch owned press and the Leveson Inquiry. It will be interesting to compare attitudes to press freedom and responsibility with your partner, and discuss how the media are regulated in a different European country. Also, the way people access news reporting has changed dramatically. Moreover, access to Twitter and other social media has changed the way current events are reported. So there should be plenty to discuss. Key vocabulary includes: *objective, impartial, censorship, and irresponsible*.
- 2** This roleplayed interview is designed to stimulate discussion of politics and current events in the U.K. and your partner's country. Both of you should have a go at being the interviewer and the person interviewed.
- 3** Television used to be a common source of shared experience and so was frequently a common topic of conversation. However, with the spread of satellite and the increase in number of cable channels, this is perhaps no longer the case. However, there should still be plenty to talk about here as descriptions of favourite programmes and the issue of violence on T.V. can still still stimulate discussion.
- 4** This may seem like quite an old-fashioned activity with the development of digital T.V. on demand and the plethora of cable channels available. That is why the rubric suggests that cable T.V. is temporarily unavailable. Also, in reality, although there is seemingly a greater choice, only a few channels show quality programmes, and most of us are still reluctant to wait and watch something at a later time or date. In addition, negotiating is a useful skill to develop in a foreign language, so encourage your partner to persuade you of the superior merits of their T.V. selection.
- 5** These two 'speculative pictures' are designed to stimulate the imagination and should lead to the use of modal verbs for speculating: *may, might and could*.
- 6** As usual, please spend some time discussing the story that your partner is going to write about. They could choose to write about a story based on only one of the pictures, or link the two pictures (as they did orally in the latter part of the previous activity).