6.2 The Media: Representations of Age, Class, Gender, Ethnicity and Disability: Test Pack

AQA 7192 · about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more. Where asked, use Item A. Use sociological vocabulary and name relevant perspectives or studies where appropriate.

1 Which theoretical perspective argues that media representations reproduce inequalities by reflecting the ideas and interests of the ruling economic class?

- ☐ A) Interactionism
- ☐ B) Functionalism
- ☐ C) Marxism
- ☐ D) Symbolic interactionism

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain two ways that disabled people can be stereotyped in entertainment media, giving one example for each way.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain one way reception analysis would study how class affects audience interpretations of a television drama, giving a brief example.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Identify and explain two ways women are stereotyped in television drama, using two separate examples of representation.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 State one difference between 'uses and gratifications' and reception analysis as approaches to audience study, with a brief development.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.2 The Media: Representations of Age, Class, Gender, Ethnicity and Disability: Test Pack

Question 1

C (Marxism) **B1**

Answer: C

Question 2

identifies first stereotype, e.g. disabled people as helpless or pitiable **B1**

development/example, e.g. characters shown as solely dependent on others or as objects of pity rather than full lives **B1**

identifies second stereotype, e.g. disabled people as inspirational 'supercrips' **B1**

development/example, e.g. media stories focusing on extraordinary achievements that set unrealistic expectations for all disabled people **B1**

Answer: Disabled people are often shown as helpless or pitiable, for example characters portrayed mainly as dependent and lacking agency; alternatively they are shown as inspirational 'supercrips', with media focusing on extraordinary achievements and setting unrealistic expectations.

Question 3

identifies reception analysis focus, e.g. it examines how social position shapes interpretations **B1**

development, e.g. working-class audiences may interpret a drama about gentrification differently from middle-class audiences **B1**

applies example, e.g. working-class viewers might resent middle-class protagonists and read the drama as unfairly sympathetic to gentrifiers **B1**

further development, e.g. reception analysis would use qualitative methods like focus groups to explore these different readings **B1**

Answer: Reception analysis studies how social position shapes interpretations; for example, working-class viewers might see a drama about gentrification as unfairly sympathetic to middle-class characters, whereas middle-class audiences might accept the perspective shown. Researchers would use focus groups or interviews to explore these differing readings.

Question 4

identifies first stereotype, e.g. women as primarily carers or emotional **B1**

explains first stereotype with example, e.g. many dramas show women as mothers or partners whose main role is domestic, limiting diverse female roles **B1**

identifies second stereotype, e.g. women as sexualised or defined by appearance **B1**

explains second stereotype with example, e.g. camera focus on looks or revealing costumes reduces women to objects rather than full characters **B1**

Answer: Examples: (1) women often appear as carers or emotional characters, for instance many dramas show them mainly as mothers or partners, limiting role diversity; (2) women are sexualised or defined by appearance, for example camera focus on looks or revealing costumes that objectify female characters.

Question 5

identifies a difference, e.g. uses and gratifications focuses on why individuals choose media to meet needs, reception analysis focuses on how different social groups interpret messages **B1**

development, e.g. uses and gratifications treats audience as active individual consumers, reception analysis emphasises social context and different readings **B1**

Answer: Uses and gratifications asks why individuals choose media to meet needs, treating audiences as active consumers; reception analysis focuses on how different social groups interpret the same media text in different ways, emphasising social context.

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