

# Newspapers versus online news

*Junior Cert Media Studies*

[www.aoifesnotes.com](http://www.aoifesnotes.com)

# Advantages of online news

- ✿ *Up-to-the-minute*
- ✿ *Usually free, although some online news sources require you to subscribe after allowing you to read a few free articles. Others keep 'premium' articles for paid subscribers only.*
- ✿ *News can be read on smart phones if you are out and about or on any device with internet access*



- ✿ *May allow instant interaction with their readers through comment threads, making the reader feel empowered and part of the story*
- ✿ *Video clips can be embedded into the article, providing additional information*
- ✿ *A large number of photos can be shown in a 'photo gallery' through which the reader can scroll if desired*

# Disadvantages of online news

- ✿ *Pressure to have up-to-the-minute news may mean that facts are not properly checked*
- ✿ *Not clear which stories are most important as there is no front page as such. All articles appear to carry equal weight.*





- ✿ *Readers' comments may not be properly moderated and may be offensive, factually inaccurate or even an incitement to hatred in extreme cases*
- ✿ *Ads may appear mid-story and can distract the reader from what they are reading*
- ✿ *Side bar in online tabloids such as the Daily Mail is distracting and contains stories that are not newsworthy (celebrity gossip etc.)*
- ✿ *Studies have shown that people are less likely to read long articles (over 1,000 words) online than they are in a printed paper*

# Advantages of newspapers / print media

- ✿ *Studies have shown that people read more carefully and retain more of what they read when accessing news via print media.*
- ✿ *The act of sitting down with a newspaper means there is a certain commitment to the news*





# Time to reflect...

- ✿ *Print media journalists usually have more time to check facts and reflect on the story than do their online counterparts*
- ✿ *Editorials are a way of commenting on issues of the day and even suggesting solutions*

Editorial



- ✿ *Story placement - front page etc. - means that readers are more likely to focus on events of national and international importance*
- ✿ *Less distraction from ads and sidebars and no need to repeatedly 'click' on other pages to finish a story*
- ✿ *More attention is paid to typeface, letter-spacing and line-length than is the case in online news stories*



# Disadvantages of print media / newspapers

- ✿ *Information can be out-of-date by the time it is printed*
- ✿ *Cost can be a disincentive to buying the paper*
- ✿ *Fewer images and no video clips*
- ✿ *Not as convenient as a phone or other internet-enabled device*
- ✿ *Only one person at a time can read the news as most households only buy one paper*
- ✿ *Much slower reader-response time*

