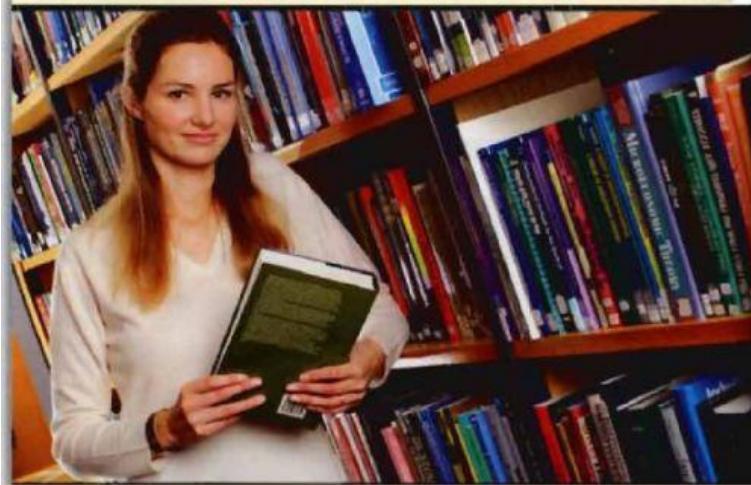


From librarian to political reporter... In a month!

How Jessica went from working in a local library to interviewing politicians on TV in just 28 days



a Read the title of the article. What kind of personality do you think you need to be a good political reporter?

b Read the text and put these headings in the right place.

The challenge The contestant

The teachers The training

The programme

From librarian to political reporter... In a month!

How Jessica went from working in a local library to interviewing politicians on TV in just 28 days.

1. The programme

The Pretenders is a very successful and popular TV series. In each programme there is a contestant who has just four weeks to learn to do a completely new job. At the end of the month the contestant has to do a 'test', where he or she has to do the new job together with three other real professionals. A panel of three judges has to decide which of the four people is pretending to be a professional. Sometimes they spot who is pretending, but sometimes they don't!

2. _____

Jessica Winters is a 26-year-old librarian who lives in Southampton with her parents. She studied English Literature at the University of Bath before getting a job in her local library. She didn't know it, but two of her friends sent her name to the TV company to take part in The Pretenders. 'When someone from the programme phoned me, I thought it was a joke', said Jessica. 'First of all I said no, but they asked me to think about it. In the end my friends and family persuaded me to say yes.'

3. _____

Jessica had four weeks to turn from a quiet, shy, librarian into a confident TV reporter. At the end of the month she had to do her final test. This was a live TV interview with the Minister of Education. She had to try to make the judges think that she really a professional reporter.

4. _____

An experienced political journalist, Adam Bowles, and ex-MP Sally Lynch had the job of transforming Jessica. When they first met her, they were not very optimistic. 'Jessica needs to be a lot tougher. She's much too sweet and shy,' said Adam. 'Politicians will eat her alive.' They had just 28 days to teach her to be a reporter...

5. _____

Jessica had to spend the month in London. She was completely isolated from her family and friends - she could only talk to them on the phone. The training was very hard work. She had to learn how to interview people, how to look more confident, how to speak clearly. She also had to learn about the world of politics. 'I'm feeling really nervous,' said Jessica. 'I'm terrified of the idea of being on TV. Also I've never been interested in politics - I don't know anything about it - I didn't even vote in the last elections.'

1 A person who takes part in a competition
contestant

2 A person who writes about the news in a newspaper or speaks about it on TV

3 A person who decides how criminals should be punished or who decides the result or winner of a competition

4 A person who works in the media (newspapers, magazines, TV, or radio)

5 A person who is a Member of Parliament (abbreviation)

6 A person whose job is concerned with politics _____

Write a paragraph:

Do you think Jessica will pass the test?
Why (not)?

Ginny

ENGLISH & ART



Click here to see the answers!

 **LIVEWORKSHEETS**