The media

1 Match the words and phrases in the box with their definitions 1 – 12. Write the word or phrase after each definition.

broadcasts broadsheets coverage current affairs download information overload the Internet journalists log on reporters tabloids website

1. Large-format quality newspapers .....
2. Small-format newspapers .....
3. People who write for newspapers or periodicals .....
4. The amount of space or time given to an event in newspapers or on television .....
5. Political, social and economic events that are happening now .....
6. Radio or television programmes .....
7. To enter a password and start to access a computer system .....
8. People who write articles or make broadcasts about events in the news .....
9. To transfer pages from a website on to your own computer .....
10. The international network linking millions of computers .....
11. An expression referring to the inability of a human to process everything he or she sees or hears .....
12. A collection of on-line pages created by a company, organisation or individual .....

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2 Complete this extract from a television interview with an appropriate word or phrase from the box.

censorship chequebook journalism entertainment exploiting freedom of the press gutter press information integrity invasion of privacy investigative journalism libel media tycoon paparazzi readership unscrupulous

Interviewer: Welcome to today's programme. Today we will be discussing the 1....., and asking the question: Should we allow newspapers and television channels to print or say whatever they like? In the studio I have television personality Timothy Blake and 2..... Rupert Poubelle, multi-millionaire owner of the *Daily Views* newspaper. Timothy, let's start with you.

T.B.: Thank you. In my opinion, it's time the government imposed stricter 3..... of the press in order to prevent 4..... journalists and reporters from making money by 5..... people. I have often accused Mr Poubelle's organisation of 6..... – nowadays I can't even sunbathe in my garden without being nowadays I can't even sunbathe in my garden without being photographed by his hordes of 7..... They're like vultures. And everything they print about me is lies, complete rubbish.

Interviewer: But isn't it true that the media provides us with valuable 8..... and 9....., and censorship would deprive us of much of this? Rupert?

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R.P.: Of course, Mr, Blake's accusations are unfounded, as are the accusations of 10..... we have received. However, I can safely say that the *Daily Views* never pays people huge amounts of money for stories. We have far too much 11..... for that. And don't forget that my paper also has an excellent reputation for 12..... Remember it was us who uncovered corruption in the banking system, and ran a series of articles on child labour in clothing factories. We give our 13..... what they want, and that's what really counts.

T.B.: But most of what you report isn't really news. And a lot of it is just a big pile of lies. Sensational stories made up to entertain people. Typical 14..... behaviour, in other words. I'm amazed nobody has sued you for 15..... yet.

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3 Now read this essay and complete the gaps with one of the words or phrases from Exercises 1 and 2. You will need to change the form of some of the words.

'The media plays a valuable role in keeping us informed and entertained. However, many people believe it has too much power and freedom.' Discuss your views on this, giving examples and presenting a balanced argument both in favour of, and against, the power and freedom of the media.

Barely a hundred years ago, if we wanted to stay informed about what was going on in the world, we had to rely on word of mouth or, at best, newspapers. But because communication technology was very basic, the news we received was often days or weeks old.

We still have newspapers, of course, but they have changed almost beyond recognition. Whether we choose to read the 1....., with their quality

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2..... of news and other 3.....
by top 4..... and articles by acclaimed
5....., or we prefer the popular
6....., with their lively gossip and colourful stories, we are exposed to a wealth of information barely conceivable at the beginning of the last century.

We also have television and radio. News 7..... let us know about world events practically as they happen, while sitcoms, chat shows and documentaries, etc. keep us entertained and informed. And there is also 8....., where we can access information from millions of 9..... around the world which we can then 10..... on to our own computers.

However, these forms of 11..... and
12..... (or 'infortainment' as they are sometimes collectively called) have their negative side. Famous personalities frequently accuse the 13..... (and sometimes even respectable papers) of 14..... by gangs of
15..... who follow them around with their cameras and long lenses. Newspapers are often accused of
16..... by angry politicians who hate reading damaging lies about themselves, and there are frequent accusations of
17....., with 18.....
reporters paying people vast sums of money to tell them about the crime they committed or what their famous neighbour has been up to. Of course, it's not just the papers which are to blame. Television companies have cast their 19..... aside to get a good story, and you cannot even 20..... to the Internet without seeing something shocking or unacceptable. 21.....
argue that they are just giving people what they want, but in my opinion, people should not always *get* what they want.

Many argue that the government should impose stricter
22..... to prevent such things happening. But others argue that 23..... is the keystone of a free country. Personally, I take the view that while the media may occasionally abuse its position of power, the benefits greatly outweigh the disadvantages.

Our lives would be much emptier without the wealth of information available to us today, and we are better people as a result.

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