

Document 1

Pour l'analyse des graphiques et la traduction des données chiffrées dans les thèmes Mines Ponts voir le document « Visual Aid Commentary »

TIP : if you have time, write complete sentences that you could use directly in the synthèse later on.

Identify two or even three (or more) different ways of interpreting the graphs: you will need to mention the visual document in all three parts of your synthèse!

I have written many; this is not realistic!

Two graphs from two surveys conducted by two major polling organisations about (declining) trust in the media.

• Both diagrams indicate / highlight the steady overall decrease / fall in trust in the media over two decades and the sharper / substantial one over the past five years.

• (As may be noticed in the **first diagram**.) confidence in mainstream “traditional” media (in the accuracy of the news in mainstream media) remained steady until the years 2000s and has been declining ever since. (There was a first marked drop in 1994: due to the realisation that the media had bought and spread the U.S. government’s story about the WMDs, which had led to the war in Iraq?) The fall appears to have been more significant since 2015 (the Trump effect? Could candidate then president Trump have undermined trust in the media further?)

• The **second set of diagrams** shows / indicates that

- Trust in the reliability of social media (among Internet-using adults / web users) has always been significantly low (only about a third of users trust the information it delivers) and has fallen markedly since the start of the pandemic.
- confidence in the accuracy of local news is quite strong. It has been affected too but not so much.
- what is striking is the stark difference depending on political affiliations: Trust in mainstream media among Republican leaning users has plummeted / dropped

dramatically since D. Trump was elected and more particularly over the past two years.

Document 2

A report / Factual article analysing young people’s shift (cause and impact) to visual content-sharing applications as a source of news.

• FACTS

> young people born in the 1990s and 2000s have completely changed the way they access news: no longer the press but social networks, more precisely photo and video sharing applications

> Recent surveys indicate that 18- to 24-year-olds around the world (in their late teens / early twenties) use Instagram a lot from over 25% in the US to nearly 50% in Argentina

• CAUSE / CONTEXT:

- can’t vote yet and falling trust in mainstream media (worsened by Covid-19 crisis)
- because of political polarisation, news organisations have been disparaged (criticised / denigrated / discredited) >> affected trust
- pandemic and BLM movement boosted need for “instant, first-hand information” > want immediate access to direct information

• THIS RAISES CONCERNS

“This trend isn’t necessarily harmless” :-/ > This trend / phenomenon / evolution could be **harmful** / dangerous / pernicious

- it is **a visual place**. More about sharing memes. Influencing, being popular rather than informing
So source needs to be checked
- anyone can be a content creator. Desire to attract more followers rather than accuracy. Factchecking?
- Vicious circle: it increases political polarisation > less trust in the media
- **social media creates echo chambers** (confirmation bias, cognitive bubbles): *biases reinforced, political beliefs (views) are aligned* because of the algorithms selecting content for users >> *deepening* (increasing / intensifying) political and cultural *rifts* (differences, disagreements, divisions)

• SOLUTIONS?

- “convergence of interests”, “pivotal point” in the relationship between the traditional media and social sharing

Classical and new sources of news are **complementary** > sharing apps help draw attention to neglected / overlooked issues and then traditional media can exert their influence on these topics

- media organisations should improve their offer online (and fight for their independence)

WARNING Being careful is of prime necessity / is crucial

Document 3

• Personal experience of “golden age” of journalism

> Young journalist in NY in the early nineties

Lists major events that marked the period. All key social markers of progressive times

> Clearly states that it was a wonderful era for journalists. Mentions four reasons

- employment in field of journalism was thriving
- still trust in media
- no cable TV nor social media, more recent sources of news
- no online version / websites for biggest news organisations

• Changes since the 1990s – TWO WORRYING EVOLUTIONS

> Uses / resorts to surveys to draw attention to two phenomenons

- fall in number of journalists in written press
- And the dramatic drop in number of local / very local newspapers
- decline in people’s trust in the media

> the public is unaware of this: are deluded

- because of celebrity journalists / More sensational newsreaders and TV stars

- unlimited access to various sources of news >> results in feeling that more news than ever

• WARNING about dangers for democracy

> Necessity to have journalists to process the news, to combat lies

> Founders themselves protected the press in the constitution

Bleak warning / threat at the end

Document 4

Extracts from a thorough enquiry / new analysis / column about how young adults are reshaping the way news is consumed / produced: on social media

• FACTS / PHENOMENON

- More and more politicians depend entirely on how indispensable visual content on social media has become

NOTE: no specific example matters here. They will not be mentioned later nor in the other texts, so they can be left out

- Most young adults in their early 20s get news on social media,

- on visual content sharing apps
- the *packaging* of the news matters more than *content*
- *filtered* by popular social media personalities, with comment
- worldwide phenomenon

>> The number of teenagers reading newspapers has dropped dramatically

>> Nearly all American teenagers have a smartphone; almost half are online continuously

• WHAT IS AT STAKE

- Scorning / mocking young people (can’t vote, can’t consume) is a mistake
- Over 30% of world’s population / their practices foreshadows and **shapes the future!**

- They know they have **power online** / on social media and use it (climate strike / student-led protests)

SO Politicians and the business world should *pay attention* / listen / beware / notice : the way they get and consume news matters

- Take the **example of the Amazon forest fires**: started with a meme on Instagram, then picked up and passed on by celebrities with dozens of millions of followers and ONLY THEN appeared in the mainstream press

NOTE: here one example is developed along two paragraphs to prove a point. If there is space for it, it may be worth mentioning. But not indispensable.

• SOURCE OF CONCERN

- Anyone can create news, not just journalists: a YouTube celebrity with over a million followers has more influence / has a larger audience than all the newspapers combined
= Problem with the SOURCE of the news
- No code of ethics, no need to be objective, to serve *public interest*

Warning: this phenomenon cannot be (simply) ignored

Vocabulary tool box

CONCERN

BE CAREFUL / PAY ATTENTION

WARN ABOUT

Common points:

>> Combined phenomena of **falling trust in the (traditional) media and fast-growing prevalence of social media** and in particular visual content sharing apps as a source of news among the young generations

The three texts (and the graphs obviously) are well documented and cite surveys

>> The three texts express **concern** about these shifts and even warn that unless there is awareness and reaction, society (even democracy, doc 3 could be affected) it could cause major harm.

>> Role of journalists / traditional media must be redefined / must evolve / must be restored

A fairly classical plan seems to impose itself

- >> FACTS and CAUSES (or CONTEXT that accelerated the trend)
- >> RISKS / CAUSE FOR CONCERN
- >> WHAT SHOULD / SHOULDN'T BE DONE

I/ Major shifts in the information environment...

Two trends are highlighted

- Falling trust in the media (all documents, Doc 4)
- New source of information, especially for young people, video-sharing applications such as Instagram (doc 2 and 4)
- Factors behind these trends (doc 1, 2 and 4)

II/ ... are raising concern...

- Visual apps, medium matters more (doc 2 and 4)
- It's more about influencing than informing (three texts)
- News on social media > accentuates polarisation (doc 2 and doc 1)
- Clear warnings (three texts, threat to democracy Dc 4)

III/ ... and shouldn't be ignored

Autres titres

The public's loss of faith in the media: What 's at stake?

New generation, new hazardous source of news

Trust in the media : lost forever?

Social media : a questionable new way to follow the news

(From the written press to visual apps :) A worrying shift in the information environment

The transition of news (from print, television and radio) to digital spaces and, increasingly, to social media have caused huge disruptions in the traditional information industry as this selection highlights. Two sets of graphs from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center and Gallup in June 2021 indicate that trust in the media has (steadily) decreased (over two decades); which, together with the simultaneous contraction in the press industry, is an alarming evolution according to Charles Blow in a July 2021 column for the New York Times. The well-documented article by Katie Bishop from The Guardian in July 2020 examines the potentially dangerous shift to visual content-sharing applications as a source of news among young adults. So does the news analysis published in The Economist in August 2018 which calls for these rapid changes to be addressed. How urgent is it to reassess the trends reshaping the media industry? (137-146)

I/ Major shifts in the information environment...

A combination of two trends is (dramatically) remodelling the media landscape.

> All documents point to the falling trust in the media. As the diagrams show, confidence in mainstream media has been declining over the past two decades; and particularly among young adults as reported by the articles from The Guardian and The Economist. Simultaneously, the written press has undergone a dramatic contraction (depriving entire US regions of a local paper) as Charles Blow explains (in detail).

> Katie Bishop and *The Economist* examine the second major change in the way this generation stays informed: via social media, and more precisely visual content-sharing applications, Instagram mainly (which is fast supplanting other social media around the world).

> The recent events have accelerated the trend: as indicated by the graphs, the fall in trust has been sharper since 2015 and even more since mid-2020; both the Black Lives Matter movement and the pandemic having boosted the desire for immediate access to direct information, Katie Bishop explains. She also suggests, like The Economist, that young (disenfranchised) people have been empowered thanks to social media. (150-152)

II/ ... are raising concern...

(There is growing concern in the face of these rapid shifts /) These rapid shifts cause concern (mainly because of the very nature of these sources of news).

> These sources (/They) are essentially visual, so content may matter less than the medium as The Guardian and The Economist suggest.

> The three journalists worry that anyone can pass on but also *create* news and the more popular (and followed), the more influential, to the detriment of accuracy, both The Guardian's and The Economist's journalists fear, and disregarding (journalistic) ethical standards the latter warns. Star journalists and commentators prevail in mainstream media too, Charles Blow explains. (,creating the illusion that the press is thriving when it's floundering) .

> Katie Bishop also stresses the confirmation bias that social media, because of (the algorithms they rely on) / their algorithms, inevitably exacerbate -thus further intensifying the divides that the second graph clearly reveals: mistrust of media is much more significant among Republicans (/ Republican leaning Americans).

So the three texts issue clear warnings, the New York Times columnist even stating that with one its pillars under threat, democracy could falter.

(134-174)

III/ ... and need to be addressed.

It is therefore necessary (to take stock of /) to face these disruptions / upheavals and to adapt.

> While acknowledging that (a growing number of /) numerous politicians have already understood the tremendous potential of social media, The Economist's journalist warns political and business leaders against wishing the trend away (, as a teenage short-term fad). This article and the Guardian's show how young people have reshaped the news landscape to fit their (expectations and) centres of interest – sometimes shedding light on overlooked issues (as Instagram posts helped do on the Amazon fires *The Economist* explains).

> Yet , without journalists, news is not properly sifted Charles Blow asserts, worrying about their gradual disappearance (and regretting the golden age of journalism). Which is why Katie Bishop calls on traditional media to interact with social networks, to play their part, to adapt online and to preserve their freedom. The second graph indicates that many still trust journalists – they still have a role to play, albeit a different one. (122-154)

TOTAL (543-646)

Quelques remarques supplémentaires

La plupart des erreurs commises dans vos copies sont déjà signalées et expliquées dans les reprises des deux précédents devoirs maison. Je vous demande donc d'en prendre connaissance voire de les recopier pour bien les mémoriser et surtout de reprendre vos erreurs, de les analyser et les corriger. Sinon vous ne progresserez pas et les commettrez de nouveau ! Pas de temps à perdre.

J'ai remis en ligne sur le site Cahier de Prépas le **SURVIVAL KIT** complet.

Attention, vous commettez de nombreuses **fautes d'orthographe**. D'où l'intérêt d'apprendre et de réviser du vocabulaire et de relever les mots les plus courants / utiles au fur et à mesure de la lecture des documents vus en cours ou ailleurs.

- to lose ('loose' [lu:s] est un adjectif signifiant en liberté, échappé / desserré, branlant, mal fixé, qui bouge / en vrac / lâche, ample, trop large)
- to address
- to denounce
- to disappear
- to highlight
- developed / development
- an example
- a breakthrough (sans T)
- even though / although (sans T)
- WHICH!!!
- whether
- to be due to
- another (en un seul mot)
- traditional / personal (un seul n)
- to what extent (avec un T et non un D)
- across (un seul c)

Le vocabulaire devra gagner en précision et en variété, notamment quand vous faites référence aux documents. Vous trouverez **de nombreux exemples dans les corrigés et dans le livret de rentrée p 8.**

Quelques erreurs récurrentes

- '~~to precise~~' n'existe pas > to specify / to clarify / to explain (in detail) / to add ...
- - 'to expose' est un faux ami (= mettre à nu / étaler, exposer dans ce sens-là seulement /révéler, dévoiler)
Utilisez : to explain, to report / to state / to set out
- Vous confondez 'according to' (selon quelqu'un, paroles rapportées) et 'depending on' (selon que l'on fait comme ceci ou comme cela)
- Je rappelle que INFORMATION et NEWS sont des noms indénombrables singuliers