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Activity: Media

Riots

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- analyse how the media represented the 1022 riots.

The clip below shows some BBC coverage of the 2011 riots. Watch the clip and answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUmZGzIhaXw>

1. What events took place on 4 August 2011?
2. What do you learn from the BBC clip about a possible cause of the riots? Why do you think this might have caused the riots?
3. What other factors may have played a part?
4. How would you explain the spread of the riots to other areas of London and other cities?
5. How does the BBC portray (a) the rioters, (b) the victims of the riots, and (c) the police?
6. In what way did Prime Minister David Cameron act as a moral entrepreneur during the riots? (You may find it helpful to read page 37 of your textbook on moral entrepreneurs.)
7. What effect do you think the Prime Minister's intervention might have had on the way suspects were dealt with by the courts?
8. Which of the news values shown in Box 2 on page 28 of your textbook does the clip illustrate?