

Follow up work

-Can you identify the ways in which 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' has influenced other game shows ?

The use of dramatic lighting techniques and music.

-What do contestants do in game shows that they didn't use to?

They now speak more; giving personal information and interacting with the presenter.

-Why do TV producers like to concentrate on the contestants?

It turns contestants into characters, thus making a game show into a mini-soap opera.

-What effect does this focus on the contestants have on the game being played?

This takes the emphasis away from the game, so poorer quality (therefore cheaper) games can be used.

-Has the personality of game show contestants changed? In what way?

They have become generally standardized; more attractive and outgoing.

Now look at the underlined words and try to work out which of these translations corresponds :

gauche, maladroit (awkward)
irrésistible (compelling)
devenir célèbre (strike it big)
compter sur (rely on)
rester solide (remain sound)
accrocher (hook)
intellectuellement stimulant (ici) (challenging)
rester scotché (sit glued)
réciter d'affilée (trot out)
renoncer (à) (forgo)
changement (shift)
l'époque de ... est révolue (gone are of the days of...)

Watching

Have a look at the following Youtube extract: 'The game of death: controversial TV show' and answer these questions :

What is the principal of the show?

The contestants, by answering questions to win money, simultaneously send an electric shock to another contestant. (Even if the show was produced as an experiment and the contestants were actors who did not really receive electric shocks).

What do these numbers refer to? a) 81 b) 240 c) 16 out of 80

- a) 81% of the audience encourage contestants to continue to inflict pain on the 'victim';
- b) The victims were supposedly subjected to 240V electric shocks.
- c) 16 of the 80 contestants refused to continue to shock the 'victims'.

How did the contestants react?

The majority of contestants allowed the 'torture' to continue (although there were exceptions).

What is mob psychology?

It is the tendency to react in a certain way because a large group of people tell you this is the right thing to do.

What is the difference between the 1961 experiment and the reaction caused by the French TV show?

In the 1961 experiment, it was not mob rule, but the idea of a figure of authority who told the guinea pigs that what they were doing was all right.