



In this lesson you will hear part of a radio broadcast about the role of the media in democratic countries. Listen carefully, but first listen to the words and phrases that appear in this recording:

to exercise power - *sprawować władzę*

granted - *udzielony, przyznany*

democratic elections - *demokratyczne wybory*

to spring to mind - *przychodzić na myśl*

the Fourth Estate - *czwarta władza*

clergy - *kler*

nobility - *arystokracja*

to lie behind sth - *stać za czymś, być prawdziwym powodem czegoś*

point of view - *punkt widzenia*

to reveal - *ujawniać*



And now listen to the recording:

- Who's in control of the country?

- Deciding where the true power lies in modern democracies isn't so easy. We can consider several candidates. We can ask whether the individual, who participates in the election of his or her own government, is the real holder of power in society? Or maybe it's the government itself, exercising the power granted to it by democratic elections, which has the real power? Then again, maybe it's business, with its powerful connections and lobby groups, which is in command? These are the candidates that often spring to mind initially when we ask who's in control.

- What about the media?

- As early as the 19th century, social commentators identified the media as yet another group with a great deal of influence. Since those times the media has often been referred to as the Fourth Estate; the First being the clergy and the King or Queen, the Second being the nobility, the Third being made up of the rest, by which I mean the people.

- What do the media do today?

- A simple answer to the question "what is the role of the media in our society today?" is that it is the means by which we receive our news as citizens of a country. Nowadays it's also recognised that the media provides

its audience with entertainment as well as information, in which I include such things as advertising and reviews of films and products.

- It's not so simple, is it? For example, what exactly does the word "news" mean?

- The news is the news, isn't it? Or is it? We might ask ourselves exactly what forces lie behind the things we read and watch. Who decides what's reported and what's not. And why, when we have a great number of newspapers run by people with very different points of view, do we find many of them containing the same stories? The answers to these questions reveal much about the influence of the media on both us as individuals and our governments.



After listening to the recording, answer the following questions. Choose the most appropriate answer according to what you've heard.

1. Which of the following is not mentioned as being a candidate for being in control of the state?
 - a) Banks
 - b) Government
 - c) Individual citizens

2. When was the media identified and named as the Fourth Estate?
 - a) About 100 years ago
 - b) In the 1800s
 - c) Within the last 50 years

3. The author suggests that:
 - a) There are many versions of the news on offer.
 - b) The amount of good news in the media is limited.
 - c) There is a lot of consistency in the different versions of the news.

4. Which sentence best sums up the text?
 - a) It is strongly against the media.
 - b) It raises as many questions as it gives answers.
 - c) It gives one simple answer as to what the media's role is.