**Essay plan: Crime and the Media**

**ITEM B: MEDIA AND CRIME** *Sociological research into the mass media suggests that it may have a negative influence on our behaviour and may in fact cause crime. Some researchers have commented on the way in which the media can cause violent crime as audience members may be tempted to copycat scenes from violent films or those which glamorise a life of crime. Similarly, there is a great deal of pressure towards material consumption that makes individuals more likely to turn to crime if they are unable to achieve these goods in a legitimate way. The media itself can also be a tool for crime, for example with the introduction of the ‘Dark Web’ which allows individuals to engage in criminal activity and transactions undetected, or with the greater potential to commit cybercrimes such as fraud or identity theft. However, not all sociologists would accept that the mass media causes crime, arguing instead that it is due to the nature of society or the social characteristics of the individual.*

***Applying material from Item B and your knowledge,*** ***evaluate the view that the mass media causes crime. (30 marks)***

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Paragraphs in 20 and 30 mark essays:

The Sociology sandwich is exactly the same as the burger idea we use for 10 marker, but it needs you to include more analysis/evaluation (using other studies, theories or methodology) to counter the point you are making. Each paragraph should have the elements of this ‘sandwich’ before you move onto your next point.



**Key areas of the question that you need to address:**

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| What does the question want? |
| **Introduction:** needs to address the debate and define key concepts in the question |
| How could you use the **item** |
| What key concepts will need to be included? |
| Evidence **for the argument** in the question (including named studies) |
| **Counter arguments** to these (including named studies) |
| Conclusion- weigh up the debate: based on the evidence you have presented, does the mass media cause crime? |
| What will be in each of your 4/5 paragraphs?  1.  2.  3.  4.  5. |