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## How free is our freedom of the press?

[listening test questions]

**Author:** Trevor Timm

**Date:** Feb 2016

**Time:** (5.13)

**Level:** \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

### **TED TALK Link:**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/trevor\\_timm\\_how\\_free\\_is\\_our\\_freedom\\_of\\_the\\_press](https://www.ted.com/talks/trevor_timm_how_free_is_our_freedom_of_the_press)

Check these words before listening:

### **Key vocabulary**

1. Archaeology
2. Pulitzer Prize
3. The first Amendment – the press has the right to publish secret information in the public interest
4. NSA – National Security Agency
5. Blueprints
6. Wire tapping
7. A trial
8. CIA – Central Intelligence Agency
9. A whistle-blower
10. A source (someone who gives secret information)
11. Electronic surveillance
12. Prosecution / testify
13. Savvy tech.
14. Financial crisis

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# Student

## TED Talks Comprehension Questions [6 minutes]

**Time:** *Approximately 60 minutes*

### 1. Read the title

- Try to predict the content of lecture
- Write down key terms / ideas
- Check key vocabulary using a dictionary

Try to listen ONLY two times

### Three types of lesson

#### **Lesson#1:** [hard]

1. Listen once – take notes
2. Give 3 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different **colour** pen).
4. Answer questions – set 10-15 minutes to answer.
5. Check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

#### **Lesson #2:** [medium]

1. Listen once – take notes.
2. Answer questions: 10 minutes
3. Listen again – answer the questions as they listen
4. Give yourself 10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
5. Listen again to check answers

#### **Lesson #3:** [easier]

1. Read questions – highlight key terms
2. Listen once and answer questions
3. 3 minutes to tidy notes
4. Listen again answer missed question
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

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# Teacher

## TED Talks Comprehension Questions [6 minutes]

**Aim:** to develop the students' ability to listen to a short 6-minute lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer a range of questions types.

**Lesson Time:** 60 minutes

### Lesson Plan

#### 1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of lecture
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from discussion
- Feed in / check key vocabulary

#### Three types of lesson

##### **Lesson#1:** [hard]

1. Students listen once – take notes
2. Give 3 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Give out questions – set 10-15 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

##### **Lesson #2:** [medium]

1. Students listen once – take notes.
2. Give out questions: Set 10 minutes for students to answer questions from notes
3. Listen again – students answer the questions as they listen
4. Give extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

##### **Lesson #3:** [easy]

1. Give out questions - students have 5-10 minutes to look at questions
2. Students listen and answer questions
3. Give 3 minutes to tidy notes
4. Students listen again – check answers and answer questions missed
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers
6. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

## How free is our freedom of the press? Trevor Timm

[Feb 2016. 5:13min]

### 1. True / False / Not Given (T/F/NG)

i. James Risen writes for NY times.	
ii. In his book he gave evidence that the NSA were listening to phone calls.	
iii. In his book he claims the CIA helped to build a nuclear bomb with Iran.	
iv. Risen was prosecuted for not telling the US government who his source was for the secrets.	
V. The first amendment states that the press can publish secrets.	
Vi. Hundreds of whistle blowers have been protected by the first amendment.	
Vii. Risen went to jail from 2007 to 2015.	

\_\_\_ / 7

### 2. Short answer questions

What 5 electronic surveillance ways did the US Government use to find Risen's source?

<b>i. Phone records</b>
ii.
iii.
iv.
v.

\_\_\_ / 4

### 3. One-word answer

What was the name of the Risen's source / CIA whistleblower?

Jeffrey S _____
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\_\_\_ / 1

### 4. Matching - match the endings

i. President Obama -	A. prosecuted more than all other administrations combined.
ii. Justice department.	B. government considers so much of what it does secret
iii. 9/11.	C. promised to protect whistle blowers
iv. Journalists unable to do their job-	D. government spying on everyone

\_\_\_ / 4

**5. Summary** - New technology?

The press is using new technology to protect their s\_\_\_\_\_. Communication software is now available that is much more s\_\_\_\_\_ - r\_\_\_\_\_ than regular emails or phone calls. For example, one such tool is called S\_\_\_\_\_, an open-source whistleblower submission system. This was created by Aaron Swartz, and is now developed at the F\_\_\_\_\_ of the Press Foundation. Basically you can now go to a news organization's website, upload a document or send information without it being available to the government. The software e\_\_\_\_\_ and stores it on a s\_\_\_\_\_ that only the news organization has access to.

\_\_\_ / 7

**6. Open answer question**

What's the problem with the new technology in the future?

i.

\_\_\_ / 1

**7. Overall summary:**

What do we have to do?

i.

\_\_\_ / 1

Overall score: \_\_\_ / 25

## How free is our freedom of the press? **ANSWERS**

### 1. True / False / Not Given (T/F/NG)

i. James Risen writes for NY times.	T
ii. In his book he gave evidence that the NSA were listening to phone calls.	T
iii. In his book he claims the CIA helped to build a nuclear bomb with Iran. ( <i>'handed over blueprints'(the design) only</i> )	F
iv. Risen was prosecuted for not telling the US government who his source was for the secrets.	F
V. The first amendment states that the press can publish secrets.	T
Vi. Hundreds of whistleblowers have been protected by the first amendment.	NG
Vii. Risen went to jail from 2007 to 2015. ( <i>'lived under the specter of going to federal prison' – there was a possibility he could go, but he didn't</i> )	F

\_\_\_ / 7

### 2. Short answer questions

What 5 electronic surveillance ways did the US Government use to find Risen's source?

<b>i. Phone records</b>
ii. emails
iii. Financial & Banking info
iv. Credit reports
v. Flight records

\_\_\_ / 4

### 3. One-word answer

What was the name of the Risen's source / CIA whistleblower?

Jeffrey <b>Sterling</b>
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\_\_\_ / 1

### 4. Matching - match the endings

i. President Obama -	<b>C.</b> promised to protect whistleblowers,
ii. Justice department.	<b>A.</b> prosecuted more than all other administrations combined.
iii. 9/11.	<b>B.</b> government considers so much of what it does secret
iv. Journalists unable to do their job-	<b>D.</b> government spying on everyone

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### **5. Summary** - New technology?

The press is using new technology to protect their **sources**. Communication software is now available that is much more **surveillance-resistant** than regular emails or phone calls. For example, one such tool is called **SecureDrop**, an open-source whistleblower submission system. This was created by **Aaron Swartz**, and is now developed at the **Freedom** of the Press Foundation. Basically you can now go to a news organization's website, upload a document or send information without it being available to the government. The software **encrypts** and stores it on a **server** that only the news organization has access to.

\_\_\_ / 7

### **6. Open answer question**

What's the problem with the new technology in the future?

- i. Governments all over the world are constantly developing new spying techniques that put us all at risk.

\_\_\_ / 1

### **7. Summary:**

What do we have to do?

- i. it's up to us going forward to make sure to protect all of our rights under the Constitution.

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