



General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2010

General Studies

47601/PM

Unit 1 (Case Study)

Case Study Material

Case Study material on '*The surveillance society; Big Brother is watching you!*'

Instructions

- To be issued to candidates on or after 1 March 2010.
- You may write notes in this copy of the Case Study, but you will **not** be allowed to bring this copy, or any notes you may have made, into the examination.
- You will be given a clean copy of this material at the start of the examination on Thursday 20 May 2010.

Study **all** the information in this booklet.

The surveillance society: Big Brother is watching you!

The information in this booklet comprises the following:

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[- the full document can be found on the following website: http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/practical_application/surveillance_society_full_report_2006.pdf]	

Source 1

Big Brother

The extract that follows is from *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (also known as *1984*) – the novel that introduced the term *Big Brother*. George Orwell's novel was written in 1948 and is about a world where:

- 👁 everyone is watched all of the time
- 👁 the television cannot be turned off – and it watches you!
- 👁 the state has absolute control over everything that people do, say and think
- 👁 the Thought Police can arrest you merely on suspicion
- 👁 Big Brother is watching you.

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.

The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a coloured poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a metre wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine and had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on the way. On each landing, opposite the lift-shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran.

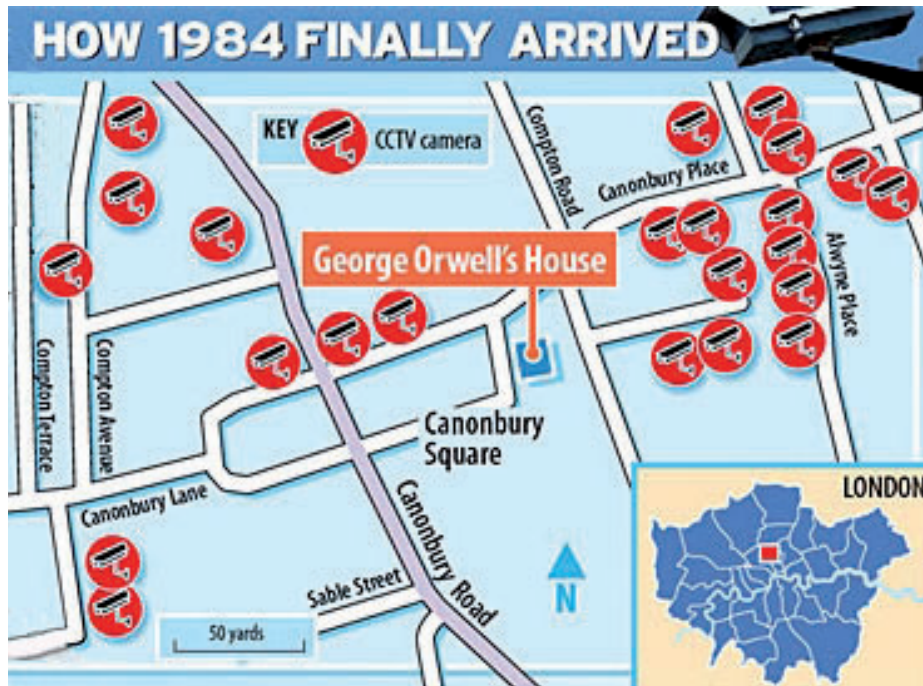
Inside the flat a fruity voice was reading out a list of figures which had something to do with the production of pig-iron. The voice came from an oblong metal plaque like a dulled mirror which formed part of the surface of the right-hand wall. Winston turned a switch and the voice sank somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable. The instrument (the telescreen, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely. He moved over to the window: a smallish, frail figure, the meagreness of his body merely emphasized by the blue overalls which were the uniform of the party. His hair was very fair, his face naturally sanguine, his skin roughened by coarse soap and blunt razor blades and the cold of the winter that had just ended. Outside, even through the shut window-pane, the world looked cold. Down in the street little eddies of wind were whirling dust and torn paper into spirals, and though the sun was shining and the sky a harsh blue, there seemed to be no colour in anything, except the posters that were plastered everywhere. The black-moustachio'd face gazed down from every commanding corner. There was one on the house-front immediately opposite. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption said, while the dark eyes looked deep into Winston's own.

Source: extract from Chapter 1 of the novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, GEORGE ORWELL

Source 2

GEORGE ORWELL, BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOUR HOUSE

The Big Brother nightmare of George Orwell's *1984* has become a reality - in the shadow of the author's former London home. It may have taken a little longer than he predicted, but Orwell's vision of a society where cameras and computers spy on every person's movements is now here.

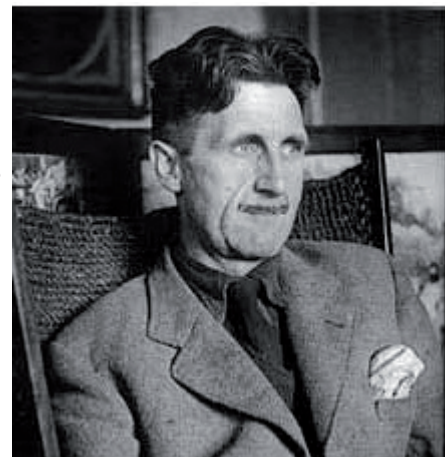


Foresight: The cameras crowd George Orwell's former London home

According to the latest studies, Britain has a staggering 4.2 million CCTV cameras - one for every 14 people in the country - and 20 per cent of cameras globally. It has been calculated that each person is caught on camera an average of 300 times daily. Use of spy cameras in modern-day Britain is now a chilling mirror image of Orwell's fictional world, created in the post-war Forties in a fourth-floor flat overlooking Canonbury Square in Islington, North London.

On the wall outside his former residence - flat number 27B - where Orwell lived until his death in 1950, an historical plaque commemorates the anti-authoritarian author. And within 200 yards of the flat, there are 32 CCTV cameras, scanning every move. Orwell's view of the tree-filled gardens outside the flat is under 24-hour surveillance from two cameras perched on traffic lights. The flat's rear windows are constantly viewed from two more security cameras outside a conference centre in Canonbury Place.

In a lane, just off the square, close to Orwell's favourite pub, the Compton Arms, a camera at the rear of a car dealership records every person entering or leaving the pub.



Within a 200-yard radius of the flat, there are another 28 CCTV cameras, together with hundreds of private, remote-controlled security cameras used to scrutinise visitors to homes, shops and offices. The message is reminiscent of a 1949 poster to mark the launch of Orwell's *1984*: 'Big Brother is Watching You'.

In the Shriji grocery store in Canonbury Place, three cameras focus on every person in the shop. Owner Minesh Amin explained: 'They are for our security and safety. Without them, people would steal from the shop. Although this is a nice area, there are always bad people who cause trouble by stealing.' Three doors away, in the dry-cleaning shop run by Malik Zafar, are another two CCTV cameras. 'I need to know who is coming into my shop,' explained Mr Zafar, who spent £400 on his security system.

This week, the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) produced a report highlighting the astonishing numbers of CCTV cameras in the country and warned how such 'Big Brother tactics' could eventually put lives at risk.

The RAE report warned any security system was 'vulnerable to abuse, including bribery of staff and computer hackers gaining access to it'. One of the report's authors, Professor Nigel Gilbert, claimed the numbers of CCTV cameras now being used is so vast that further installations should be stopped until the need for them is proven.

One fear is a nationwide standard for CCTV cameras which would make it possible for all information gathered by individual cameras to be shared - and accessed by anyone with the means to do so. The RAE report follows a warning by the Government's Information Commissioner Richard Thomas that excessive use of CCTV and other information-gathering was 'creating a climate of suspicion'.

Source: article from www.thisislondon.co.uk, 2007
Photograph, Copyright 2003, george-orwell.org

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Source 3

CCTV cameras for police uniforms **BBC NEWS**

Cutting edge CCTV cameras are being fixed to police uniforms in Tayside to help in the fight against crime.

The force has become the first in Scotland to pin the lightweight devices, which will be used to gather evidence, to body armour or a jacket. The cameras will be trialled in the Perth area before being officially launched in June. During the test period officers will only take images, but the system is also capable of recording sound.

In 2006, Tayside Police became the first in Scotland to fit CCTV cameras to the bikes of patrol officers. Chief Supt Matt Hamilton said: "Fixed CCTV cameras are an integral part of today's society and the benefits of its use have been shown on countless occasions to assist in the capture and conviction of offenders."



"It is vital that we utilise new technology to make sure we are on the cutting edge of crime fighting" – Chief Supt Matt Hamilton

"Body-worn digital recording systems - such as this new camera technology we will be trialling here in Perth - are a way of equipping officers with modern technology to obtain high quality primary evidence, which will assist in the investigation of crime and presentation of cases in court."

“Once the footage has been recorded the officer returns to the station, plugs in the hard drive and, whilst charging, the encrypted images are also downloading to a stand-alone system.”

“It is vital that we utilise new technology to make sure we are on the cutting edge of crime fighting.”

The CCTV cameras were developed by Perth-based SCS Security Design. Managing Director, Paul Gibson, said: “The camera unit is a bespoke product small enough to be worn by a police officer on their body armour or on their jackets.”

“We needed to design a system that was fit for policing purposes and one that would fit the security and encryption requirements.”

The team at SCS Security Design are now working on software that will allow images from the officers’ cameras to be beamed back to the CCTV control room in live time.

Source: article from BBC News website, January 2008
Image from Copyright © 2008 Alamy Ltd.

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Spying Teachers

Turning teachers into spies and snitches



UK schools minister Jim Knight wants teachers to monitor their pupils' every antic *and* the behaviour of their parents. We should give his proposals a big red cross.

By 2010, all secondary schools in England will enable parents to obtain daily class reports on their child's every move at school. Each pupil's attendance, behaviour and academic performance will be put online by 2012, allowing parents to check their progress daily. Apparently, the idea could end parents' evenings, with teachers instead providing daily updates on 'real-time' reporting systems. The schools minister, Jim Knight, insists that the daily reports 'should not add to staff workloads'. One thing is for sure – pupils, teachers and especially parents are all set to lose out by such creeping surveillance.

Although a necessary and useful feature of the school diary, annual school reports on all the pupils you teach are inevitably time-consuming. So how daily school reports on a child's 'achievement, progress, attendance, behaviour and special needs' would not add to a teacher's workload is never properly explained. More worryingly, daily reports could also be used as a further disciplinary threat against teachers in the same way that a failure to keep existing school records already is. The existence of such a scheme will also contribute to classroom disruption, as pupils will be more preoccupied by the content of a daily report than the content of a textbook.

A daily report will also erode further any space that a pupil needs away from the prying eyes of mum and dad. It is only in exceptional circumstances that parents need to be informed by the school about poor behaviour or lack-of-progress issues. A recording of every slightly cheeky comment, minor disruption or wind-up with other pupils will be counterproductive because it will inevitably undermine the development of a good working relationship with teachers. It will also undermine a teacher's authority even further in the classroom, as they will be perceived as babysitters merely keeping an eye on kids for their parents, rather than getting on with the job of teaching knowledge and understanding. And far from creating a climate that develops mature behaviour in children, it is likely to have the opposite effect.

It is a fact of life that adolescents can be obnoxious and mean to teachers and each other. Teenagers only grow out of playground spite when they begin to have an awareness of how their actions impinge on others. That awareness can only develop via the push-and-pull of the classroom and the schoolyard. It cannot be magically switched on via a stern email home. Indeed, school pupils develop a 'conscience' when they're aware they have transgressed the 'acceptable' boundaries that have developed between teachers and among their peers. If every minor action automatically results in a parental ticking off, pupils will never develop the skill to judge how they behave in situations outside the home.

Tucked away in the blather about 'improving parents' access to detailed information about their children', Jim Knight let slip that 'schools could also monitor how often parents checked their child's progress'. The obvious and creepily threatening implication here is that parents must be snooped on by schools in order to check that they're acting as 'responsible' parents. As it happens, the vast majority of parents have an in-built radar regarding whether their children are progressing well or not at school and care deeply about their welfare. When they are concerned, they will simply phone up or visit the school to enquire accordingly.

Already a number of measures are in place that reveal deep contempt for parents. Increasingly, parents have to sign homework sheets to show that they've checked their children's work. And in September 2007, Ed Balls gave head teachers the power to obtain parenting orders forcing them to keep their expelled children indoors and off the streets. A failure to do so could lead to prosecution, a £1,000 fine and a criminal record.

Leaving aside the huge waste of teachers' time and efforts involved in this ridiculous and pernicious measure, it will also socialise future generations to see routine surveillance as normal, while tightly binding parents to the state in ways that might prove impossible to log-off from.

Source: article by NEIL DAVENPORT (a writer and politics lecturer based in London.)
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Source 5**Surveillance in the Future**

The following extract is taken from *A Report on the Surveillance Society* for the Information Commissioner by the Surveillance Studies Network.

This section of the report contains “Glimpses of Life in the Surveillance Society, 2016” and is a projection of some of the ways that current surveillance practices might develop.

It is not a work of absolute fact.

Friendly Flying Eyes in the Sky

Like the border, the shopping centre and school, the wider city of 2016 is at once more under surveillance yet sometimes less obviously so at an immediate glance.

Security has been designed into many of the buildings and surveillance is built into the infrastructure and architecture. Many important state buildings which had been surrounded by concrete barricades after 2001, now appear open once again, but are instead protected by a variety of sensors linked to impenetrable automated barricades that sink into the ground when not immediately needed.

When Ben and Aaron go into the centre of London to join an anti-war protest they are monitored by small remote-controlled spy planes, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). These were introduced for the Olympics of 2012, but instead of being withdrawn afterwards, the ‘success’ of these ‘friendly flying eyes in the sky’ as the government has dubbed them, has been hailed by the Mayor as a reason for their continued general use. People have almost stopped noticing them now.

CCTV is also less noticeable. Smaller cameras are embedded in lampposts at eyelevel and walls, which allow the more efficient operation of the now universal facial recognition systems. Morphing software which combines images from multiple cameras to build a 3-dimensional picture is also being pioneered, although campaigners and lawyers argue it is inaccurate and not a ‘real’ image.

The Unidentified Underclass

After the protest in 2016 Ben and Aaron are stopped by private security employed by the Westminster Business Improvement District. The guards are remotely supervised by police operators via their handheld computers and helmet-mounted microcameras, which scan the two boys. Ironically it is the police and security officers themselves who have been most concerned about the continuous monitoring as it means they are under constant scrutiny and feel they have lost ‘flexibility’ of response.

Ben submits to the usual DNA swab, which is now analysed instantaneously, and hands over his ID card, which is scanned. As the data flicks up on his screen, the officer jokes that it seems ironic that an anti-capitalist like him has just been on holiday in the USA. Ben grimaces politely.

Virtual Tracking

After Ben is let go by the police he heads home to Finchley, but his own handheld computer is now being tracked via the Galileosystem. He is also put on a watchlist for communications monitoring: his ISP has been served an automated RIPA 2 order that all his Internet traffic and e-mail communications are saved and passed to police. As most telephony is now conducted over the Internet, and old landlines are disappearing, this covers all Ben's communications.

One of the consequences of this and the continued 'ownership' of the Internet by US-based companies has been renewed efforts by the Open Source movement, and also by other powerful nations to create 'alternative Internets'. By 2016, these include a much more controlled Chinese language project that now covers much of South-East Asia, several transnational corporate ventures including the 'Googlenet' and many more libertarian and 'transparent' Net projects.

One unforeseen result of the surveillance of Ben's communications is that Ben's younger brother Toby, who occasionally uses Ben's accounts is also drawn into the monitoring. Toby lives a lot of his life online in 2016, in Massively Multiplayer Online Games (MMOGs): virtual worlds that have their own rules and entire alternative economies.

The surveillance society has already spread here too. Players' behaviour in the game is monitored by companies who aim to understand the new opportunities for emerging real-life markets. A whole new class of corporate game player has emerged. These players research the habits of people via their avatars and market both virtual and real products inside and outside these worlds to other players.

Conclusion: The Hall of Mirrors

Whilst surveillance is more pervasive in 2016, citizens, and particularly those educated or wealthy enough to appreciate or afford it, are increasingly aware of it and able to find new ways of negotiating their own personal economy of information. Gareth is signed up to a personal information management service that monitors his 'data shadow' online. This automatically corrects incorrect information held on public and some consumer databases and alerts him to further problems.

The digital divide has grown ever deeper with some condemned to a purgatory of surveillance and an inability to access information. Open Source campaigners have managed to make it far easier to access and change personal information held by the state and private companies working for the state, but this access is one of the many things now made conditional on having an ID card. There is an increasingly uneasy and as yet unresolved stand-off between citizens and the state about who knows what, who owns data and who has the right to change data.

Source: *A Report on the Surveillance Society*, Information Commissioner Officer, September 2006

END OF SOURCES

There is no source material printed on this page