**MIRROR AND TIMES COMPARISON - MODEL ANSWER (NOT COMPLETE)**

Both the Daily Mirror and The Times have represented the reality of ‘Partygate’ in very different ways. As a left-wing paper that claims to ‘stand up for the underdog against authority, the Mirror would be expected to use representation to position the audience into viewing Johnson’s behaviour as reprehensible and unforgiveable. The Times, however, as a right-leaning, broadsheet newspaper, would wish to represent Partygate in a more neutral, less emotive way. This is largely, how the representations are portrayed, although it is possible to see that The Times also reveals subtle reservations about Johnson’s behaviour through their representation, despite their broadly right-wing ideology.

Both papers use images and anchorage to convey their different positions. The Mirror uses a picture of Boris Johnson to represent him as smug and shameless, whereas the Times has a picture of him that represents him more as anxious and embarrassed. The Mirror shows Johnson holding a glass of champagne, an index for partying and celebration and this picture is in binary opposition to a wide shot of a vast team of health workers tending to a very sick patient. This invites comparisons between the pictures: Johnson is irresponsible and self-serving, whereas the health workers are dedicated and altruistic. By way of contrast, the Times uses a picture of Johnson that is a lot less emotive and is not juxtaposed with any other images that anchor the meaning in a particular way. Instead, Johnson looks professional yet anxious, perhaps suggesting that there is some remorse. Unlike the Mirror, the Times is broadly supportive of the Conservative party, which explains the difference in representation suggested by the pictures.

It is a similar story for linguistic codes. The Mirror’s strong left-wing ideology prompts the writers to represent Johnson very negatively indeed through phrases such as ‘zero shame’ and ‘stain on our nation’. The word ‘stain’ suggests something unwanted, disgusting and permanently damaging to our nation. The Times, however, adopts much more neutral and factual language, suggesting that they are representing the situation fairly. The headline is ‘Police investigate PMs four lockdown parties’, which seems neutral, but it is telling that they select the word ‘party’ rather than the government’s own preferred word: ‘gathering’. Subtly, The Times is also representing a negative view of the reality of Partygate, but, for ideological reasons, the paper is unwilling to go to the same lengths as the Mirror. They know that a lot of the readership will admire Boris Johnson, despite the scandal.

**EVALUATE**

* Does it have comparative language? Highlight.
* Does it compare the representations directly, appropriately and regularly? Highlight.
* Is there **detailed** analysis of the right kind? Highlight.
* Is there a clear and sustained line of argument? Could you summarise it in one sentence? E.g this response argues throughout that… (you might find this harder as the line of argument is usually set up in the introduction)
* Where is the theory for the top band? Highlight.
* Can you say what could be improved?
* What wording or phrasing are you going to steal to improve your own expression?
* We’ve had a paragraph on images and a paragraph on linguistic codes. What might the next paragraph compare?