

American University of Rome
New Media MidTerm Exam Study Guide

Your exam will consist of ids, short answer questions like the ones below and a longer essay which will require you to formally organize your answer.

The ids will be primarily taken from your readings and will involve the terminology, concepts and definitions that we have underlined in class.

The short answer questions are direct, straight to the point questions like these below:

1. New Media is often talked of as the result of a process termed ‘convergence’. Please discuss what this notion refers to pointing to at least four processes of convergence that have been both engendered and have characterized so-called ‘new media’.
2. What are the characteristics of new media? Please list at least four and very briefly describe what they entail.
3. Briefly discuss the changes that digitalization has brought to the film industry. Give examples of two areas where the changes have simplified the production process without affecting the nature of the medium itself and one major area which you feel has radically transformed the medium.
4. Describe the changes that TV broadcasting has endured as the medium has moved towards digitized convergence. Speak of both the technical and political transformations.
5. What are the distinctions we make between electronic game *platforms* and electronic game *genres*? List and describe each.

The final essay question will ask you to reflect on the nature of ‘digital converged media’, it’s ‘new’ characteristics with a particular attention to the possibilities it offers for democratic participation and political action.

This will be your long essay.

Three technical features of the internet –packet switching, TCP/IP and hypertext—are responsible for the particular characteristics that the network possesses and which differentiate it radically from traditional/mass media. Please discuss these features and describe what features of the internet they are responsible for. How does the idea of net neutrality play in to these characteristics. What is at stake for the so-called network ethos should net neutrality be called into practical question? Relate your answer to the material you encountered in the documentaries on the Internet, the Net Neutrality documentary and the Marshall, Bolter and Grusin readings.