

INFORMATIONAL TEXT PASSAGES TO ADDRESS THE STANDARD!

Name: _____

INTERACTIONS IN TEXT

Individuals can be influenced by ideas. The outcomes of events are usually influenced by the works and ideas of certain people. It is important to be able to determine the influence of certain individuals on ideas. These influences have played a major role in many of the world's most important inventions. For example, the Wright brothers were influenced by their ideas about the possibility of flight, leading to the invention of the airplane.

Read the following text:

Unlike some inventions, the creation of the television cannot be traced to one person. There were multiple people who felt that it was possible to send images through the air. The radio was their inspiration. The radio, which was a common item in U.S. households by the 1930s, provided a way for sound to be transmitted through the air. Inventors of the television felt confident that images could be transmitted just as sound. It was a hard task to make this idea a reality.

Use the previous paragraph to answer the following questions.

1. What role did the existence of the radio play in the creation of the television?

- A. Inventors working on the creation of the television saw the failure of the radio and wanted to ensure it did not happen with the television.
- B. Inventors working on the creation of the television did not consider the radio during their research and work.
- C. The success of the radio inspired many people to want to create something that was just as successful.
- D. Inventors of the radio felt that images could be transmitted just as sound as images.

Cite specific evidence from the text that supports your answer to

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While the majority of households have at least one television today, this was not always the case. Televisions were very expensive when they first became available. In the early 1940s, the first television sets were about \$400. This amount equaled several months' worth of income for the average person.

Viewing options were quite limited for those who could actually afford to buy a television. The image quality was quite terrible. The picture was often unclear and the signal would frequently stop working during storms. These factors all combined to limit the appeal of television.

Some individuals realized the incredible moneymaking potential that television had and began to make sure that the technology was used to create profitable television shows. In 1936, the first television broadcasting company, National Broadcasting Company, was founded. Its first president, David Sarnoff, was a pioneer in the field. He became the first president to be television. His company was broadcast by NBC. Soon after, NBC began to broadcast sporting events, baseball games, and even showed the first sitcom.

Advancements in the development of television sets and programming slowed down when the United States entered World War II. People switched jobs to help the war effort. Money and resources were redirected towards fighting the war.

1. How did the idea that televisions could be profitable influence their progress?

- A. Companies focused on creating better televisions.

- B. Companies focused on creating programs for televisions.

- C. Companies worked to make televisions more affordable.

- D. Companies worked to advertise televisions.

2. What effect did World War II have on the development of television?

- A. Focus shifted from television to the war effort.

- B. Many people continued to focus on television.

- C. World War II did not have any effect on television.

- D. Televisions became more popular because people wanted to keep up with the news.

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After the end of World War II, television sets became a household name. At one point, televisions were used in public places like schools, hotels, and restaurants. As time went on, television sets became smaller and cheaper. So, televisions were no longer a luxury item only for the very wealthy. Average families began to buy televisions. This quick rise in popularity helped television become a powerful influence on culture in the United States and all over the world.

While televisions were becoming more popular, programming options were what limited. People who owned televisions usually watched the same programs. Households that could afford to own a television usually only had one television. So, the programming was limited. The number of television programs was initially limited, but the number of television programs grew as televisions became more popular.

The first televised presidential debate was between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. It was watched by millions of Americans. The televising of debates changed the democratic process in the United States. The way a candidate looked began to matter more. In the case of the Kennedy and Nixon debate, people that listened to the debate on the radio felt that Nixon won. People who watched the debate on television felt that Kennedy did better.

Cable television changed things for many Americans. Before cable, there were only a handful of broadcasting companies and their programming didn't appeal to everyone. Cable television offered channels and shows that focused on specific interests. Some initial cable channels focused on news, sports, cartoons and cooking. Television was still incredibly influential in the United States, but Americans were no longer all watching the same few programs.

Later, the creation and availability of the internet changed the television experience for many. When the internet first became popular in American homes, it wasn't for entertainment based on television. It was for quick access to information. This led to a change in how people watched television. People began to watch television shows on their computers. Digital streaming services began to change the way that people watched television. Debates were no longer held on television. People began to watch debates and television shows from streaming services. Soon after, televisions that could connect to the internet became popular. Digital streaming services began to offer a wider variety of shows and movies. Many people were able to save money by canceling their expensive cable services and paying for a much cheaper streaming service.

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Choose the best answer for the following questions.

1. What was the effect of the increasing influence of television on American culture?

- A. People did not respect television shows and television became less popular.
- B. More people were able to watch television shows as televisions became more affordable.
- C. People no longer had to go to public places to watch television.
- D. Fewer people watched television shows as televisions became more affordable.

2. What was the effect of the results of the first televised presidential debate?

- A. Presidential candidates had to focus more on their speaking abilities because of the first televised presidential debate.
- B. Presidential candidates realized that participating in the debate was no longer an option.
- C. Presidential candidates had to spend money advertising before upcoming debates.
- D. Presidential candidates had to focus more on their appearance because of the first televised presidential debate.

3. How did the introduction of cable television change the influence television had on American culture?

- A. Americans began to watch less television once cable became available to everyone.
- B. Americans no longer watched the same shows because of the variety of options on cable networks.
- C. Cable networks were never very popular, so they had little effect on the way Americans watched television.
- D. Despite the popularity of cable networks, Americans continued to watch the same channels.

4. What was an important factor in the increase in popularity of cable networks?

- A. Broadcasting companies such as NBC.
- B. The popularity of the internet.
- C. Streaming services that could play television shows.
- D. A lack of quality cable channels.

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