A GREAT INVENTION

The history of television in the UK

At the beginning of the 20th century television didn't exist. In the evenings, people talked and played games. They looked at books. Some people played musical instruments. After 1920, some people listened to the radio. Life was very different.

In the 1930s, there were two hours of television programmes every day in the UK. But most people didn't have a television at home. Television wasn't popular. People preferred the radio.

In 1953, lots of people wanted to buy a television because they wanted to watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Suddenly, television was popular.



In 1967, for the first time, some television programmes were in colour.

In 2000, 96% of homes in the UK had at least one television.

1900

2000

In 1926, a Scottish engineer called John Logie Baird demonstrated the first working television in the UK. The images on the screen were in black and white, and they weren't very clear, but it was an important moment in the development of television technology.



Today, in the 21st century, televisions are bigger and better than in the past. They've got flat screens and the image is very clear. There are many different channels and many different types of programme to watch. We can also watch television programmes on our computers, tablets and smartphones. Some people think we now watch too much television. What do you think?



1 Read and put the events in chronological order.

- ☐ SOME PROGRAMMES WERE IN COLOR FOR THE FIRST TIME.
- ☐ PEOPLE WATCHED THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II.
- ☐ 96% OF HOUSES HAD A TELEVISION.
- ☐ TELEVISIONS DIDN'T EXIST.
- ☐ THERE WERE TWO HOURS OF PROGRAMMES EVERY DAY.
- ☐ A SCOTTISH ENGINEER DEMONSTRATED A TYPE OF TELEVISION.

2 Read the sentences and choose the correct option.

A) - LIFE BEFORE THE INVENTION OF TELEVISION WAS VERY DIFFERENT. PEOPLE ...

TALKED AND PLAYED GAMES | DANCED | CLEANED | COOKED

B) - IN 1926, A SCOTTISH ENGINEER CALLED JOHN LOGIE BAIRD DEMONSTRATED THE FIRST WORKING TELEVISION. IMAGES WERE ...

BRIGHT AND COLORFUL | BLACK AND WHITE, UNCLEAR | BIG | SMALL

C) -IN THE 1930', THERE WERE TWO HOURS OF TELEVISION EVERYDAY BUT PEOPLE STILL...

READ BOOKS | PLAYED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS | LISTENED TO THE RADIO | PAINTED

D) - IN 1953, TELEVISION WAS VERY POPULAR BECAUSE PEOPLE WANTED TO WATCH...

FOOTBALL MATCHES | FILMS | FAMOUS PEOPLE | THE CORONATION OF THE QUEEN.

E) - IN 2000, THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE UK HAD AT LEAST THREE | ONE | TWO | FOUR TELEVISION(S) AT HOME.

F)- TODAY, TELEVISIONS ARE... MORE EXPENSIVE | HEAVIER | BIGGER AND BETTER

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS