

Old Inventions

A. Music Cassette



Music cassettes which inside have a ribbon of magnetic tape were mostly used in cars up until the mid-1990s, and before that in the 1980's with Walkman and at home. You could buy them with music on them, or buy ones and record your own music onto them. These have been replaced by MP3s and CDs.

B. Black and white TV



Early TVs could not show color, and it was not until 1954 that the first color TVs were introduced. They were very expensive, so most people really did not have color TVs until the 1970s. We now have large LCD TVs which are much larger and have a clearer picture.

C. Floppy Disk



The floppy disk was a way of storing and moving computer data. They were very unreliable and could not hold much data. These days they have been replaced with USB sticks and DVDs.

D. Telegraph and Morse code



This technology was developed in about 1837 and was used from the 1850s for at least one hundred years. This technology has been replaced by email and the internet, and before that by the FAX machine.

E. Film camera



The film camera was also developed in the 1830s, from ideas that had been around for hundreds of years before. These days we use digital cameras and smart phones to take pictures, but some people still think film looks better and use film cameras today.

F. Sony Walkman



In the 1980s many people had a Walkman. You could listen to a store bought cassette on it or make your own cassette 'mix' from the radio or from another cassette. These days we use MP3 players or smart phones. 30 years ago people were very excited when they could first walk along and listen to their favorite music.

G. VHS cassette



Similar to Music cassettes in how they worked, but much bigger, VHS cassettes were used for watching movies on your TV with a VHS player called a VCR. There were many rental shops to rent movies, or you could record your favorite TV shows from the TV. These days DVD players have replaced them.

H. Typewriter



Typewriters were invented in the 1830s and were used up until the 1980s, when they were replaced by computers. Many journalists and writers used them, but they are not as convenient as computers.

I. Vinyl record



Dating from around 1890 Vinyl records have tiny grooves and a needle on the record player reads the music. Vinyl records are still used today. Many DJs and music lovers still prefer their sound to a CD or a MP3. Vinyl records come in three common sizes and have three possible speeds.

Answer these questions. Type A – I as your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Which four items were invented in the 1800s?	
2. Which two items use a Magnetic ribbon tape?	
3. Which two items are still popular today?	
4. Which item was very unreliable?	
5. Which two items are used together?	
6. Which item was mostly used in cars?	
7. On which item could you write a book?	
8. Which item has the longest history?	
9. Which item helped people to walk and listen to their favorite music at the same time?	
10. What item comes in three possible sizes?	

