

LIFE ADVANCED-4B-LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Listen to the recording (track 28) and answer the questions

1. According to the presenter, why is it hard to imagine life before the internet?
 - A. People relied too much on traditional media
 - B. We are used to instant access to information online
 - C. Personal communication tools were missing
 - D. Entertainment options were very limited

2. Which invention does Martha Kay mention as once being dismissed?
 - A. The fax machine
 - B. Alexander Graham Bell's telephone
 - C. The radio
 - D. The telegraph

3. Why did a British parliamentary committee in 1878 think the telephone was useless?
 - A. It was too expensive for mass production
 - B. The telegraph already existed
 - C. They thought it was only useful for Americans, not for Britain
 - D. The technology wasn't advanced enough

4. Why, according to Martha, did people in the nineteenth century not foresee the need for a telephone?
 - A. They couldn't afford such a device
 - B. They already had other tools meeting their needs
 - C. They didn't imagine improving long-distance communication
 - D. They lacked the infrastructure to support it

5. How does Martha distinguish between different types of inventions?
 - A. Some meet urgent needs, others make life more convenient
 - B. All are driven by commercial profit
 - C. Some result from accidents, others from research
 - D. Some are resisted, others welcomed immediately

6. Which example does Martha give of an invention that addressed an urgent need?
 - A. Television
 - B. Remote shopping
 - C. Vaccines against infectious diseases
 - D. The internet

7. According to Martha, inventions like television or online shopping were originally designed to:
 - A. Provide community entertainment
 - B. Make life more comfortable and convenient
 - C. Reduce costs for businesses
 - D. Solve economic crises

8. What wrong prediction did *Time* magazine make in the 1960s about the remote control?
 - A. It would be too complicated to use
 - B. It wouldn't encourage people to get off the sofa

- C. It wouldn't be mass-produced
- D. It wouldn't change people's habits

9. Why does Martha say many inventions were initially exclusive to the rich?

- A. There weren't enough workers to produce them
- B. Early research and production costs were very high
- C. Governments restricted access
- D. The general demand wasn't clear yet

10. Which example illustrates how something expensive eventually became common?

- A. The landline telephone
- B. The laptop computer
- C. The mobile phone or personal computer
- D. The radio