

History Quiz, for today's history teachers
by Glenn C. Koenig

Directions: Print a copy of this, take it to a history teacher you know, and see how many questions they can answer without looking anything up. Then, see how many they can answer if they take this quiz "open book" with any current high school history textbook.

The questions below all concern significant historical events that have a direct bearing on life today. The people and events referenced here are at least of equal importance to that of any political, military, or literary figure or event. Use an exam booklet to record your answers.

You have 30 minutes.

1. Who was David Sarnoff? What was his first major idea and was he able to bring it to fruition?
2. What did a little known company by the name of Ampex do that other bigger companies (and even Bing Crosby, the famous singer and actor) fail to do, even after working for years and spending thousands of dollars? For extra credit, one of the team working at Ampex now has an entire technical system named for him. Who is that person?
3. What famous person laid the groundwork for electrocution as a means of capital punishment? Why?
4. What does NTSC stand for? When was it created and why? For extra credit, what's the slang version?
5. What significant electronic computer was built before ENIAC? When and where was it built, what was it used for, why was it destroyed, and what caused it to be omitted from so many history books?
6. Jack Kilby and Robert Noyce both invented the same thing around the same time, without knowing each other. What was it? When did they do it?
7. Dan Bricklin and Robert Frankston worked together in Arlington, Massachusetts to develop something. What was it? Give at least one major impact it had at the time.
8. What did Chester Carlson do?
9. Who was Herman Hollerith? What's the current name of the company he started?
10. Who is responsible for the scrambled arrangement of letters on today's computer keyboards? Why is that the arrangement? For extra credit, who in the 1930s came up with a different arrangement and why isn't it in use today?

Extra credit: Name the three major advances developed by Edwin Howard Armstrong.