Media Literacy: Historical Milestones

Media Literacy · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Who is credited with inventing the movable-type printing press in Europe around 1440?

A) Johannes Gutenberg
B) Leonardo da Vinci
C) Isaac Newton
D) Galileo Galilei

2. What was the name of the first regularly published newspaper in the American colonies, established in 1704?

A) The New York Times
B) The Boston News-Letter
C) The Washington Post
D) The Daily Gazette

3. In which century did the invention of the telegraph revolutionize the speed of news distribution?

A) 16th century
B) 18th century
C) 19th century
D) 20th century

4. What device, patented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, allowed for the transmission of human voice over wires?

A) Radio
B) Television
C) Telegraph
D) Telephone

5. Which medium became the primary source of news and entertainment for families in the 1930s and 1940s?

A) The Internet
B) Radio
C) Social Media
D) Newspaper

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6. Who was the primary inventor of the first practical television system, demonstrated in 1926?

A) John Logie Baird
B) Thomas Edison
C) Nikola Tesla
D) Steve Jobs

7. The 'Yellow Journalism' era of the late 19th century was characterized by what practice?

A) Neutral reporting
B) Exaggerated and sensationalized headlines
C) Strict fact-checking
D) Scientific journalism

8. What was the first mass-circulated news magazine in the United States, founded in 1923?

A) People
B) Time
C) Forbes
D) National Geographic

9. In what decade did the World Wide Web become publicly available, fundamentally changing how media is accessed?

A) 1960s
B) 1970s
C) 1980s
D) 1990s

10. What term refers to the first widely used electronic mass medium for transmitting moving images with sound?

A) Telegraph
B) Television
C) Radio
D) Cinema

11. The Zenger Trial of 1735 in New York was a landmark case for which media-related right?

A) Freedom of the press
B) Copyright law
C) Electronic privacy
D) Radio broadcasting rights

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12. Which invention in the 1830s made the production of newspapers cheaper and more accessible to the public?

A) Steam-powered printing press
B) Color photography
C) Fiber optics
D) Satellite transmission

13. What is the name of the international news agency founded in 1851 in London to transmit financial information?

A) Reuters
B) Associated Press
C) CNN
D) BBC

14. Before digital media, what was the standard physical format used to record and distribute radio news broadcasts?

A) Vinyl records
B) Magnetic tape
C) Flash drives
D) Floppy disks

15. The first successful transatlantic telegraph cable, completed in 1866, connected which two continents?

A) Asia and Australia
B) Europe and North America
C) Africa and South America
D) Europe and Asia

16. What was the primary function of the 'Penny Press' in the 1830s?

A) To sell high-priced news to elites
B) To provide affordable news to the general public
C) To print only government decrees
D) To publish only books

17. In 1938, a famous radio broadcast caused mass panic because listeners believed it was a real news report. What was it?

A) The Declaration of War
B) The War of the Worlds
C) The Moon Landing
D) The Stock Market Crash

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18. Which historical document, ratified in 1791, protects the freedom of the press in the United States?

A) The Magna Carta
B) The Declaration of Independence
C) The First Amendment
D) The Bill of Rights

19. What was the first film to use synchronized dialogue, released in 1927, which changed movie newsreels?

A) The Jazz Singer
B) Metropolis
C) King Kong
D) Citizen Kane

20. The 'Associated Press' (AP) was formed in 1846 primarily to:

A) Share the costs of news gathering
B) Monopolize the radio industry
C) Create movies
D) Sell internet services

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