Know the News: How Television Changed America

Read the article on pp. 14-17, then answer the questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the section “United by Technology” on p. 15?
   A. Color TV sets became popular in the mid-1950s.
   B. Cable TV introduced hundreds of new shows.
   C. TV helped bring Americans together.

2. Which of the following is a key fact that should be included in a summary of the article?
   A. Studies show that few shows are now popular nationwide.
   B. In 1963, news anchor Walter Cronkite reported that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated.
   C. TV has had a huge impact on our society, at times uniting and dividing Americans.
   D. In the mid-1940s, a basic TV set could cost nearly $400.

3. Why does professor Robert Thompson refer to TV as “cultural glue”?
   A. to question whether TV has divided Americans
   B. to emphasize that at one time, watching TV helped unite Americans
   C. to state the best way to repair a broken TV
   D. to explain that TV has made our lives messier

4. By which year did more than one-third of U.S. households have two TVs?

5. What effect did the introduction of cable TV have on television viewership?
   A. It showed live TV events so Americans could experience them together.
   B. It offered more channels, so fewer Americans watched the same shows.
   C. It reduced the number of hours a day Americans spent watching TV.
   D. It let people watch content whenever and wherever they wanted.

6. Which of these statements is an opinion?
   A. By 1956, three big national TV networks were competing for viewers.
   B. TVs are found in almost every home in the United States today.
   C. Cable news shows have had a negative effect on the U.S., worsening political divisions.
   D. The number of scripted shows has continued to grow.

7. How does the graph on p. 15 contribute to the article?
   A. It shows how many Americans tune in to the most popular TV shows.
   B. It shows how the number of original scripted shows has changed over time.
   C. It shows how TV ownership has changed.
   D. It shows how original scripted shows have become more diverse in casting.

8. What does Ella think about her family’s TV viewing habits?
   A. She is concerned that her family is not spending enough time together.
   B. She is worried that her family’s cable bill is getting too expensive.
   C. She is happy that she does not have to watch any shows with her brother.
   D. She is bored with her family’s show selection.

9. How much time on average do Americans currently spend watching TV and videos per day?
   A. 1 hour  B. 3 hours  C. 6 hours  D. 10 hours

10. Why is the show Fresh Off the Boat notable?
    A. It portrayed a divorced father raising three kids.
    B. It helped make it more acceptable for gay people to be open about their sexual orientation.
    C. It was one of the first shows to focus on an unmarried working woman.
    D. It was the first successful U.S. sitcom with an Asian American-led cast.