1936 – 2007

Computing & Internet History Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What did Alan Turing describe in his 1936 paper, and why does it matter?

- (A) A working electronic computer built with vacuum tubes, the direct model for ENIAC
- (B) A network linking distant computers, the first design for the internet
- (C) A theoretical universal machine, the mathematical foundation of modern computers
- (D) A computer chip smaller than a fingernail, the basis of the microprocessor

2. What was ENIAC, built in 1945?

- (A) The first personal computer kit, a small desktop machine sold to hobbyists by mail order
- (B) The first general-purpose electronic computer, a room-sized machine with vacuum tubes
- (C) The first computer network, a system linking universities and research labs
- (D) The first commercially sold microprocessor, a single chip smaller than a fingernail

3. What did the ARPANET's first message in 1969 demonstrate?

- (A) That computers could search billions of web pages in under a second
- (B) That computers in different places could be linked in a network
- (C) That computers could now be made small enough to fit on a desk
- (D) That computers could display pictures, windows, and icons on a screen

4. Why was the microprocessor such a significant invention?

- (A) It ranked web pages by their links, making useful internet searches possible
- (B) It replaced the keyboard with a touchscreen, making the first smartphones possible
- (C) It linked computers in different cities by telephone line, making the first network possible
- (D) It put a computer's processing power on one small chip, making personal computers possible

5. What did Apple's Macintosh bring to ordinary computer buyers in 1984 that changed how people use computers?

- (A) A web browser that could open pages from around the world
- (B) A search engine that ranked pages by the links between them
- (C) A graphical user interface with windows, icons, and a mouse
- (D) A touchscreen that replaced the physical keyboard and the mouse

6. What did Tim Berners-Lee create in 1991, and what made his approach historically significant?

- (A) The first microprocessor, a computer on a chip, which he sold to Intel
- (B) The first search engine, a tool for ranking web pages, which he later sold to Google
- (C) The ARPANET, a network for the military, which he kept secret for years
- (D) The World Wide Web, a system of linked documents, which he gave away for free

7. How did Google solve a problem that was threatening to make the internet less useful?

- (A) It ranked pages by how many other pages linked to them, giving more useful results
- (B) It charged every website a fee to be listed, giving results from paying companies only
- (C) It checked every page for accuracy before listing it, giving only true results
- (D) It hired editors to sort every page by hand, giving a neat directory of topics

8. Why was the iPhone's launch in 2007 a turning point in computing history?

- (A) It put an internet-connected computer in people's pockets and began the smartphone era
- (B) It made the first phone call without wires and began the era of the mobile phone
- (C) It put the first graphical interface with a mouse on desks and began the home PC era
- (D) It sent the first message between two distant computers and began the internet era

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Computing & Internet History Quiz: Answer Key

1. **C** A theoretical universal machine, the mathematical foundation of modern computers

2. **B** The first general-purpose electronic computer, a room-sized machine with vacuum tubes

3. **B** That computers in different places could be linked in a network

4. **D** It put a computer's processing power on one small chip, making personal computers possible

5. **C** A graphical user interface with windows, icons, and a mouse

6. **D** The World Wide Web, a system of linked documents, which he gave away for free

7. **A** It ranked pages by how many other pages linked to them, giving more useful results

8. **A** It put an internet-connected computer in people's pockets and began the smartphone era