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Question: 1

According to the essay, what was the first way that stories were communicated and passed down?

- A. Oral tradition
- B. Printed books
- C. Technology
- D. Hand writing

Answer: A

Explanation:

In paragraph 1, it is stated that oral tradition was the main medium for storytelling before the invention of the printing press.

Question: 2

Which of the following statements is an opinion?

- A. Despite the progression of the Internet, printed media was still very popular in the forms of both fiction and nonfiction books.
- B. Although some people may say that the act of reading is not complete without turning a page, sliding a finger across the screen or pressing a button to read more on the next page is just as satisfying to the reader.
- C. With the invention of the Internet, reliance on books for information quickly changed.
- D. Stories have been a part of the world since the beginning of recorded time.

Answer: B

Explanation:

It is not a fact that "sliding a finger across the screen or pressing a button to read more on the next page is just as satisfying to the reader." Satisfaction is not something universal that can be proven for every reader. This statement is an opinion.

Question: 3

What is a secondary argument the author makes?

- A. Devices such as the iPad or Kindle are better than books because they have multiple uses.
- B. Books are still important to have while waiting for an appointment or taking a flight.
- C. Printed encyclopedias are still used and more convenient than using the Internet

D. With technology, there will soon be no need for stories.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The author makes the argument in paragraph 5 that devices such as the iPad and Kindle are "therefore better than books because they have multiple uses."

Question: 4

What is the author's purpose in writing this essay?

- A. To inform the reader about the history of stories
- B. To persuade the reader about the merits of digital media
- C. To tell the reader an entertaining story
- D. To inform the reader about different types of print media

Answer: B

Explanation:

The author's purpose in writing this essay is to persuade the reader about the merits of digital media. Although author uses history as part of the contextualization of his argument, and uses comparative information to help justify his points, this is more persuasive than informative due to his desire to convince the reader of the change from print to electronic books.

Question: 5

What kind of phrasing indicates the author's purpose?

- A. The author states information in an unbiased way.
- B. The author tells an entertaining story.
- C. The author presents his information in a historical and factual manner.
- D. The author asserts that one option is better than another.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The author's purpose is evidently persuasive because of his use of captivating language when referring to digital media but not with print media. In addition, the author makes assertions that most people have already given up on print media and focuses on ways in which digital media is better. Print media is still very widely used, if not more used than digital books. The author uses some facts mixed in with opinions to make a convincing argument. If the author had used only facts and presented an unbiased argument, this passage could have been informative rather than argumentative. This passage was clearly not written for entertainment, as it does not seek to simply tell a story or use overtly descriptive language.

Question: 6

What is the main reason the author gives for saying that books are going out of use?

- A. Books are too costly to print.
- B. Digital media is more convenient.
- C. Storytellers prefer to keep an oral tradition alive.
- D. People do not like to read as much.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Each of these answer choices have merit, and are possibly true, but the only one given for the reason that books are going out of use is that digital media is more convenient. Books were costly when first made, but the passage gives no evidence of this at the moment. There is also no indication within the text provided that people do not like to read or that people still enjoy listening to stories.

Question: 7

Which of the following was not a reliable and convenient use that the author presents for books?

- A. Relaxing before sleep
- B. Waiting for an appointment
- C. Studying for a test
- D. Enduring a several-hour flight

Answer: C

Explanation:

In paragraph three, the author lists waiting for appointments, enduring flight durations, and relaxing before sleep as common uses for reading books. While studying for a test is a very effective use for books, the author does not list this as one of his points anywhere in the story.

Question: 8

How does the author feel about the change in types of media for storytelling?

- A. The author wants to go back to the oral tradition.
- B. The author embraces change and looks forward to digital print.
- C. The author is uncertain about the change.
- D. The author likes paper books and does not want the way it is to change.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The author's purpose in writing this passage is to convince the reader that digital books are better than printed books. He even ends the passage with words such as "move forward" and an encouragement that "it is only a matter of time before we must say goodbye to the printed past and welcome the digital and electronic future." This language associates the past with print and the future with electronic, which indicates an excitement for the change, as opposed to resisting change.

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