

**Directions:**

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions after each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**. (40 points)

**Text 3**

The pioneers of wireless saw it as a gift to all the people. Sir John Reith said that it would end "isolation of the spirit" and rejoiced: "It does not matter how many thousands may be listening, there is always enough for others...the genius and the fool, the wealthy and the poor listen simultaneously."

Between two great wars this technological innovation built a new kind of national consciousness. Opening this week, a book and exhibition curated by Beatty Rubens at the Bodleian in Oxford records how radio changed everyday life from 1922 to 1939. She draws on letters, diaries and fiction, and a 1939 field notebook of verbatim audience research by Winifred Gill.

There's fun in testimonies of people enjoying the sheer newness. A cartoon mocks a group failing to converse because they're all in headphones. People report that broadcast music made workmen whistle new tunes. A woman says there have been fewer street fights since the arrival of the wireless but also less stopping and "talking on the brush handle".

By and large the wireless was welcome. I loved the man from the Thirties research who found that wireless suddenly offered "a lot of variety...things I thought I'd never be interested in...ice hockey perhaps". True: for more than 80 pre-digital years, linear speech broadcasting brought the gift of serendipity, random enlivening of a car journey or dull manual task. In my own book about radio I recorded how, on one drive: "I caught up with the news, learnt some 17th-century history, and was startlingly educated by an unpretentious programme on the history of the stethoscope."

But radio's enriching serendipity is ebbing. With multiple networks and countless podcasts, a smartphone user selects what to hear and when. And while it is wonderful to take a walk with anything in your headphones, infinite choice encourages us to shrink into niche interests and sympathetic beliefs.

A hundred years on from Marconi and Reith, is the art of mere listening endangered? Some will say the audiobook boom revives it, though I suppose you can then worry about the decline of reading. But inventions shape all of us and it is worth noticing when techno-social habits do change, and asking whether to control them a bit or shield the youngest. Whatever we do, innovation will happen. Today we fret about the isolating culture of smartphone-staring and selfie-vanity, but already in 1939 there was that lady regretting how, when all her street got wirelesses, it lost the neighbourly habit of "talking on the brush handle". It's enough to make a person put down the smartphone and go out front with a yard broom.

31. What can be learnt about wireless from Sir John Reith?

- [ A ] It was accessible to everyone.
- [ B ] It improved interpersonal relations.
- [ C ] It was a miracle of human ingenuity.
- [ D ] It led to a new era of isolating culture.

32. What is the theme of the exhibition at the Bodleian in Oxford?
- [ A ] The impact of radio on its early audience.
  - [ B ] The role of radio in public music education.
  - [ C ] The innovation process of radio technology.
  - [ D ] The eminent pioneers in radio broadcasting.
33. It is indicated in Paragraph 4 that \_\_\_\_
- [ A ] the research on radio used to be inadequate.
  - [ B ] the charm of radio remains in the digital age.
  - [ C ] radio listeners could make unexpected gains.
  - [ D ] radio shows have changed little over the years.
34. The expression "talking on the brush handle" in Paragraphs 3 and 6 refers to the act of \_\_\_\_
- [ A ] making a loud noise.
  - [ B ] having a casual chat.
  - [ C ] starting a trivial quarrel.
  - [ D ] humming a popular song.
35. In the last paragraph, the author intends to express the opinion that \_\_\_\_
- [ A ] technology should be aimed at benefiting humans.
  - [ B ] actions should be taken to revive the art of listening.
  - [ C ] adolescents should form healthy social media habits.
  - [ D ] people should adopt a sensible attitude to innovations.