

IEEE Johnstown – Analog to Digital Television Transition Trivia Challenge

Technical Questions:

1. What two devices were used by the “camera” in mechanical televisions?

2. How many **visible** scan lines of resolution are defined by the NTSC standard?

3. How is sound information transmitted in an NTSC standard broadcast?

4. What television technology offers the darkest “black” value, CRT, LCD, rear projection, or plasma?

5. What is the full (maximum) resolution specified by the ATSC standard?

General Questions:

1. What was the first mechanical television?

2. Where was the first demonstration of an all-electronic television system given?

3. What was the primary technology used in television camera tubes from 1931 through 1946?

4. In what year did Pennsylvania get its first commercially licensed television station?

5. When was the first live, national broadcast in the United States?

6. When was the first plasma television display described?

1935 – 1950:

1. What was the first television station in the United States?

2. In what year were the first commercial licenses for television granted by the FCC?

3. What was NBC’s first regularly scheduled broadcast?

4. In what year did the FCC adopt the NTSC standard?

5. What was the first magazine dedicated to the medium of television?

1951 – 1965:

1. How many television sets were there in the US by June of 1951?

2. What television show premiered on October 15, 1951?

3. What television show premiered on October 4, 1957?

4. In what year did RCA finally make a profit (relative to research and development costs) on its color television sets?

5. In what year did RCA sell its 20 millionth color television set?

6. What year was the first time that greater 90% or greater of US households owned at least one television set?

7. In what year was the first coast-to-coast broadcast in color?

8. Which manufacturer was the first to create an NTSC-color compatible television?

9. Which television show began its 20 year run in 1955?

1966 – 1980:

1. In what year did all three networks first broadcast full color prime-time lineups?

2. When was the first year in which sales of color television sets exceeded sales of black and white television sets in the United States?

3. Which popular television show had the lyrics removed from its title song due to concerns over its name of “Suicide is Painless”?

4. What television show ran for 8 years before being renamed “Archie Bunker’s Place” in 1979?

5. Which animation studio became synonymous with Saturday morning cartoons in the early 1960s before introducing their most popular and enduring show in 1969, about a group of teenagers and a talking dog who solved crimes together?

1980 – 1995:

1. Which television show premiered in 1984 and holds the record for the longest run at number one in the Nielsen ratings, holding the top spot for five consecutive years?

2. Which long-running television show made the leap from the Tracy Ullman Show to prime time in 1989?

3. What fan-favorite show was originally titled “Insomnia Café” and first aired on September 22, 1994?

4. What television show gained fame for, amongst other things, always having the Superman logo on the show at least once per episode?

5. Which television show spin-off of “Perfect Strangers” became most popular for a character originally intended to be a guest star, and was aired for nine seasons?

1995 – Present:

1. When is the deadline for the ATSC standard to replace the NTSC standard for US broadcasts?

2. What event dominated the US airwaves and news reporting for 1995?

3. What is the most-watched show on television?

4. What is the most-watched scripted show on television?

5. How many national broadcast networks are there in the United States?
