

Final Exam

- [A] How does television affect our lives? It can be very helpful to people who carefully choose the shows that they watch. Television can increase our knowledge of the outside world; there are high-quality programs that help us understand many fields of study: science, medicine, the arts, and so on. Moreover, television benefits very old people who can't often leave the house, as well as patients in hospitals. It also offers nonnative speakers the advantage of daily informal language practice; they can increase their vocabulary and practice listening.
- [B] On the other hand, there are several serious disadvantages to television. Of course, it provides us with a pleasant way to relax and spend our free time, but in some countries, people watch the "boob tube" for an average of six hours or more a day. Many children stare at a t.v. screen for more hours each day than they do anything else, including studying and sleeping. It's clear that the tube has a powerful influence on their lives and that its influence is often negative.
- [C] Recent studies show that after only thirty seconds of t.v., a person's brain "relaxes" the same way that it does just before the person falls asleep. Another effect of television on the human brain is that it seems to cause poor concentration. Children who view a lot of t.v. can often concentrate on a subject for only fifteen to twenty minutes; they can pay attention only for the amount of time between commercials!
- [D] Another disadvantage is that t.v. often causes people to become dissatisfied with their own lives. Real life does not seem as exciting to these people as the lives of actors on the screen. To many people, t.v. becomes more real than reality, and their own lives seem boring. Also, many people get upset or depressed when they can't solve problems in real life as quickly as t.v. actors seem to. On the screen, actors solve serious problems in a half-hour program or a thirty-second commercial.
- [E] Before a child is fourteen years old, he or she views eleven thousand murders on the tube. He or she begins to believe that there is nothing strange about fights, killings, and other kinds of violence. Many studies show that people become more violent after certain programs. They may even do the things that they saw in a violent show. An example is the effect of the movie *The Deer Hunter*. After it appeared on t.v. in the United States, twenty-nine people tried to kill themselves in a way similar to an event in the film.
- The most negative effect of the "boob tube" might be people's addiction to it. People often feel a strange and powerful need to watch t.v. even when they don't enjoy it.
- [F] Addiction to a t.v. screen is similar to drug or alcohol addiction: people almost never believe they are addicted.

- Explain the meaning of the above underlined words.

1. fields of study: science, medicine, the arts, and so on.
2. offers: gives
3. advantage: benefits
4. influence: effect
5. view: watch