Wikipedia Readings

1. According to the USA Today editorial, "A false Wikipedia 'biography'" by John Seigenthaler, it is legally possible to find out who the 'anonymous' authors of Wikipedia are.
   a) True
   b) False

2. Because anyone may edit the encyclopedia articles on Wikipedia, which of the following is difficult for readers to assess?
   a) the credibility of the information they're reading
   b) the reliability of the information they're reading
   c) the accuracy of the information they're reading
   d) the currency of the information they're reading
   e) all of the above

3. According to librarians and other academics, Wikipedia should NEVER be used as:
   a) a primary source for research
   b) a quick overview of a topic
   c) a starting point for learning more about a topic
   d) a place to explore the relationship between different topics
   e) all of the above

4. Who writes the articles on Wikipedia?
   a) paid professionals
   b) librarians
   c) unpaid volunteers
   d) former journalists
   e) all of the above

5. The New York Times article entitled "Seeing Corporate Fingerprints in Wikipedia Edits" reveals what about Wikipedia articles?
   a) Employees from major corporations like Exxon-Mobil are encouraged to edit articles
   b) It is against the law for employees to anonymously edit articles
   c) The identity of anonymous editors can actually be traced to the organization they work for
   d) It is more trustworthy when an employee anonymously changes an article
   e) Many articles contain blatant advertisements

Nicholas Carr: "*The Shallows,*" Chapter 5: A Medium of the Most General Nature

1) The opening sections of this chapter make reference to what the author calls a "Turning Machine." What does the author mean by this term?
   a. A machine that behaves in a way that is indistinguishable from the way a human behaves.
   b. A calculating machine that can do any mathematical operation, but cannot process text, images, or sound.
   c. A machine that can encode or decode text, but can only deal with text and notably is incapable of even simple arithmetic analysis.
   d. A machine that can be programmed to perform the functions of any other information processing device.

2) The author of this piece asserts that the internet is an exemplary "Turing Machine" because…
   a. It has a universal nature that can accommodate and subsume all of our other information technologies.
   b. It is a technology that appears to benefit us, but has a deeper negative impact on human culture.
   c. It can generate "uncomputable" statements that cannot be proven to be either true or false.
   d. It has taken on a life of its own and "uses" us as much or more than we use it.

3) Though in Alan Turing's time, computing speed was a barrier to rully realizing the potential of the computer as a universal technology, over the past three decades computing speed has increased by how much?
   a. It has doubled every year
   b. It has doubled over the past two years.
   c. It has doubled over the past three years.
   d. It has increased by 99.9%

4) The internet's adoption of the styles of other information technologies for presenting information (i.e. print, audio, and still and moving images)…
   a. Has reenacted the history of the development of these other media technologies, though in a much more condensed time frame.
   b. Occurred immediately and all at once.
   c. Has occurred in the reverse order of the historical development of these other media technologies.
   d. Has left these other media technologies relatively unaffected.

5) Which of the following does the author claim to be a way in which the Net differs from other media technologies?
   a. It is completely unregulated by governments
   b. It is "bi-directional"
   c. It is available to everyone 24 hours a day
   d. None of the above, the Net does not differ in any significant way from other media technologies

6) According to this piece, which of the following groups spends (on average) the highest amount of time online?
   a. North Americans between the ages of 2-11
   b. North Americans in their 20's
   c. Europeans in their 20's
   d. Choices B&C spend approximately the same amount of time online

7) True or False: As internet use has increased, studies have shown that television viewing has decreased.
   a. True
   b. False

8) True or False: As internet use has increased, studies have shown that time spent reading printed media has decreased.
   a. True
   b. False

9) According to the author, as the Net has developed into its current form, traditional forms of media have…
   a. Disappeared completely
   b. Been, for the most part, completely unaffected by the Net's development
   c. Still been used by some, and still have a significant impact on the contemporary culture and economy
   d. Still been used by some, but are losing, or have lost, their economic and cultural force

10) The author seems to claim that one aspect of the style of the Net as a media technology, is the way it encourages users to have a shorter and narrower attention span. Which of the following is NOT given as evidence in support this claim?
   a. Hyperlinks encourage readers to easily navigate away from a text even before they have finished reading it
   b. The searchability of online texts allows us to hone in on only the passages we are looking for, and thus allows us to jump between

multiple digital texts far easier than with printed texts.

    c. The most active users of the Net, and the driving force behind most of its content and style, are young adults- a demographic with a notoriously lower attention span than older media consumers

    d. The combination of multiple media within the same technology creates an environment of constant interruption that prevents users from any sustained focus on a single item.

11) The practice of chopping up media programs into shorter snippets, including isolating songs from albums, articles from newspapers and magazines, and excepts from radio programs is called…

    a. Hacking

    b. Unbundling

    c. Exploding

    d. Web-ifying

12) In response to the dominance of the Net's style of presenting information, in 2009 the magazine *Newsweek*…

    a. Shifted all of its resources away from print, and to its online content

    b. Had to declare bankruptcy, and has stopped publishing

    c. Decided that it could not compete with online media on their terms, adopted a simpler layout with longer articles, and saw its readership *increase* by 20%

    d. Decided that it could not compete with online media on their terms, adopted a simpler layout with longer articles, but also announced a 20% *decrease* in the circulation it guaranteed its advertisers.

New York Times. Nicolas Kristoff: "The Daily Me "

1. What does the Daily Me mean in Kristoff's article?
   a. That we all should write our own newspapers
   b. That the whole world is narcissistic
   c. That with the internet we can all chose what information we want and reject information that we do not like
   d. That newspapers are biased and do not allow objectivity in their writing

2. The main theme in the article centers on what kind of bias?
   a. Reporter bias
   b. News agency bias
   c. Corporate bias
   d. Confirmation/audience bias
   e. None of the above

3. What are the dangers of confirmation bias in the internet age?
   a. Limited view of the news
   b. Not allowing alternative views into our lives
   c. Ignoring the news
   d. Only a and b
   e.
   f. e.   None of the above