**Inventions**

**Think about your home and all the things inside it. Everything was invented by someone. Many things were invented to speed up housework, some were made for our enjoyment and others help us communicate. A few make homes safer, while others make your house cleaner.**

**The Telephone**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In 1849, Italian engineer Antonio Meucci made the first telephone. He came across the idea by accident when he was trying to find a cure for headaches. Meucci believed that headaches could be cured by electricity. During his experiments he found that when the electricity was turned on sound travelled down the wires he was using. Meucci discovered that a pair of small cones joined together by wires made a basic telephone.  Soon after, a very similar invention was produced by a man called Alexander Graham Bell. Sadly, Meucci was unable to prove that his telephone was the first and he failed to make any money for all his hard work. |  |

**The Vacuum Cleaner**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | At the beginning of the 20th century cleaning a carpet meant lifting it from the floor, carrying it outside and beating it until all the dust fell out. It was hard, dirty work. Surely there was an easier, cleaner way of cleaning?  Hubert Booth, a British engineer, went to watch an inventor demonstrating a cleaning machine that blew dust from the seats of railway carriages. It certainly worked! The jet of air blew dust from the cushions – into the faces of everyone watching!  Booth thought that it would be even more useful if the machine sucked the dirt up, rather than just blowing it to another place. So he put a handkerchief on a chair cushion. Pressing his mouth against it, he took a deep breath and breathed in a lungful of dust. Once he had stopped coughing he turned the handkerchief over. On the back was a dark ring of dirt where his mouth had been. Using this idea, Booth bought an electric motor and pump and in 1901 built the world’s first vacuum cleaner. | | | |
| **The Toaster**  Charles Strite was so fed up with burnt toast that he invented a pop-up toaster in 1919. This meant you didn’t have to stand around waiting for the bread to toast – you just put it in the toaster and it would pop up when it was ready. | | |  |
|  | | **The Television**  Although the invention of the television was the result of work by many people, Scottish inventor John Logie Baird is thought to be the first person to have produced an image on television.  In 1925, he created a camera which was made up of a jumble of lenses, spinning cardboard discs and electric motors. He pointed it at the head of a dummy called ‘Stooky Bill’. Amazingly, it worked. An image of the dummy appeared on the little screen. | | |

**The Microwave**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| During the Second World War in the 1940s, Percy Spencer, an American, was working on the radar – a machine used to detect enemy aeroplanes. One day, while he was working on this machine, he noticed that a bar of chocolate in his pocket had melted. He immediately realised that the microwaves from the radar machine had heated it.  Spencer sent his assistant to buy some dry corn, and put this right in front of the machine. Switching on the power turned it instantly into popcorn. |  |

Next, Spencer put an egg in front of the machine, flipped the switch and waited. It trembled. It fizzed. Finally it exploded, sending shell and yolk everywhere, including in the face of his assistant!

Spencer designed his invention so that it was like a mini-oven. The first microwave cost the same as an expensive car!

**In the future**

Now that the internet is being used more, people are inventing ‘smart’ machines so that owners can control them by phone. Imagine being able to put some washing on by sending a message to your washing machine. One washing machine, which was made recently, can even call out the engineer when it breaks down!

**Q2.**

1.      Where could all these inventions be used?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

2.      Look at the section about the telephone.

What was Meucci trying to do when he had the idea for the telephone?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Tick **one.** |
| cure headaches |  |
| invent a cleaning machine |  |
| send sound down a wire |  |
| make money |  |

1 mark

3.      Look at the section about the vacuum cleaner.

Cleaning carpets the old way was *hard, dirty work*.

What made it hard work?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

4.      The vacuum cleaner was based on another machine.

What made the vacuum cleaner different to the machine that it was based on?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

5.      Look at the section about the toaster.

What problems did the pop-up toaster solve?

Write **two** things.

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

6.      Look at the paragraph beginning: *Next Spencer put an egg...*

How does the writer make this paragraph exciting?

Give **two** ways.

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

7.      According to the text, how might our machines be controlled in the future?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

8.      In what order do the inventions appear in the text?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Tick **one.** |
| order of importance |  |
| no particular order |  |
| alphabetical order |  |
| chronological order |  |

1 mark

9.      Who invented what?

Fill in the missing information.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Invention** | **Inventor** |
| vacuum cleaner |  |
|  | Charles Strite |
|  | John Logie Baird |
| microwave |  |

2 marks

10.     Which two of the inventions were invented by accident?

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

11.     Where would you expect to find this text about inventions?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Tick **one.** |
| in a diary |  |
| in a story book |  |
| in a non-fiction book |  |
| in an atlas |  |

1 mark

Mark schemes

**Q2.**

1.       Award **1 mark** for reference to the home / in the house.

**Also accept** references to specific rooms in the house, eg:

•        in the kitchen.

**1 mark**

2.       Award **1 mark** for the correct box ticked.

cure headaches



invent a cleaning machine



send sound down a wire



make money



**1 mark**

3.       Award **1 mark** for references to either of the following:

♦        lifting / carrying / removing (the carpets), eg:

*•        because you had to carry it outside*

*•        because the carpet might have been heavy.*

♦        beating (the carpets), eg:

*•        they had to bang it*

*•        they had to beat it until all the dust came out.*

**1 mark**

4.       Award **1 mark** for reference to the machine sucking the dust up rather than just blowing it away.

**1 mark**

5.       Award **1 mark** for each of the following, up to a maximum of **2 marks**:

♦        A references to burning toast, eg:

*•        you will not have burned toast*

♦        references to waiting, eg

•        *you did not have to stand around.*

**Do not accept** it would pop up when it was ready.

**up to 2 marks**

6.       Award **1 mark** for any of the following, up to a maximum of **2 marks**:

♦        use of short sentences build tension / suggest something is about to happen

♦        use of specific words to create excitement, eg: *(It) trembled / (It) fizzed / (Finally it) exploded*

♦        use of the exclamation mark

**up to 2 marks**

7.       Award **1 mark** for reference to use of a phone / internet / message

**1 mark**

8.       Award **1 mark** for correct box ticked.

order of importance



no particular order



alphabetical order



chronological order



**1 mark**

9.       Award **2 marks** for all four correct.  
Award **1 mark** for two or three correct.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Invention** | **Inventor** |
| *vacuum cleaner* | **Hubert and / or Booth** |
| **toaster** | *Charles Strite* |
| **television / TV** | *John Logie Baird* |
| *microwave* | **Percy and / or Spencer** |

**up to 2 marks**

10.     Award **1 mark** for each of the following, up to a maximum of **2 marks**:

♦        (tele)phone

♦        microwave.

**up to 2 marks**

11.     Award **1 mark** for the correct box ticked.

in a diary



in a story book



in a non-fiction book



in an atlas



**1 mark**