

**PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (70 points)**

Read the newsletter below and then answer questions 1-7.

NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME  
WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Dear Readers,

As you know, every year the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) adds a new name to its list of American inventors who have changed our lives. And once again we are asking the public to choose the inventor who most deserves this honor. Here are  
5 this year's candidates:

**Garrett Morgan: Traffic lights**

Manual traffic signs, showing "stop" or "go," have been used since 1868. They controlled the traffic well enough until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. But then cars started clogging city streets, and it soon became clear that something more effective was  
10 needed. To solve the problem, Morgan invented an automatic traffic light, with three signals – "stop," "go" and "caution." In 1923 he sold his invention to General Electric for \$40,000. Eighty-five years later, it is still controlling traffic around the world.

**Clarence Birdseye: Frozen foods**

In 1912, on a trip to northern Canada, Birdseye noticed that local fishermen froze  
15 the fish they caught by packing them in ice. This, the fishermen explained, helped preserve the fish for many months while keeping much of the taste. Birdseye quickly understood the potential benefits of freezing foods before marketing them to stores. After returning home, he invented machinery for fast freezing and began selling frozen foods. His products were soon available all over the world, making him a wealthy  
20 man.

**Douglas Engelbart: The computer mouse**

When Engelbart presented his invention to the public in 1970, it didn't even have a name. Now, nearly 40 years later, it is universally known as the "mouse." Thanks to the mouse, the computer stopped being a machine that could be operated only by  
25 experts. Instead, it has become something that anyone can use. Engelbart himself was modest about his invention, but others immediately saw its great importance. In 1997 he was awarded the Lemelson-MIT Prize of \$500,000, the world's largest cash prize for innovation.

To help you decide which of the candidates to vote for, go to the NIHF website at  
30 [www.invent.org](http://www.invent.org) and read their fascinating life stories.

Please send us your vote by December 10, 2008.

(Adapted from <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/pure-genius-the-inventors-hall-of-fame-785519.html> 22 February 2008)

QUESTIONS (70 points)

Answer questions 1-7 in English according to the newsletter. In questions 1, 3 and 7, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. What is the main purpose of the newsletter?

- (i) To introduce the NIHF to the public.
- (ii) To describe some new inventions.
- (iii) To ask people to vote for an inventor.
- (iv) To present the most famous American inventors.

(8 points)

2. What sequence of events is described in lines 7-12?

Complete the missing information below.

- (1) Traffic was controlled by using manual traffic signs.
- (2) .....
- (3) The manual traffic signs lost their effectiveness.
- (4) .....

(2×8=16 points)

3. The word "This" in line 15 refers to (-).

- (i) the trip to Canada
- (ii) freezing the fish
- (iii) the fishermen's explanation
- (iv) keeping the fish's taste

(8 points)

4. What information is given about both Morgan and Birdseye?

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- ..... i) How they got the ideas for their inventions.
- ..... ii) Why their inventions were hard to produce.
- ..... iii) What problems their inventions caused.
- ..... iv) How long it took to develop their inventions.
- ..... v) How they benefited from their inventions.
- ..... vi) In which countries their inventions are used.

(2×8=16 points)

5. Why was Engelbart's invention so important?

COMPLETE THE ANSWER.

Because of that invention, .....

.....

(8 points)

6. Engelbart probably did not expect to win a prize. Copy a phrase from lines 22-28 that shows this.

ANSWER: .....

(7 points)

7. According to lines 29-30, readers can go to the website to (-).

- (i) join the NIHF
- (ii) get more information
- (iii) make more suggestions
- (iv) write to the inventors

(7 points)

**PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION (30 points)**

Write 100-120 words in English on the following topic.

8. Your school newspaper has asked readers to write on the following topic:

How have inventions influenced our lives?

Write a passage for the newspaper. Choose one or two inventions and describe their influence on your life and / or the lives of others.

You may relate to some or all of the following points:

- Who can benefit from the invention(s).
- 1-2 advantages of the invention(s).
- 1-2 disadvantages of the invention(s).

**NOTE: Do not write about inventions described in the text.**

**בהצלחה!**

Use this page and the next (pages 5-6) for writing a rough draft.