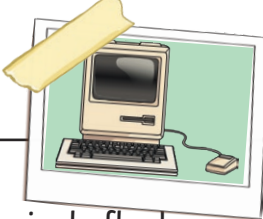


5-for-5 Reading

Test Three



The Evolution of Computers

As your screen pings to life and a wash of vibrant pixels flash across the screen, it is easy to take for granted how commonplace computers have become in our day-to-day lives. From shopping to banking and from learning to relaxing, computers are now a commodity within many homes and workplaces.

Yet, when they were first invented, computers were mechanical and practical. They were programmed with simple yet effective algorithms invented solely for convenience, not entertainment. Most importantly, they were huge and incredibly expensive. Big companies had to dedicate lots of money and space to buying and housing gigantic computing machines.

By the early 1990s and with the Internet now available to the public, computers had become small enough to begin making their way into homes. By the late 2010s, computers were extremely portable, lightning-fast and more affordable than ever. It is almost impossible to imagine life without them.

1

What became available to the public in the early 1990s?

2

It is almost impossible to imagine life without them. This suggests that...

Tick **one**.

computers won't be around forever.

not as many people use computers today.

the technology will not get any more advanced.

computers are an important part of everyday life.

3

Describe **two** ways that the first computers were different to computers in the late 2010s.

1. _____

2. _____

4

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

True False

When they were first invented, computers were small enough to begin making their way into homes.

The first computers were huge and incredibly expensive.

Computers were extremely portable by the late 2010s.

5

Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of the whole text?

Tick **one**.

information about how computers can help people

information about the history of computers

information about the evolution of the Internet

information about home computers