

Questions on Raymond Williams, “The Technology and the Society”

1. How does Williams unpack and criticize the idea that “television has altered our world”?
2. What are “technological determinism” and “symptomatic technology” and why does Williams criticize both terms?
3. Williams marches through a long history of inventions -- what is his point about their relationship to TV?
4. When he says that all technologies were “foreseen” before they were built, what is his point?
5. Why wasn’t TV simply a response to a “social need”?
6. What does his whole discussion of mobility and change have to do with TV and what is “mobile privatisation”?
7. If TV is simply a form of “inferior cinema” why is it so successful?

Questions on Tony Faulkner, “FM”

1. Who was Edwin Howard Armstrong?
2. How was FM radio blocked in 1944 and 1945? By whom? Why?
3. What was RCA’s purpose in the trial against Armstrong? How did they try to accomplish it?
4. What was the outcome of the trial?