Samuel Morse was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1791. He was born to a wealthy family and enjoyed the best things in life. His first career was painting, which he studied both in the United States and in Europe. Morse became interested in the telegraph in 1832. The telegraph was built in 1774. The first telegraph machines required 26 separate wires, one for each letter of the alphabet. Two German engineers invented a five-wire model in 1833. Morse wanted to be the first to reduce the number of wires to one. Morse’s first telegraph device produced a line on ticker tape. The dips in the line had to be de-coded into letters. Morse needed funding to improve on his development and asked the government to help. He was able to convince Congress to give him $30,000 to work on his invention. Morse filed a patent for his work in 1844 and it was granted in 1849. Because of his invention, Western Union was founded in 1851 and the first successful trans-Atlantic cable link was established in 1868. Samuel Morse died in 1872. Even though he did not invent the telegraph, the popularity of the use of the telegraph is a result of Morse’s hard work.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

1. The third paragraph of this article is mainly about _.
   a. Morse’s early life
   b. his first telegraph device
   c. his patent request
   d. none of these
2. Morse _________________.
   a. was born to a wealth family.
   b. was interested in reducing the number of telegraph wires
   c. lived in Italy most of his life
   d. both a and b

3. Who did Morse go to for help with funding?
   a. Georgia Tech University
   b. Michigan State University
   c. United States Congress
   d. Both a and c

4. The first telegraph was invented in ___.
   a. 1872
   b. 1791
   c. 1844
   d. 1774

5. Because of Morse’s work, ____________.
   a. the first trans-Atlantic cable link was established.
   b. the telegraph became more popular.
   c. Western Union was founded in 1851.
   d. all of these

6. Which of the following is NOT true?
   a. Samuel Morse was born in Massachusetts.
   b. Samuel Morse’s first career was painting.
   c. Samuel Morse invented the telegraph in 1774.
   d. Samuel Morse received funding from Congress.