

Slow TV: Would you watch seven hours of knitting?

based on an article by Brand Barstein



- 1 Slow TV – a term used to describe programmes that run for hours without much happening – has become a huge phenomenon in Norway. The first instance of it was a seven-hour train journey between Bergen and Oslo that was televised in 2009. It was viewed by 1.2 million train-loving Norwegians. Its sequel, a 134-hour long broadcast of an arctic cruise liner's journey along the Norwegian coast, became such a hit that emergency rescuers had to use water cannons to fend off attention-seekers following the liner in smaller boats. Since then there have been several more train journeys, a national firewood night (essentially, hours of footage of wood burning) and, most recently, National Knitting Night, in which a sheep was shorn and its wool turned into a jumper over the course of 8.5 hours.
- 2 That these unusual programmes are so well-liked might not come as a surprise to many. To start, seventy-five percent of Norway's population use state channel NRK's services at some point during the day. And when you consider the country's fascination with slow-moving winter sports, it makes sense viewers would be primed for long-form content. For decades it has been commonplace for Norway's largest channel, NRK1, to dedicate up to nine hours every Saturday and Sunday for three consecutive months to cross-country skiing and 10,000m ice skating competitions. Rest assured, there is plenty of 'normal' programming on Norwegian television too: talk shows, reality shows, American sitcoms and Danish crime series.

- 3 Andreas Sagen is a 31-year-old web developer and a self-professed Slow TV fan who watched the 2009 seven-hour train journey twice, once live and in repeat online. He believes that the appeal of Slow TV lies in its simplicity: “It’s just something completely different than the artificiality of most other things on TV. It’s great that the programmes led to a debate and a redefinition of what TV can be. It’s very satisfying to see everything happening in an unhurried, steady manner,” Sagen says.
- 4 Also satisfied is Ina Høj Hinden, a public administrator who is another huge fan of Slow TV. “When I grew up in the 70s, TV was slow,” Hinden says. “In the last few years, the tempo has escalated rapidly and has somewhat saturated the market. 13, it’s nice that some producers are taking the time to make programmes which linger a bit longer. There’s a lot of respect in dedicating so much time to broadcast something like knitting or wood burning.”
- 5 But there’s definitely an element of 14 to it as well. It clearly appeals to a population deeply immersed in the silly nonsense of typically British humour. British sitcoms and variety shows have long been popular in Norway. Besides, repetitive, time-consuming sports like snooker or test-match cricket on British television are arguably forerunners to Slow TV.

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Tekst 5

- 1p 10 How does the writer introduce the phenomenon 'Slow TV' in paragraph 1? by describing what it is and
- A explaining why so many people like it
 - B giving examples that prove its popularity
 - C persuading readers to also watch it
 - D stressing that it is an innovative programme
- 1p 11 Which statement about the Norwegians is true, according to paragraph 2?
- A They are used to watching long sporting events.
 - B They have few television channels to choose from.
 - C They prefer sports programmes over series from the US.
 - D They spend most hours of the day in front of the television.
- 1p 12 Met welk woord verklaart Andreas Sagen in alinea 3 het succes van 'Slow TV'?
- Citeer (= schrijf over uit de tekst) dit woord.*
- 1p 13 Kies bij 13 in alinea 4 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A Besides
 - B However
 - C Therefore
- 1p 14 Kies bij 14 in alinea 5 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A absurdity
 - B boredom
 - C comfort
 - D surprise

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.