

= Idiotest =

Idiotest (a portmanteau of " idiot " and " test " and stylized as Id ! otest) is an American television game show broadcast by Game Show Network (GSN) . Hosted by Ben Gleib , the series features contestants in teams of two competing to answer brain teaser and puzzle questions . The winning team advances to a bonus round for an opportunity to increase their winnings to \$ 10 @, @ 000 . The series was announced at GSN 's upfront presentation in March 2014 ; the first episode premiered on August 12 of that year .

Critical reception for the series has been mixed , with one writer calling it " enjoyable " while another called it " uninteresting . " Additionally , GSN released an online game midway through the first season that allows users to answer questions from the series ' past episodes .

= = Gameplay = =

The main game features two pairs of contestants answering brain teaser questions . In the first round , each team faces two questions , taking the form of a visual puzzle . Contestants can work together and must answer by pointing to the correct answer (or answers depending on what the question is asking them) on the screen . The question is often phrased so that the contestants may be misled if they do not read it correctly (for example , " Touch the largest greenhouse " could be misread as " Touch the largest green house ") The value of the question begins at \$ 300 , with \$ 20 deducted for every second the team takes in answering ; the money begins counting down when the puzzle first appears on the screen . The money stops counting down when the contestants submit an answer on the touchscreen . For all questions , a correct answer earns the remaining money , while a wrong answer or no answer earns nothing . In round two , there are 4 questions with each contestant working alone and cannot confer with their partners . The opening value of the question is \$ 500 , decreasing by \$ 25 each second until an answer is given . In the third round , one contestant from each team faces the same question simultaneously . Contestants have their own money countdown , which starts at \$ 1 @, @ 000 and decreases by \$ 50 per second . The other contestant from each team then faces a more difficult question , with an opening value of \$ 2 @, @ 500 and decreasing by \$ 100 per second . The host usually reads the question to the contestants during this round . After this second question , the team that has more money wins it and plays the bonus round for \$ 10 @, @ 000 . If the game ended in a tie , the team who solves their puzzles the fastest are the winners .

= = = Smart Money Round = = =

In the bonus round , entitled the " Smart Money Round " , each member of the winning team plays the same question individually . While the first contestant is asked the question , the second is isolated offstage so that they cannot see or hear the question . The two teammates have a total of 40 seconds to answer (in seasons 1 and 2 , the time limit was 30 seconds) ; the clock stops when the first contestant submits an answer , and resumes when the second contestant first sees the question . If one team member answers the question correctly , they receive an additional \$ 1 @, @ 000 ; if both answer correctly , their winnings are augmented to \$ 10 @, @ 000 .

Midway through the first season , another version of the " Smart Money Round " was introduced requiring a team to correctly answer five questions in 60 seconds , with five @-@ second penalties for wrong answers . Each correct answer is worth \$ 500 , with five correct answers winning \$ 10 @, @ 000 .

= = = Online version = = =

An online game based on the series was developed for GSN 's website midway through the show 's first season . The game allows online users to answer questions seen on the actual show . Answering a certain amount of questions correctly allows players to level up and face more difficult

questions ; a total of 32 levels are available .

= = Production = =

The show received very little advanced press before it was announced at GSN 's 2014 ? 15 upfront presentation on March 18 , 2014 . At the presentation , GSN revealed plans to order 40 episodes of the series , while confirming August 12 as the premiere date on June 19 , 2014 . On October 28 , 2014 , the show was renewed for a 65 @-@ episode second season , which began airing April 1 , 2015 . The series was renewed for a third season on March 16 , 2016 , with the season premiere airing on April 12 .

The series has also produced some special editions featuring contestants from a preexisting rivalry . These episodes have included competitions between USC and UCLA graduates , as well as an Election Day special between pairs of Democrats and Republicans . This theme was revived with a special episode entitled Political Idiotest , which both taped and aired April 20 , 2016 and featured brain teasers referring to political subjects .

= = Reception = =

The series has received mixed reviews from critics . Carrie Grosvenor of About Entertainment argued the series to be " truly enjoyable to watch " while calling Gleib 's hosting " sarcastic and funny " . Conversely , Tim Conroy of Media Life Magazine argued that the show " just doesn 't do the trick " and thought Gleib had a difficult time " drawing amusing responses from the contestants " . Neil Genzlinger of The New York Times was equally unimpressed , saying that the show had " low ambitions " and arguing that Gleib 's hosting made the show " even more uninteresting " . Paired with the mixed critical reception , the series has seen a wide range of ratings for new episodes , bringing in between 245 @,@ 000 and 561 @,@ 000 total viewers during the first season .

The season two double episode premiere drew 388 @,@ 000 and 360 @,@ 000 viewers respectively .