

DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION: (20 pts)

I/ Choose the right alternative: (2pts)

1) The text is mainly:

- a) argumentative
- b) descriptive
- c) narrative

2) The writer is:

- a) praising the government's economic policy.
- b) warning about the challenge represented by automation.
- c) calling for a compromise between the government and the industrialists.

II/ Answer the following questions with reference to the text :(3pts)

- 1) What are the major jobs at risks of being eliminated by the process of automation?
- 2) Is the writer optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the US? Justify.

III/ Complete the table on the answer sheets with reference to the text about robots' functions :(3pts)

IV/ Complete the sentences on the answer sheets with reference to the text :(3pts)

V/ Indicate whether the following statements are True or False. Justify with details from the text:(3pts)

- 1) In the transportation sector people are highly paid .
- 2) Politicians are ready to change their policy towards automation despite its risks.

VI/ Explain the following sentence in your own words:(1pt)

“There may be new jobs created to oversee and maintain these automated systems, but they will require an entirely different skill set.” (§4)

VII/ Find in the text words having these meanings:(3pts)

- 1) achievements (§2)
- 2) developing gradually (§4)
- 3) something that serves to inflame or incite (§6)

VIII/ What do the underlined words in the text refer to? :(2pts)

- 1) they (§3)
- 2) its (§4)

PART TWO: LANGUAGE: (10pts)

TASK ONE: Choose the right alternative: (5 pts)

Humanity will not survive another 1,000 years on Earth, (1) (**according to / due to / thanks to**) renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. Hawking told the Oxford University Union this week that climate change, artificial intelligence and other existential threats mean we need (2) (**finding / find / to find**) a new planet to live on. “(3) (**But / Although / Despite**) the chance of disaster to planet Earth in a given year may be quite low, it adds up over time, and (4) (**became / become / will become**) a near certainty in the next 1,000 or 10,000 years,” Hawking said. “By that time, we should have spread out into space and to other stars, (5) (**yet / so / however**) a disaster on Earth would not mean the end of the human race.” On a more positive note, Hawking also stated it is a “glorious time to be (6) (**active / lively / alive**) and doing research into theoretical physics,” pointing to how our fundamental understanding of the universe has advanced in his lifetime. “Our picture of the universe (7) (**changed / has changed / will change**) a great deal in the last 50 years and I am happy if I have made a small (8) (**contributing / contribute / contribution**),” Hawking said. “The fact that we humans, who are (9) (**yourself / ourselves / themselves**) mere fundamental particles of nature, have been able to come this close to understanding the laws that govern us and the universe is (10) (**certainly / certainty / certain**) a triumph.”

TASK TWO: Express differently starting as given on the answer sheets (keep the same meaning): (5pts)

- 1) The salesman was helping the customer when the thief came into the store.
- 2) “I was stopped by the police for speeding last week,” Peter told his wife.
- 3) Although he’s young, he’s an outstanding doctor.
- 4) If he doesn’t pay now, we can’t guarantee him a ticket for the football match.
- 5) The famine was very severe. Few people survived.

PART THREE: WRITING: (10pts)

A/ Reordering: (2pts)

- a) But the new study shows that astronauts could suffer from a phenomenon called “space brains”
- b) The American administration reaffirmed its vision to send humans to Mars by 2030.
- c) Indeed, NASA plans to “utilize public-private partnerships to enable humans to live and work in space in a sustainable way.”
- d) during the long trip to Mars, as cosmic radiation bombards their bodies and damages their brain cells.

B/ Essay: (8pts)

It is said that information technology enables people to be more productive at work and learn things better.

Develop this idea in a 15-line essay.

Robots will eliminate 6% of all U.S jobs by 2021

1- By 2021, robots will have eliminated 6% of all jobs in the US, starting with customer service representatives and eventually truck and taxi drivers. That's just one cheery takeaway from a report released by market research company Forrester this week.

2- These robots, or intelligent agents, represent a set of AI-powered systems that can understand human behavior. Current technologies in this field include virtual assistants like Alexa, Cortana, Siri and Google Now as well as chat bots and automated robotic systems. For now, they are quite simple, but over the next five years they will become much better at making decisions on our behalf in more complex scenarios, which will enable mass adoption of breakthroughs like self-driving cars.

3- These robots can be helpful for companies looking to cut costs, but not so good if you're an employee working in a simple-to-automate field. The Inevitable Robot Uprising has already started, with at least 45% of US online adults saying they use at least one of the aforementioned digital concierges. Intelligent agents can access calendars, email accounts, and media viewing history to create a detailed view of any given individual. With this knowledge, virtual agents can provide highly customized assistance, which is valuable to shops or banks trying to deliver better customer service.

4 - In the transportation industry, Uber, Google and Tesla are working on driverless cars, while similar technology is creeping its way into trucking to replace expensive human drivers. It's easy to get dazzled by such innovations, but what happens to the 6%? The call center staff, the taxi drivers and the truckers. There may be new jobs created to oversee and maintain these automated systems, but they will require an entirely different skill set.

5- "Six percent is huge. In an economy that's really not creating regular full-time jobs, the ability of people to easily find new employment is going to diminish. So we will have people wanting to work and struggling to find jobs because the same trends are beginning to occur in other historically richer job creation areas like banking, retail and healthcare," said Andy Stern, the former president of the Service Employees International Union.

6- Studies have shown that higher rates of unemployment are linked to less volunteerism and higher crime. "There is a lot of correlation between unemployment and drug use," said Stern. "Clearly over time, particularly in urban settings, the lack of employment is tinder for lighting a fire of social unrest."

7- The challenge posed by automation is not being taken seriously enough at a policy level, Stern added. "Politicians would rather talk about getting a college degree and technical skill training, things that are probably five to 10 years too late. We don't really have a plan and we don't appreciate how quickly the future is arriving." Does this mean we're all doomed? No. But what level of pain do people have to experience and what level of social unrest has to be created before the government acts?

Adapted from The Guardian, Sep. 13, 2016.