

ProTalk

Discussion Files

C2. The future of artificial intelligence

Afaq Language Center

Language Center

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Goals

- Can read and understand a technical text about artificial intelligence.
- Can make my own predictions about the evolution of artifical intelligence using a range of more sophisticated language.



There is one technological breakthrough which never fails to divide opinion – **artificial intelligence.**

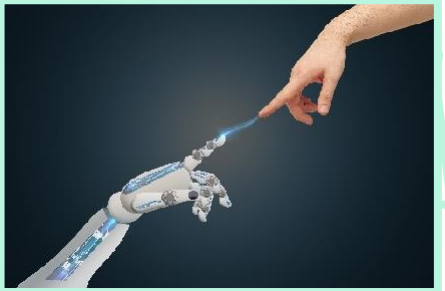
The possibilities for this technology are limitless, and could help us transcend our **human potential**.

Will a **superintelligence** of our own creation spell the **end of humanity** as we know it?

Warm up

Describe what you see in each of the photographs.
What could the link between these pictures be? Talk to the teacher.





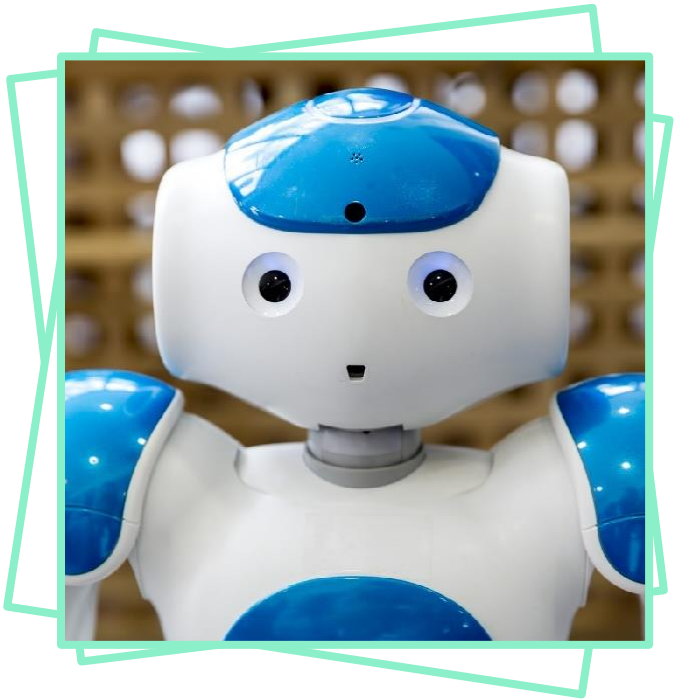




Artificial intelligence

What do you already know about artificial intelligence?

Tell your teacher.



Your experience

Have you used artificial intelligence before?



Read the text and summarize it.

Artificial intelligence



The notion of a rise of intelligent machines has captured the human imagination in recent times, fuelled more by Hollywood productions than scientific reality. It appears as though the scientific community is making momentous progress in the field of intelligent design. Many voices in the debate have made stark warnings about the dangers of **hubris** and the consequences of playing God. **Homo sapiens** seem to be on the **cusp** of some challenging decisions that will directly shape our future.

Read the text and summarize it.

Artificial intelligence

Concerned voices note the possibility for self-learning artificial intelligence to outstrip the abilities of humans, achieving superintelligence**.** Whether this would allow us to unlock our own potential of **latent** intelligence or quickly confine us to history books of the future is the burning question.

Read the text and summarize it.

Artificial intelligence

It is hard to avoid the sense of **inevitability** of computer domination. IBM's Deep Blue computer hit headlines after defeating the reigning world champion at chess in 1997. More recently Google's AI AlphaGo won a total victory over the world's best Go player, a decade before it was predicted to do so. While it is a myth that AI might 'turn evil' and focus on the elimination of humans, there is a justifiable concern that a superintelligence's goals may be **incompatible** with ours. Competence, rather than **malevolence** is the biggest risk**.**



Read the text and summarize it.

Artificial intelligence

Other forecasts for a robot revolution include huge numbers of human jobs being wiped out, making up to 50% of jobs (including **white-collar** professions) being made **redundant**. Automated systems have already begun the process of replacement in assembly lines around the world. Could this enable people across the world to devote their time to leisure, cultivating their hobbies and relationships? It could also deepen the **rift** in equality and further **disenfranchise** those at the bottom of the **socioeconomic** ladder.

Do you know these words from the text? Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

Homo sapiens	The rise of **Homo sapiens** is one of the most amazing journeys in history.
latent	The **latent** dissatisfaction of the company's employees was awoken by their new, inflexible policy.
rift	Disagreements over the best tax policy have caused a large **rift** in the government.
cusp	We are on the **cusp** of a huge discovery – we just need to keep researching.
inevitable	Addressing this problem sooner or later seems somehow **inevitable**.
hubris	Like many successful men, he ended up being a victim of his own **hubris**. (arrogance is a synonym)

Do you know these words from the text? Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

socioeconomic	Those with lower income jobs are at a **socioeconomic** disadvantage.
disenfranchise	Neighbourhoods with no youth services or facilities tend to result in a **disenfranchised** youth population. If we don't give them a voice, how can they speak?
incompatible	It was a great date, but ultimately Suzie and I are **incompatible.**
redundant	His position was made **redundant** after the company invested in those machines.
malevolence	There is a certain **malevolence** in that man's eyes.
white-collar	Technology will even affect **white-collar** industries.

Respond to the questions

What could humans do with the extra time saved from having artificial intelligence labour for us?

How would matters of pay, income and equality be affected by artificial intelligence?

Would a ‘universal income’ be an effective solution?

Would this kind of world actually emerge? Or would it in fact look quite different?

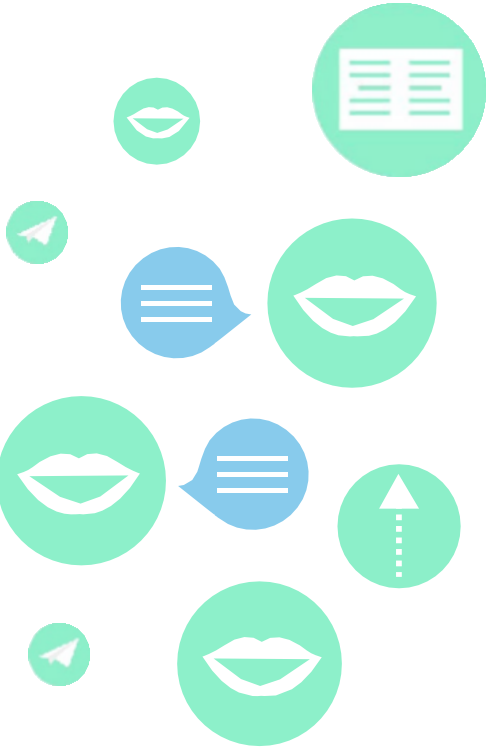
Answer the questions on the quote from the text

Read the quote below and answer these questions:

Tell your teacher what your vision of a 'work free' world would look like.

Is this vision realistic?

> Other forecasts for a robot revolution include huge numbers of human jobs being wiped out...
> Could this enable people across the world to devote their time to leisure, cultivating their hobbies and relationships?

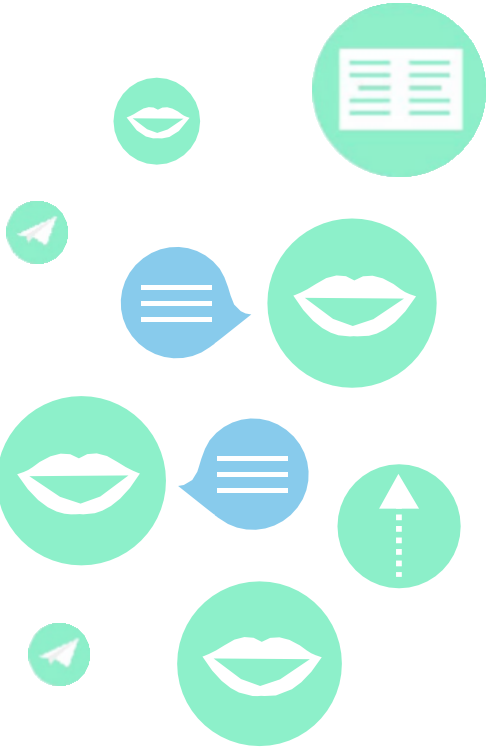


Explain

Read the quote and talk to your teacher about reasons why some leading researchers are extremely worried about the impacts of such a thing occurring.

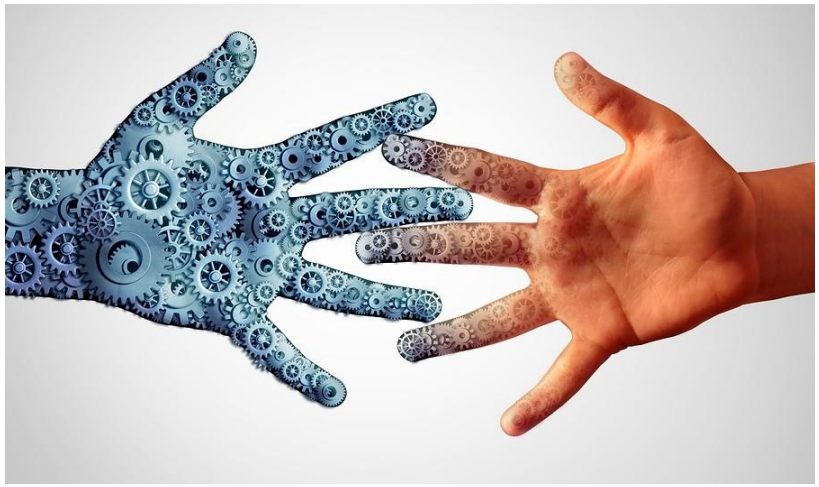
What are some examples of this in popular culture?

> Concerned voices note the possibility for self-learning artificial intelligence to outstrip the abilities of humans, achieving superintelligence.



Technological singularity

Technological singularity is the idea that the invention of artificial intelligence will trigger unconstrained levels of technological growth, ultimately merging humanity with an ever-expanding superintelligence.



Experts predict the possibility of **technological singularity** as soon as 2030.

Evolution of artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence is already here.
Talk to the teacher about the evolution of artificial intelligence using the boxes below as a guide.

Voice assistant technology

Domestic products

Technological singularity – homo sapiens is transformed forever and we become the first animal to ascend to the level of God.

Possibilities of transcendence!

What could we achieve with our almost unlimited powers of foresight and self learning?

Talk about the utopian possibilities of merging humans with computers.

- We could eradicate world hunger...
- Reverse the ecological damage to our planet...
- What else?



Convenient living

How might artificial intelligence help us to live more conveniently?





Other strategies

What are some strategies scientists and developers could implement to ensure a positive future in regards to artificial intelligence?

Use the pictures to help with your ideas.

Do you have any other ideas?



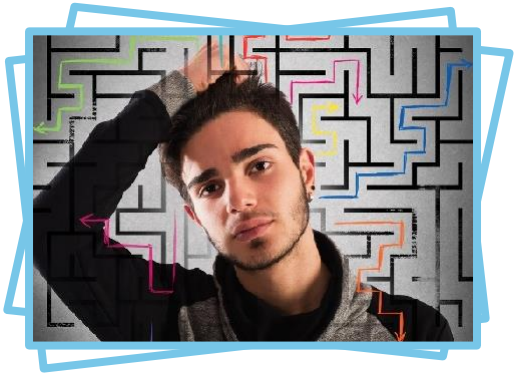
Coding?



Ethics and morality



Common goals with humanity?



???

Opinions on artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence is a topic on which people hold a wide range of opinions. You're at a party and the topic comes up. Respond to each of your friends and then share your opinion.

I use artificial intelligence everyday in my home already. I'm extremely curious about where it will go next.



James



Terrence

Before we get too far ahead of ourselves seeing if we can, we should stop and ask if we should.

It's inevitable – humans will be the first animal to transcend their biological makeup.



Emma



Phoebe

Haven't you seen Terminator? Our hubris will be our undoing!

Thinking about arguments

Read some of the arguments for and against AI development and an AI oriented future below. Add some of your own. Do you agree or disagree with the arguments already given?

1. We have the opportunity to transcend our limits.
2. Our new capabilities would allow us to fix the planet and ensure our survival.
3. The development of AI is going to happen either way – accept it.
4. If we all lose our jobs at the hands of AI, that will be the end of a productive and happy human existance.
5. How can AI possibly have a developed moral compass? We cannot just hand the world we have spent years so carefully crafting over to an intelligence that won't even have the capacity to appreciate it.



Debate

Your friend is extremely worried/excited about the rise of intelligent machines. You have decided its time to have a debate about the topic to change his/her mind.

Pick your side and with the help of the arguments you read, discussed and prepared in the previous activity, make your points.

Thinking about the future

- Use the pictures to talk about how each industry below could be affected by the implementation of artificial intelligence.
- Try to use vocabulary from the lesson!






Presentation

Conduct a risk assessment on the implementation of artificial intelligence technology using the information you have explored in today's lesson.
Prepare a two-minute presentation.
Include several reasons to support your point of view.
Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

Potential benefits	Risks