

LISTENING (time: 20 minutes) – 20 points

Task 1. You will hear a radio podcast about Artificial Intelligence and its impact on society. Listen and choose the correct answer A, B, C, D for questions 1-10. You will hear the recording twice.

1. What is the core idea behind artificial intelligence?

- A - AI is the simulation of human intelligence in machines.
- B - AI is the process of creating machines that look like humans.
- C - AI is the ability of machines to perform any task without human intervention.
- D - AI refers to any software program that runs on a computer.

2. What are the two main types of AI mentioned in the lecture?

- A - Narrow AI and General AI.
- B - Reactive AI and Proactive AI.
- C - Simple AI and Complex AI.
- D - Machine AI and Human AI.

3. What is an example of how AI is used in healthcare?

- A - AI builds hospitals and manages healthcare staff.
- B - AI creates new medications without human involvement.
- C - AI algorithms help diagnose diseases and develop treatment plans.
- D - AI replaces doctors in performing surgeries.

4. How does AI impact education?

- A - It replaces teachers in the classroom.
- B - It reduces the need for textbooks.
- C - It evaluates school performance and grades students.
- D - It provides personalized learning experiences for students.

5. What is one major concern related to AI advancements?

- A - Job displacement in certain sectors.
- B - Lack of interest in AI research.
- C - Increased dependency on electricity.
- D - A decrease in technological innovation.

6. What is a critical ethical consideration in AI development?

- A - Creating AI with human emotions.
- B - Ensuring AI systems are fair and free of bias.
- C - Making AI completely autonomous.
- D - Ensuring AI is smarter than humans.

7. Why are privacy concerns associated with AI?

- A - AI requires personal information to sell products.
- B - AI relies on vast amounts of personal data to function.
- C - AI systems monitor people 24/7.
- D - AI is primarily used for social media data mining.

8. The speaker believes the future of AI is...

- A – dubious;
- B – depend on resources;
- C – thrilling and uncertain;
- D - exciting and predictable.

9. What is the ultimate benefit of using AI responsibly and ethically?

- A - Ensuring AI dominates every industry.
- B - Making humans obsolete in all job roles.
- C - Creating a future that benefits all of society.
- D - Eliminating all human decision-making.

10. The speaker feels...

- A – apprehensive about the impact of AI.
- B – hopeful that people will use AI wisely.
- C – pessimistic.
- D – doubtful that people will use AI to their advantage.

NOW TURN TO LISTENING TASK 2

Task 2. You will hear an extract about the implementation of Artificial Intelligence into business and industry. Listen and complete the sentences (questions 11 – 20) with the words from the extract. Use plural forms where necessary. You will hear the recording twice.

Artificial intelligence, or AI, has quickly come from science fiction to present **11.** _____

It will be difficult for individuals and companies who cling to old mental models to keep

12. _____ with AI-driven changes.

To embrace the competition, leaders must adopt a forward-thinking **13.** _____.

AI is a new tool that automates processes, solves problems and makes **14.** _____ independently.

In the next decade, the use of AI will **15.** _____

AI must **16.** _____ people instead of replacing them.

Giving preference to a human-first approach is **17.** _____ to benefitting from the use of AI.

In the future the **18.** _____ workforce, focused on value creation, will succeed.

To be successful in an **AI**-driven future, we must be brave to **19.** _____ its possibilities, yet careful to manage its **20.** _____.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

Task 1. Read the article about the return of artificial intelligence (AI). Which paragraph contains the following information (questions 1-7)? Use each letter (A-G) only once.

1. the fact of the revival of AI's popularity after the release of the science-fiction film.
2. how AI might have a military impact.
3. the fact that AI brought together a range of separate research areas.
4. the fact that the idea of AI has been attractive since late 60s.
5. how AI could help deal with difficulties related to the amount of information available electronically.
6. the fact that the examples of practical AI implementations include speech recognition and decision support software.
7. the fact that researchers expressed excessive optimism regarding AI in the early 1980.

The Return of Artificial Intelligence

A. After years in the wilderness, the term 'artificial intelligence' (AI) seems poised to make a comeback. AI was big in the 1980s but vanished in the 1990s. It re-entered public consciousness with the release of AI, a movie about a robot boy. This has ignited a public debate about AI, but the term is also being used once more within the computer industry. Researchers, executives and marketing people are now using the expression without irony or inverted commas. And it is not always hype. The term is applied, with some justification, to products that depend on technology that was originally developed by AI researchers. The rehabilitation of the term may have a long way to go, and some firms still prefer to avoid using it. But the fact that others are starting to use it again proves that AI is not seen as an over-ambitious and under-achieving field of research.

B. The field was launched, and the term "artificial intelligence" coined, at a conference in 1956 by a group of researchers that included Marvin Minsky, John McCarthy, Herbert Simon and Alan Newell, all of whom went on to become leading figures in the field. The expression provided an attractive but informative name for a research programme that embraced such previously disparate fields as operations research, cybernetics, logic and computer science. Their common goal was to capture or mimic human abilities using machines. That said, different groups of researchers attacked different problems, from speech recognition to chess playing, in different ways; AI unified the field in name only. But it was a term that captured the public imagination.

C. Most researchers agree that AI peaked around 1985. A public brought up on science-fiction movies and excited by the growing power of computers had high expectations. For years, AI researchers had implied that a breakthrough was just around the corner. Marvin Minsky said in 1967 that within a generation the problem of creating 'artificial intelligence' would be solved. Prototypes of medical-diagnosis programs and speech recognition software seemed to be making progress. However, it proved to be a false dawn. Thinking computers and household robots failed to materialize. "There was undue optimism in the early 1980s," says David Leake, a researcher at Indiana University. "When people realised these were problems, costs were reduced. By the late 1980s, the term AI was being avoided by many researchers, who opted instead to support specific sub-disciplines such as neural networks, agent technology, case-based reasoning, and so on.

D. Ironically, in some ways AI was a victim of its own success. Whenever an apparently ordinary problem was solved, such as building a system that could land an aircraft unattended, the problem was considered not to have been AI. "If it works, it can't be AI," as Dr Leake characterises it. AI came to refer to "blue-sky" research. Researchers joked that AI stood for "almost implemented". Meanwhile, the technologies such as speech recognition, language translation and decision-support software were no longer regarded as AI, even though all three once were part of AI research.

E. But the tide may now be turning, according to Dr Leake. HNC Software of San Diego, backed by a government agency, think that their new approach to artificial intelligence is the most powerful and promising approach ever discovered. HNC claim that their system, based on a cluster of 30 processors, could be used to spot camouflaged vehicles on a battlefield or extract a voice signal from a noisy background - tasks humans can do well, but computers cannot.

F. Another factor that may boost the prospects for AI in the near future is that investors are now looking for firms using clever technology, rather than just a clever business model, to differentiate themselves. In particular, the problem of information overload, made worse by the growth of e-mail and the explosion in the number of webpages, means there are plenty of opportunities for new technologies to help filter and categorise information - classic AI problems. That may mean that more artificial intelligence companies will start to emerge to meet this challenge.

G. The 1969 film, 2001: A Space Odyssey, featured an intelligent computer called HAL 9000. As well as understanding and speaking English, HAL could play chess and even learned to lipread. HAL thus embodied the optimism of the 1960s that intelligent computers would be widespread by 2001. Today individual systems can play chess or transcribe speech. "People are beginning to realise that there are impressive things that these systems can do," says Dr Leake hopefully. Apparently, the general theory of machine intelligence does not seem that elusive.

Task 2. Decide if the sentences (8-15) are True (T), False (F) or Not Stated (NS) according to the text. (TRUE – the statement agrees with the information, FALSE – the statement contradicts the information, NOT STATED – there is no information on this statement)

8. The researchers who launched the field of AI had worked together on other projects in the past.
9. In 1985, AI was at its lowest point.
10. Research into agent technology was more costly than research into neural networks.
11. In the mid-1980s, researchers believed significant advancements in AI were about to happen.
12. Applications of AI have already had a degree of success.
13. The film 2001: A Space Odyssey reflected contemporary ideas about the potential of AI computers.
14. Many researchers continued to identify strongly with the label 'AI' into the late 1980s.
15. HNC Software's new AI system utilizes a single processor for complex tasks.

Task 3. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D to questions 16-18

16. According to researchers, in the late 1980s, there was a feeling that

- A. a general theory of AI would never be developed.
- B. original expectations of AI may not have been justified.
- C. a wide range of applications was close to fruition.
- D. more powerful computers were the key to further progress.

17. In Dr Leake's opinion, the reputation of AI suffered as a result of

- A. changing perceptions.
- B. premature implementation.
- C. poorly planned projects.
- D. commercial pressures.

18. The prospects for AI may benefit from

- A. existing AI applications.
- B. new business models.
- C. orders from Internet-only companies.
- D. new investment priorities.

Task 4. There are two idioms in the text. Find them according to their definitions (questions 19, 20), you should not change the original form of the expression in the text

19. There is a possible change in a situation, fortune or trend (usually for the better).
20. Creative and innovative but having little or no practical and commercial value.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

Task 1. Read the extract from the article on the development of AI in Russia. Fill in the gaps (1 – 5) with one appropriate word.

Artificial intelligence has changed the way humans live and countries interact with one another. **1** _____ Russian President Vladimir Putin commented in 2017 that «artificial intelligence is the future not only of Russia but of the **2** _____ mankind...»

Since **3** _____, Russia has made significant advancements in the sphere. This is largely due to the national AI initiatives that began in 2018, the large and well-funded Russian AI ecosystem that carries **5** _____ those initiatives, and the international cooperation that makes the ecosystem more vibrant. Artificial intelligence in Russia continues to develop and gain more widespread implementation.

Task 2. Read the text about the Skolkovo Foundation. Find the words in the text to match the definitions (6-7) below. Please, do not change the original form of the word.

Skolkovo

Most AI research and development in Russia is funneled through the Skolkovo Foundation. The foundation's campus has become a special economic zone and major institutional site for funding and hosting technology start-ups. It also provides support for young developers and helps integrating start-ups into wider international markets.

Skolkovo has hosted several professional and amateur competitions, trade shows, and conferences that support Russian domestic AI start-ups. These venues are particularly important for inspiring innovation, publishing new research and products, and establishing connections with programs abroad. The foundation also provides domestic infrastructure that many AI start-ups and new platforms rely on.

6	directed to the market to lead the customer through the sales process from the first hearing about a product to buying the product
7	small businesses that have just been launched
8	done for pleasure and not as a job
9	places where large or important events happen
10	to depend on or trust someone or something (2 words)

Task 3. We asked ChatGPT to write a poem on education using the following stylistic devices. Read the poem and find examples of the stylistic devices (questions 11-15) in it. There is one example for each. You may need the definitions.

11. Metaphor – a figure of speech that compares two unrelated things, typically by stating that one thing is another to create vivid imagery or express a complex idea.

12. Antithesis – a literary device that refers to the use of two opposing elements through the parallel grammatical structure.

13. Hyperbole – a literary device that uses extreme exaggeration to create strong emphasis

14. Zeugma – is a figure of speech where a single word, especially a verb or adjective, is applied to two or more words, even though it has a different meaning in each context

15. Litotes – is a form of understatement, where the writer intentionally downplays a statement to emphasize its opposite meaning.

Beware, Tony, Ann or Jake –

It's not a pointless point to make!

It is the rule: no pain – no gain,

A lot of effort brings a grain!

You'll do your homework and your best,

Preparing yourself to rest

On laurels – Fair compromise!

And you will study hard, besides,

You'll long for wisdom, tons of it,

Enjoying every little bit!

Task 4. Artificial intelligence, ChatGPT – are buzzwords of today. A buzzword – is a neologism, new word/expression that has come in use recently. Can you use 5 of the neologisms from the list correctly in sentences 16-20? You do not need to change the words.

Doomscroll, zenware, digital detox, iFinger, catfishing, frenemy, bed rotting, prompting

16. Sometimes I get so exhausted that _____ is the only possible activity to do, I even don't change my pyjamas.
17. Living in the countryside brings unavoidable _____, and even if teens find the whole idea boring, there is a silver lining.
18. Successfully _____ a text-to-image AI model involves much experimentation in how to use words to get the results you want.
19. One of the dark sides of social networks is _____, and, sadly, a lot of people fall for it.
20. _____ is designed to help users find peace and serenity amidst the chaos of the digital world by minimizing unnecessary features and creating a clutter-free interface.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWERT SHEET

Write a review of the story below.

Task 1. Read the story (time for reading - 10 minutes).

“The Fun They Had” by Isaac Azimov

Margie even wrote about it that night in her diary. On the page headed May 17, 2157, she wrote, “Today, Tommy found a real book!”

It was a very old book. Margie’s grandfather once said that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper. They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still. Margie said, “Where did you find it?”

“In my house.” He pointed without looking, because he was busy reading. “In the attic.” “What’s it about?” “School.” Margie was scornful. “School? What’s there to write about school? I hate school.”

Margie always hated school, but now she hated it more than ever. The **mechanical teacher** had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse until her mother had shaken her head sorrowfully and sent for the Inspector, a round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple, then took the teacher apart and, after an hour or so, there it was again, large and black and ugly, with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked.

“So”, she said to Tommy, “Why would anyone write about school?”

Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. “Because it’s not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago.”

Margie was hurt. “Well, I don’t know what kind of school they had all that time ago. Anyway, they had a teacher.” “Sure, they had a teacher, but it wasn’t a regular teacher. It was a man.” “A man? How could a man be a teacher? A man isn’t smart enough.” “Sure, he is. My father knows as much as my teacher.” “He can’t. A man can’t know as much as a teacher. And I wouldn’t want a strange man in my house to teach me.”

Tommy screamed with laughter. “Margie, the teachers didn’t live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there.” “And all the kids learned the same thing?” “Sure, if they were the same age.” “But my mother says a teacher has to **be adjusted** to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid has to be taught differently.” “Just the same they didn’t do it that way then. If you don’t like it, you don’t have to read the book.”

“I didn’t say I didn’t like it,” Margie said quickly. She wanted to read about those funny schools.

Margie went into the schoolroom. It was right next to her bedroom, and the mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It was always on at the same time every day except Saturday and Sunday. The screen was lit up, and it said: “Today’s arithmetic lesson is on the addition of proper fractions. Please insert yesterday’s homework in the proper slot.” Margie was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather’s grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighborhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another on the homework and talk about it. And the teachers were people... Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had

Task 2. Write a review in 200 - 220 words. In your writing

- give a title;
- introduce the name of the story and the author;
- briefly describe the plot avoiding spoilers;
- share your impressions and comment whether you find the plot possible and why;
- say who you advise to read the story and why;

This is the end of all the tasks.