

Integrated Skills: Reading, Speaking and Writing

Title: _____

Date: _____

Student's name: _____



AI: A Double-Edged Sword

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the most controversial technologies today. While some people believe AI can improve many areas of life, others fear its risks and negative effects. AI allows machines to perform tasks that usually require human intelligence, such as learning and reasoning. As its use continues to grow, it is important to examine whether AI is more beneficial or harmful to society.

On one hand, AI's potential benefits are staggering. Imagine AI revolutionizing healthcare, diagnosing diseases accurately, or developing personalized treatments. Think about AI optimizing energy grids, reducing waste, and combating climate change. In education, AI could offer tailored learning experiences, adapting to each student's pace, making knowledge more accessible. It can automate tedious tasks, freeing up humans for creative endeavors. AI tools already assist us, from suggesting songs to helping navigate information.

However, we cannot ignore the considerable challenges AI presents. One immediate concern is job displacement. As AI becomes more capable, many human jobs could be automated, leading to unemployment if we don't prepare. This necessitates a conversation about reskilling the workforce. Furthermore, AI development raises questions about privacy and data security. AI systems need vast data, and how this data is collected and protected is critical. There's also the risk of bias. If training data reflects societal biases, AI can perpetuate inequalities. We've seen AI algorithms show discriminatory tendencies in hiring or loan applications.

Another concern is misuse. Autonomous weapons systems raise terrifying prospects for warfare. Concentrated AI power in a few hands could lead to an imbalance of influence. We must also consider long-term risks, like superintelligent AI not aligning with human values.

Therefore, as we integrate AI, we must do so thoughtfully and responsibly. This requires robust ethical guidelines, transparent development, and ongoing public discourse. We need collaboration between technologists, policymakers, ethicists, and the public to ensure AI serves humanity, maximizing benefits and mitigating risks. The future with AI is not predetermined; we are building it, and we must ensure it's equitable, safe, and beneficial for all.

Vocabulary Practice

Complete each sentence with a word from the word bank.

Word bank: Artificial Intelligence | Revolutionizing | Combating | Imperative | Mitigating | Equitable

1. The development of _____ is changing the way we live and work.
2. New technologies are _____ the healthcare industry with innovative treatments and diagnostic tools.
3. Scientists are working on _____ climate change by reducing carbon emissions and investing in renewable energy sources.
4. It is _____ that we address the issue of job displacement caused by automation and provide training for workers.
5. The company is taking steps to reduce the negative impact of their operations, focusing on _____ the effects of pollution on the environment.
6. The goal of the new policy is to create an _____ society where everyone has access to the same opportunities and resources.

Comprehension / Text Discussion

Answer the questions using information from the text (as per teacher instruction, this activity can be either completed in writing or performed orally).

1. What are two examples of how AI could benefit healthcare or education?

2. What is one major concern about AI related to jobs?

3. Why is data privacy and security an important issue with AI development?

4. What is the risk of bias in AI systems, and can you give an example?

5. What steps does the text suggest we need to take to ensure AI is developed responsibly?

Writing Activity

Write a conversation or paragraph about the topic from this lesson. Write a paragraph or text about this subject. Use the useful sentences to help you structure your writing.

Useful sentences:

1. Excuse me, I need some help, please.
2. Can you tell me more about this situation?
3. I understand what you mean.
4. That sounds like a good idea.
5. Thank you for your assistance.
6. I appreciate your help with this matter.
