

English Language Exam

Part One: Reading

(Score: 11/20)

Read the following text which appeared in the Science Daily in April 4, 2009 and which highlights the issue of technology and human values, then work out the activities that follow.

1) Advances in interfaces- the physical way we react with computers-and other techniques of controlling computers will supplement the role of the traditional keyboard and mouse. Technologies in development include surfaces that allow fingertip control of on-screen objects and devices that sense-and react to-movement.

2) But we should assess human-computer interaction (HCI) to ensure that we retain control of key decision-making processes, Being human: human-computer interaction in the year 2020 suggests. The report details the findings of a Microsoft-hosted conference held in March 2007, which brought together HCI experts from across the world.

3) Display technologies will soon allow us to embed screens of all sizes in a variety of fabrics. In 2020 we will still be reading paper books and magazines; but we'll also be using paper-like digital screens to distribute content. For example, "paper" used in books and magazines may be digitized on foldable screens we can put in our pockets; and our clothing may be capable of performing health diagnosis.

4) Cheap and easily-accessed digital storage allows consumers to electronically record and store aspects of our lives-allowing us to share information and interact with people across the globe. This hyper connectivity liberates us from fixed telephone lines, desks and offices, while advances in robotics develop the computer's ability to learn and make decisions.

5) "New computing technology is tremendously exciting," said Tom Rodden, Professor of Interactive Systems at The University of Nottingham. "But interaction between humans and computers is evolving into a complex ecosystem where small change can have far-reaching consequences. While new interfaces and hyper connectivity mean we are increasingly mobile, we can see that they blurring the line between work and personal space.

6) "Huge storage capabilities raise fundamental privacy issues around what we should be recording and what we should not. The potential of machine learning might well results in computers increasingly making decisions on our behalf. It is imperative that we combine technological innovations with an understanding of their impact on people".

7) The report argues that without proper monitoring and assessment it is possible that we-both individually and collectively-may no longer be in control of ourselves or the world around us. This potentially places the computer on a collision course with basic human values and concepts such as personal space, society, identity, independence, perception, intelligence and privacy.

8) The report gives recommendations for the HCI community to adopt to ensure that values inform future development. These include educating young people so that they understand HCI the impact of computer advances early on; to engage with governments, policy-makers and society as a whole to provide counsel and give advance warning of the emerging implications of new computing ecosystems,; to set the boundaries of HCI's remit and recognize when specialists from other disciplines (e.g. psychology, sociology and the arts) offer more insightful perspectives, and to recognize the need for other disciplines to be part of the research community inventing these systems.

9) “Computers have shaped so many aspects of the modern world that we wanted to explore how today emerging technologies might shape our lives in 2020.” Said Abigail Sellen, senior research at Microsoft Corp. and one of the editors of the reports.”Computing has the potential to enhance the lives of billions of people around the world. We believe that if technology is so truly bring benefit to humanity, then human values and the impact of technology must be considered at the earliest possible opportunity in the technology design process.

10) ”This report makes important recommendations that will help us to decide collectively when, how, why and where technology impacts upon humanity, rather than reacting to unforeseen change. The final recommendation is something towards which we should aspire: by 2020 HCI will be able to design for and support differences in human value irrespective of the economic means of those seeking those values. In this way, the future can be different and diverse because people it want to be. The report is titled “Being human: human computer interaction in the year 2020.”

A. Answer the set of questions using your own words.

- 1) What is the author's main argument? (1pt)
- 2) State the basic values that the advance of computer may threaten. Suggest 3 human values other than those mentioned in the text. (0.75pt)
- 3) What suggestions do the HCI experts recommend in their report to assure that human values aren't affected by computer advances? (2pt)

B.

1) Based on the information presented in the text, fill in the chart below. Copy the chart on your booklet. (1.25pt)

The effects of computer advance on humanity

| Positive effects | Negative effects |
|------------------|------------------|
| a) | a) |
| b) | b) |
| | c) |

2) Skim paragraphs 2, 5, and 9 and pick up 4 different pieces of evidence to justify the writer's credibility. (1pt)

3) Based on the information presented in this article fill in the table below. Copy it on your booklet. (1.5pt)

| Paragraph | name | Position/title | Institution |
|-----------|------|----------------|-------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

C) 1) From paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 7 pick up sentences to the following patterns. Write the paragraph number. (1pt)

- a. exemplification
- b. listing
- c. definition
- d. contrast

2) What do the following pronouns refer to: this (paragraph 4), these (paragraph 8) (0.5pt)

3) Choose 4 words from paragraphs 7→10 with their complete affixes and fill in the graphic organizer. (2pt)

| paragraph | word | prefix | Root | suffix | meaning |
|-----------|------|--------|------|--------|---------|
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

Part Two: Writing score (9/20)

For students to gain more information, learn about issues, acquire discipline and values, your school has enough money to buy either computers for students or books for the library. Which do you think the school must choose to buy-computers or books? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. Discuss your ideas in a 250-300 word essay of unified paragraphs properly sequenced. Draft, revise, and proofread your essay before you hand it in. Your writing will be assessed as follows: 5 pts for content, 3 pts for language, and 1 pt for tidiness and legibility.

Answer Key

- A) 1- The author's main point is that humans should have controlled over computer advances, otherwise they will lose some of their values as stated in the HCI report.
- 2- Three basic values that the advance of computer science may threaten are: personal space, society, identity, independent perception, intelligence, and privacy.
- 3- Suggestions that the HCI experts recommend in their report to assure that human values aren't affected by computer advances are:
- a. Educating young people
 - b. Engaging the government, policy makers, and society.
 - c. Setting boundaries of HCI's remit
 - d. Recognize the needs for other disciplines when inventing these systems.

B) 1) The effects of computer advance on humanity

Positive effects: a) embedding different sized screens in various fabrics

b) Digital storage leads to info-exchange and interaction around the world in addition to freeing us from fixed places in a cheap and easily accessed way.

Negative effects: a) blurring the line between work and personal class.

b) Computers start to make decisions on behalf of humans.

c) causing humans to lose basic human values and concepts.

2) A- Paragraph 2= dates: 2020

B- Paragraph 5= quotation "New→exciting"

C- Paragraph 5= name= Tom Bodden

D- Paragraph 9= number- billions

3)

| Paragraph | name | Position/title | institution |
|-----------|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 5 | Tom Bodden | Professor of interacting systems | University of Nottingham |
| 9 | Abigail Stellen | -Senior research -One of the editors of the report | Microsoft Corp. |

C) 1- a) Paragraph 1= sent. 1 = definition

b) Paragraph 2= but→suggets= contrast

c) Paragraph 3= last sent. : Exemplification

d) Paragraph 7= such as→ privacy= listing + exemplification.

2- A) this= cheap and easily accessed digital storage

b) These= recommendations.

3-

| Paragraph | word | prefix | root | suffix | meaning |
|-----------|----------------|--------|----------|--------|------------|
| 7 | Individually | In | Dividual | ly | Alone |
| 8 | Recommendation | Re | Commend | Tion | Advices |
| 9 | Research | Re | Search | Er | Prospector |
| 10 | reacting | re | act | Ing | Responding |