

TEXTO A

The Future of Jobs and Skills

Students entering formal education today will be making decisions about their career by 2030, so the future of jobs and skills is a key issue in education. Many people seem to know what the future will be: Robots will take our jobs.

Nowadays, anxiety about workers being replaced by robots is increasing, although fear of automation and technologically-driven unemployment have arisen throughout the centuries, usually provoked by a disruption, like the Industrial Revolution. Nevertheless, historically, technology has created more jobs than it has destroyed. We don't know if it will be different this time, but we know that automation is only part of the story.

Equally important are other related trends including demographics, urbanization, globalization, inequality, political uncertainty, and climate change. For instance, urbanization and globalization are trends that interact with climate change and drive the green sector. Currently the green economy is creating new jobs faster than jobs are disappearing in the polluting sectors. Understanding how these trends interact is critical to understanding the jobs and skills needed in the future.

Recent studies have found out that 70% of workers are in jobs with uncertain future, and this must be improved with the right skills preparation. For instance, in the US there is strong emphasis on interpersonal skills – teaching, social perceptiveness, service orientation, and persuasion – and higher-order cognitive skills such as complex problem solving, originality, and active learning. Besides, occupations must be re-designed to pair uniquely human skills with the productivity gains from technology. For example, while robots will be able to build bridges and diagnose diseases, humans will retain the unique ability to engineer a bridge and care for a sick child. How we balance those skills with technology productivity will determine the course of our workforce.

Adapted from “The Future of Skills,” Pearson Future Skills Research, November 21, 2020.

QUESTIONS

A.1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) What we study today will be relevant for our future profession.

TRUE: “Students entering formal education today will be making decisions about their career by 2030, so the future of jobs and skills is a key issue in education.”

b) According to research, over three quarters of workers will have to upgrade their abilities.

FALSE “Recent studies have found out that 70% workers are in jobs with uncertain future, and this must be improved with the right skills preparation.”

A.2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) What’s the historical relationship between technology and jobs?

Being afraid of machines and technology has always happened; big changes in technology provoke fear of losing jobs; technological evolution brings about more employment

b) How is climate change affecting jobs?

While jobs are disappearing in the contaminating sectors, more jobs are growing in the green sector, which will affect the skills needed in the future.

A.3.- Find the words in the text that mean: (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

a) emerged (paragraph 2) **arisen**

b) nowadays (paragraph 3) **currently**

c) keep (paragraph 4) **retain**

d) look after (paragraph 4) **care for**

A.4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

- a) Throughout centuries, people have been (be) afraid of changes, which are totally necessary for our progress.
- b) To improve employability, workers need to focus on learning (learn) new skills that differentiate them from robots.
- c) Courses dealing with interpersonal skills are becoming increasingly popular because they are not only interesting but also useful for job seekers.
- d) Complete the following sentence to report what was said. “Did the number of jobs in the green sector increase last year?”

Advisors asked if / whether the number of jobs in the green sector had increased the previous year / the year before.

A.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)

Do you think there are jobs more suitable for robots than for humans? Discuss.

During the last century the technological advancements in robotics have been so huge and important in many areas that picturing a future where many current jobs were carried out by robots is not as farfetched as it may seem. And yet, can we consider some jobs more suitable for robots?

There are certain jobs that require that we can deal with harsh conditions and where we may need to be prepared, not only physically but also mentally. For example, soldiers, construction, or mining workers may be taken over by artificial intelligence and it would save many human lives.

Likewise, for certain positions a person may need to have especial traits like being strong, mentally stable, calm, objective, or resourceful. In areas such as industry, growing crops, or jobs related to analysing data, robots can prove to be much more efficient than humans.

In short, it is undeniable that the competence of robots is higher than that of humans in many aspects but given their increasing spread, we should start taking measures to save the employment of many human beings in the future.

TEXTO B

Social Media and Mental Health

The rise of social media has meant that people are more connected than we have ever been in the history of time. But our reliance on social media can have a detrimental effect on our mental health, with the average British person checking their phone as much as 28 times a day. While social media platforms can have their benefits, using them too frequently can make you feel increasingly unhappy and isolated in the long run. The constant bombardment of perfectly filtered photos that appear on Instagram are bound to knock many people's self-esteem. In addition, obsessively checking your Twitter feed just before bed could be contributing towards poor quality of sleep.

Social media can be great for looking back fondly on memories and recounting how past events occurred. However, it can also distort the way in which you remember certain pleasing things from your life. Many of us are guilty of spending far too much time trying to take the perfect photo of a visual marvel, all the while not actually absorbing the first-hand experience of witnessing it with your own two eyes. "If we direct all of our attention toward capturing the best shots for our social media followers to admire, less will be available to enjoy other aspects of the experience in real time," said Dr Bono.

Not only has social media been proven to cause unhappiness, but it can also lead to the development of mental health issues such as anxiety or depression when used too much or without caution. In March 2018, it was reported that more than a third of Generation Z from a survey of 1,000 individuals stated that they were quitting social media for good as 41 per cent stated that social media platforms make them feel anxious, sad or depressed.

Adapted from "Six Ways Social Media Negatively Affect your Mental Health," The Independent, October 7, 2020.

QUESTIONS

B.1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) Instagram photos are likely to make people feel inferior.

TRUE: “The constant bombardment of perfectly filtered photos that appear on Instagram are bound to knock many people’s self-esteem.”

b) According to Dr Bono, excessive focus on taking the best pictures helps to enjoy life experiences.

FALSE: “If we direct all of our attention toward capturing the best shots for our social media followers to admire, less will be available to enjoy other aspects of the experience in real time,’ said Dr Bono.”

B.2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) How can social media negatively affect your memories?

Social media can negatively affect our memories, since they can alter the way in which we remember enjoyable moments of our past life.

b) What do statistics say about social media and Generation Z?

The results of a survey carried out in March 2018 show that more than a third of Generation Z people were leaving social media, while 41 per cent said that social media provoked anxiety, sadness, or depression in them.

B.3.- Find the words in the text that mean: (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

a) growth (paragraph 1) **rise**

b) dependence (paragraph 1) **reliance**

c) took place (paragraph 2) **occurred**

d) demonstrated (paragraph 3) **proven**

B.4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets whengiven. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

- a) The more people overuse social media, the more unhappy (unhappy) they can feel.
- b) The best way to protect yourself from the dangers of social media is by not providing (not/provide) personal information.
- c) He is very active on Twitter, which many politicians see now as the best platform for communication.
- d) Complete the following sentence to report what is said: “Enjoy every aspect of your life in real time”, said Dr Bono.

Dr Bono tells us to enjoy every aspect of our life in real time / Dr Bono tells us that we must/should enjoy every aspect of our life in real time.

B.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)

How have social media changed the way we live? Discuss.

Never have we lived in a time when we were all so deeply and instantly connected with each other. It is undeniable that social media has profoundly affected the way we live, but is it a blessing or a curse?

First, it is an essential component for businesses. Any conscious company would invest on community management since it has proven to have a direct effect on benefits. Besides, we must not forget its crucial role on evidencing atrocities and human rights violations as well as helping to bring together activists or to show terrible environmental decisions that some governments are taking. Governance is another wide field that has been affected since civic participation and how governants interact with citizens is now different thanks to social media.

However, precisely our actual participation in democracy is at stake due to social media. We are constantly exposed to loads of information, and its accountability is often dubious. Fake news is spreading and influencing huge decisions like who we want to be our leaders. At the same time, the information overload has a direct effect on our privacy and our mental health leading to high anxiety levels and addiction for an important part of the population.

In a nutshell, the spread of social media to almost any aspects of our lives has reached a point where it is necessary to take a step back and reflect on the ethics of many of the social media companies involved in our current communication system.