



MODULE	ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE
Anglais	Durée de l'épreuve 2h (120 min.)
	Date de l'épreuve 4 / 6 / 2018
	Numéro du candidat 19

At Davos, what to expect when you're expecting robots in the workforce

Marc Benioff, chief executive of the software company Salesforce, consults a regular guest at his senior-level meetings: a robot that does not hesitate to correct error-prone humans, he told an audience in Davos, Switzerland, this week. The AI robot, called Einstein, has had a seat at the table for about a year.

"I ask Einstein, 'I heard what everybody said, but what do you actually think?' Benioff said at the World Economic Forum, the annual gathering of business and political leaders.

The robot recently raised doubts about one of his European employees' strategies, saying, "I don't think this executive is going to make their number- I'm so sorry," Benioff recounted in a tweet. **(A)**

The effects of automation on the workforce have been a key topic in Davos. A WEF report on the eve of the meeting warned that automation could alter the nature of the work across a variety of roles, exacerbating poverty and inequality.

"Automation has already been a disruptive labor-market force, and its effects are likely to be long-lasting as new technologies diffuse throughout the global economy," the authors wrote.

Popular fears about workers being entirely displaced by robots are overblown, said David Autor, an MIT economist who attended a discussion about worker retraining. **(B)**

"This concern about the future – 'Will there be jobs?' – is misplaced," Autor said. "There is no evidence we're running out of jobs. **(C)**

"Government and business leaders said they are actively investing in retraining to help prepare workers in the workplace", Autor added.

On Friday, Nestle, Nokia, Mercer, Barclays, Tata Consultancy Services and 21 other companies announced a joint initiative to train 10 million workers over the next three years.

“Without reskilling, yes, things do look quite dire,” said Saadia Zahidi, head of education, gender and work at the WEF.

Economists at the WEF recommend thinking the way countries educate children. In classrooms across the West and Asia, students are taught to be more competitive than collaborative, a mind-set that could someday hurt their employment prospects, Zahidi said. **(D)**

Some business leaders used the gathering to showcase job-disrupting technologies. Dmytro Kalita, head of sales at Kodisoft, a technology company based in Ukraine, displayed a smart table at a party off the Davos main drag Thursday night. The door-size tablet, which looks like a giant iPhone screen, allows diners to order food and pay the bill without talking to another person. Kalita said restaurants in Canada, Japan and Greece have already ordered the tables, which cost up to \$15,000 or a little less than what a minimum wage worker makes a year.

Benioff, whose company uses artificial intelligence to track customer orders, urged other employers to be more transparent about the technology they plan to adopt so people can prepare for it. “I’m increasingly worried that even as these technologies deliver incredible benefits to some, this wave of change will leave behind hundreds of millions of people around the world and exacerbate the dangerous inequalities that already plague our societies,” he wrote in a Wall Street Journal column ahead of the Davos meeting.

(E) US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta both said the United States will be ready for the challenges posed by automation. “History shows us that technology leads not to the alarmist scenarios posed by some, but rather, to innovation and advancement that make jobs safer, creates new opportunities, and even fields,” Acosta said in a statement to The Washington Post. “We need to focus our efforts on ensuring that the American workforce has the opportunities to develop the skills needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow.”

(597 words)

By Danielle Paquette, adapted from *The Washington Post* published on Saturday, January 27, 2018

Reading comprehension (10 marks; +1 per correct answer)

1. Where do the following sentences fit in the article? Read and match the letter (A-D) to its corresponding sentence (1-5).

1. Lesson plans that demand analysis, rather than memorization, will also benefit the future workforce, she said. B
2. President Trump's delegation in Davos this week projected a sunnier outlook. D
3. Then the robot described the flaws it saw in the employee's thinking. A
4. A harder question is whether there will be good-paying jobs. C
5. Instead, the challenge will be helping workers adjust to how automation changes the quality of jobs, he said. D

2. Circle the sentence that best summarizes the article. (+1)

- a. Robots will be increasingly used in companies to replace human workers.
- b. Automation represents a substantial tool to reduce labor costs.
- c. The increasing use of automated resources in the workplace needs to be closely monitored and regulated.

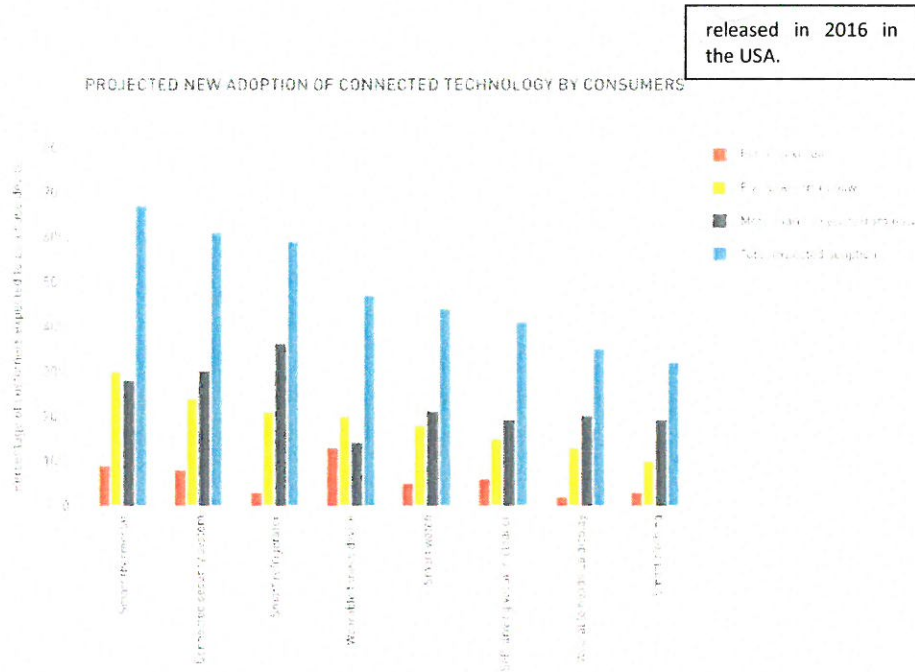
3. Who do these statements belong to? Write the letter A-D accordingly. (4 marks; +1 m. per correct answer)

- A Economists at the World Economic Forum
- B Marc Benioff, Salesforce Chief executive
- C The American delegation
- D MIT Economist, David Autor

1.	The use of automation represents both an advantage and a disadvantage to the companies.	letter: <u>D</u>
2.	Robots and Artificial Intelligence provide substantial benefits for the future workplace.	letter: <u>B</u>
3.	Schools need to rethink their learning objectives to better match companies' expectations.	letter: <u>A</u>
4.	Employees should receive adequate training to handle technological advancements.	letter: <u>C</u>

WRITING

1. Summarize the information presented in the document below by selecting and reporting its main features, and make comparison when relevant in about 100 words. (10 marks)



<http://medicalfuturist.com/the-future-of-health-insurance-preparing-for-dr-big-brother/>

2. Essay writing (20 marks) (350/400 words)

Write a well-organized pro/con essay on the long-term effects of living in a technological world.

con
macht eis faul
kaen menschlichen
kontakt

PROJECTED NEW ADOPTION OF CONNECTED TECHNOLOGY BY CONSUMERS

