

**Some people believe that robots will play an important role in future societies, while others argue that robots might have negative effects on society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

### Referencing and Linking

Recent developments in technology have paved the way for use of robots not only in industrial sectors, as in the past, but also in commercial and private sectors.

\_\_\_\_\_ and ubiquity of robots in everyday life has caused many to speculate that robots may play a negative role in the future, \_\_\_\_\_ another school of thought holds that the onset of robots is likely to only have benefits. It seems likely that any positive role played by robots in the future will be limited and human society should be wary of \_\_\_\_\_ use.

One such reason for \_\_\_\_\_ lies in the risk to the labour market. As robots gradually become more and more capable of doing tasks that humans would otherwise perform, it is highly likely that \_\_\_\_\_ will replace humans in many spheres of work due to \_\_\_\_\_ cost-efficiency and high-quality of work. \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, could relegate humans to doing simple maintenance of these machines and doing dehumanised work or, even more worryingly, falling out of the labour pool entirely.

\_\_\_\_\_ has already been found in the motor industry, during the 1970's, \_\_\_\_\_ many people were made redundant as a result of the growing amount of savings that could be made by a company \_\_\_\_\_ used more robots to produce vehicles.

Despite \_\_\_\_\_, many argue that robots will impact our lives in a positive manner. \_\_\_\_\_ argue \_\_\_\_\_ because they see the benefits of labour-saving, arguing that household chores, hum-drum routines and dangerous work could \_\_\_\_\_ be done by robots. Following \_\_\_\_\_, they argue, a new era of

increased leisure time for all humanity will be ushered in. \_\_\_\_\_ point to the labour-saving capacities of vacuum cleaners, tablets and \_\_\_\_\_ as evidence of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, seems unlikely to happen due to the fact that the length of the working week has not been reduced in any way, shape or form over the last 50 years. \_\_\_\_\_, it seems many people now work harder than ever.

\_\_\_\_\_, it seems that while there are likely to be some benefits to the uptake in the use of robots for household chores and other dangerous work, it is difficult to imagine a society in which \_\_\_\_\_ have led humanity to free itself from the shackles of labour. \_\_\_\_\_, there is past evidence that the use of robots is a threat to the society that we live in, and is likely to leave a lot of people on the scrap heap of progress.

Place the words in the list below into the text above. Afterwards, underline the words, phrase or part of the text that the referencing words refer back to.

*For example: 'This' could mean 'technological progress'*

An example of this

When

All

Their

Wariness

Their

This, in turn,

These benefits

Rather,

This

Other technological devices

Following this,

They

This, however,

On the contrary,

They

Which

These concerns

They

To sum up,

This

This ongoing transformation

While

**Find the useful vocabulary in the text.**

- (Verb + Noun phrase + preposition ) Paragraph 1 -  
to create a situation that makes it possible or easier for something to happen
- (adjective + noun) – Paragraph 1 – a change that is happening now and is expected to continue into the future
- (Noun + preposition + noun + verb) – Paragraph 1 – A group of people believe...
- (Verb + preposition) – Paragraph 1 – cautious or worried about
- (Adjective + noun) – Paragraph 2 – The part of the economy related to workers and jobs
- (Verb + preposition) – Paragraph 2 – Able to do something
- (Verb to be + Verb in 3<sup>rd</sup> form + adjective) – Paragraph 2 – What happens when a company cuts your job because of bad economic circumstances.
- (adjective + noun) – Paragraph 2 – Boring things that you always do
- (Noun phrase + Passive verb phrase + preposition) –new processes or activities or periods of time begin
- (Compound adjective + Noun) – An advantage robots have over humans in work – Paragraph 3
- (Preposition + noun phrase) – Used to say you believe the opposite is true – Paragraph 3
- (Preposition + noun phrase) – Not needed or wanted but still useful – Paragraph 4

**Complete the sentences below logically using some of the vocabulary from the activity above.**

1. This historic agreement between our countries will \_\_\_\_\_ for great economic ties. We will soon start to cooperate together closely because of the agreements made here.
2. Washing machines, vacuum cleaners and dishwashers are all \_\_\_\_\_ devices that we rely on nowadays.
3. There's been a fall in the number of young people entering the \_\_\_\_\_. This may be due to the higher enrolment rates at university.
4. There are at least three \_\_\_\_\_ on this subject, all of which are opposed to each other.
5. The talks \_\_\_\_\_ in a new era of international co-operation between East and West.