

**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.**

### **Model Answer**

**Note: If you wish to study this answer and do the activity before reading comments and answers, please see the accompanying file.**

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. This ongoing transformation and ubiquity of robots in everyday life has caused many to speculate that robots may play a negative role in the future, while 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 their use.

One such reason for wariness 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 they will replace humans in many spheres of work due to their cost-efficiency and high-quality of work. This, in turn, 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. An example of this has already been found in the motor industry, during the 1970's, when many people were made redundant as a result of the growing amount of savings that could be made by a company which used more robots to produce vehicles.

Despite these concerns, many argue that robots will impact our lives in a positive manner. They argue this because they see the benefits of labour-saving, arguing that household chores, humdrum routines and dangerous work could all be done by robots. Following this, they argue, a new era of increased leisure time for all humanity will be ushered in. They point to the labour-saving capacities of vacuum cleaners, tablets and other technological devices as evidence of this. This, however, 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. On the contrary, it seems many people now work harder than ever.

To sum up, 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 these benefits have led humanity to free itself from the shackles of labour. Rather, 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 scrapheap of progress.

**Referencing is an important part of any kind of writing that you do. This is also true of IELTS. Substituting words for more general phrases (oil, gas, coal = fossil fuels) and using referencing words like “this, that, it, they” etc. can improve your score remarkably. While linking words such as “however, on the other hand” etc are useful, there is a large proportion of students who get these wrong. This affects their score. Look at the referencing in the model answer.**

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. **This ongoing transformation** and ubiquity of robots in everyday life has caused many to speculate that robots may play a negative role in the future, **while** 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 **their** use.

One such reason for **wariness** 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 **they** will replace humans in many spheres of work due to **their** cost-efficiency and high-quality of work. **This, in turn,** could relegate humans to doing simple maintenance of these machines, doing dehumanised work or, even more worryingly, falling out of the labour pool entirely. **An example of this** has already been wrought in the motor industry, during the 1970’s **when** many people were made redundant as a result of the growing amount of savings that could be made by a company **which** used more robots to produce vehicles.

Despite **these concerns,** many argue that robots will impact our lives in a positive manner. **They** argue **this** because they see the benefits of labour-saving, arguing that household chores, humdrum routines and dangerous work could **all** be done by robots. **Following this,** they argue, a new era of increased leisure time for all humanity will be ushered in. **They** point to the labour-saving capacities of vacuum cleaners, tablets and **other technological devices** as evidence of **this.** **This, however,** 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. **On the contrary,** it seems many people now work harder than ever.

**To sum up,** 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 **these benefits** have led humanity to free itself from the shackles of labour. **Rather,** 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 scrapheap of progress.

**Notice that not one sentence starts without some kind of reference to the previous one. This is mostly done through referencing with pronouns. However, some vocabulary is changed to avoid repetition and link the sentences together. While this is not a rule, you should aim to write so that your first 5-6 words on a new sentence refer back to the previous one**

### **Answers to vocabulary activity**

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. This **ongoing transformation** and ubiquity of robots in everyday life has caused many to speculate that robots may play a negative role in the future, while 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** their use.

One such reason for wariness 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 they will replace humans in many spheres of work due to their cost-efficiency and high-quality of work. This, in turn, could relegate humans to doing simple maintenance of these machines, doing dehumanised work or, even more worryingly, falling out of the labour pool entirely. An example of this has already been found in the motor industry, during the 1970's when many people **were made redundant** as a result of the growing amount of savings that could be made by a company which used more robots to produce vehicles.

Despite these concerns, many argue that robots will impact our lives in a positive manner. They argue this because they see the benefits of labour-saving, arguing that household chores, **humdrum routines** and dangerous work could all be done by robots. Following this, they argue, **a new era** of increased leisure time for all humanity **will be ushered in**. They point to the **labour-saving capacities** of vacuum cleaners, tablets and other technological devices as evidence of this. This, however, 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. **On the contrary**, it seems many people now work harder than ever.

To sum up, 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 these benefits have led humanity to free itself from the shackles of labour. Rather, 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 scrapheap** of progress.

**This answer would score well for vocabulary because there is a range of collocation used and an awareness of academic style. What this means is the essay uses phrases that make the writing sound more natural:**

**“usher in an era”**

**“make savings”**

**“on the scrapheap”**

**“capable of doing tasks”**

**The essay doesn't use contractions, like in this sentence, and avoids slang and informal vocabulary.**

paved the way for

(Verb + Noun phrase + preposition ) Paragraph 1 -

to create a situation that makes it possible or easier for something to happen

ongoing transformation – (adjective + noun) – Paragraph 1 – a change that is happening now and is expected to continue into the future

school of thought holds – (Noun + preposition + noun + verb) – Paragraph 1 – A group of people believe...

wary of – (Verb + preposition) – Paragraph 1 – cautious or worried about

labour market (Adjective + noun) – Paragraph 2 – The part of the economy related to workers and jobs

capable of (Verb + preposition) – Paragraph 2 – Able to do something

made redundant (Verb + adjective) – Paragraph 2 – What happens when a company cuts your job because of bad economic circumstances.

humdrum routines (adjective + noun) – Paragraph 2 – Boring things that you always do

a new era will be ushered in (Noun phrase + Passive verb phrase + preposition) –new processes or activities or periods of time begin

labour-saving capacities - (Compound adjective + Noun) – An advantage robots have over humans in work – Paragraph 3

On the contrary, (Preposition + noun phrase) – Used to say you believe the opposite is true – Paragraph 3

on the scrapheap (Preposition + noun phrase) – Not needed or wanted but still useful – Paragraph 4

Gap fill answers

1. Pave the way

2. labour-saving

3. labour market

4. schools of thought

5. ushered