Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES **0457/13**

Paper 1 Written Examination **May/June 2018**

INSERT (Resource Booklet)

1 hour 15 minutes

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Resource Booklet contains Sources 1 to 4. The time for reading these sources is allowed for within the time set for the examination.

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Source 1: Using robots at work

Robots are machines that are used to carry out complex tasks, often quickly and cheaply. As a result, they are increasingly being used in the workplace.



Car making



Testing samples in laboratories

Source 2: Consequences of new technology in the workplace

Developments in science and technology have many consequences at work. These developments are affecting patterns of employment throughout the world.

The automation of factories began during the twentieth century. For example, car makers introduced production lines to help skilled workers build the cars. Less time was needed to build a car and the quality improved. Fewer workers were needed and costs were reduced.

Today production lines use computer controlled machines and robots to do most of the work that was previously done by people. The number of people needed to make many products is getting smaller. Now more people are finding work in programming computers and applying digital technologies to the internet. Work is still available; it is just different.

Source 3: Robots will mean better working lives for people in the future

Everyone is saying that the robots are coming! Intelligent machines are going to replace us at work and lead to unemployment. But do not worry. There is no need to be frightened.

In the near future, it is predicted by expert economists that machines will make businesses more profitable and will create enough wealth to support everyone.

We will no longer need people doing routine work. Machines will do the boring work. Therefore, unskilled work for people will disappear.

These developments will help everyone. In the future we will work shorter hours. We will have more time for leisure and holidays.

Machines can do the unpleasant work while people have more time for travel, creative activities and the arts. Our work will be more interesting. Team working, communication and relationships will be more important.

Isn't this something to look forward to?

Extract from a newspaper article published in Europe in 2017

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Source 4: A radio discussion about the future of work

Knut

Automation and the rise of robots will not bring us a better future. It is both science fiction and a horror story in the making!

There will be fewer jobs. That means unemployment which leads to less income for many people. Fewer jobs also results in more competition for work and therefore lower wages.

Big companies may make more profits by reducing costs of employment, but what will happen to the money? The managers and bosses will get huge pay rises and shareholders will take more of the profits. They make the decisions. The gap between rich and poor will grow; this is wrong.

My mother lost her job as a secretary when computers were introduced. She enjoyed working in the office and meeting people. Now computers do most of the clerical work and typing. She has lost hope of ever finding a new job.

Saga

We must be more optimistic and look forward to change. We should aim towards a better future at work. We need to talk to employers and governments and find ways to use new technology to improve work.

People can find work fulfilling – it gives them purpose. They can achieve something and support their families. More use of robots in the workplace may mean there is less work for people, but this is a good thing. Less time at work means there is more time for leisure. More time for ourselves and with our families means better relationships. It is right that wealth is used to create better jobs, improve working conditions and reduce working hours.

Many international organisations want work and income shared fairly. This means less working hours for everyone, a smaller pay gap between workers and more jobs for more people. This will also help developing nations to reduce poverty.

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