

APPLICATION QUESTION: MODEL RESPONSE

Argument 1a: The prevalent deployment of artificial intelligence may result in negative labour market disruption.

Passage 1, para 4: "For example, with the progressive development of AI, human labour may not be needed as everything can be done automatically."

Passage 3, para 5: "This prospect may prompt 'reasonable fears' among real-life teachers of 'fewer teachers being employed' – possibly even none"

In passage 1 paragraph 4, the author argues that the need for human labour may be diminished as everything can be automated via artificial intelligence. This argument is echoed in passage 3 paragraph 5, where the author asserts that teachers may gradually be replaced by artificial intelligence tutors. This is a particularly serious concern in Singapore society due to her knowledge-based economy. In Singapore, a major segment of economic output is the services industry, which takes up 72.45 percent of the gross domestic product in 2023. These services include legal, financial and professional services, all of which are highly knowledge-based fields. Through the rapid development of specialised artificial intelligence technology, it is not only low-skilled work who may be affected, but professionals across the entire labour market may be affected. For example, Harvey AI was invented to streamline analysis of contracts, regulatory filings and discovery documents, and is able to process large amounts of legal data in the matter of minutes, greatly reducing the need for law firms to take on additional lawyers to help with the grunt work. Furthermore, in the financial sector, fintech advancements such as Moomoo and Robinhood offer a low-cost, computerised platform for retail investors to trade in shares, eliminating the need for human brokers. This has resulted in faster displacement of jobs within these sectors, as well as wage compression for junior professionals.

Argument 1b: Over time, this may lead to increased inequality and social stratification.

Furthermore, this trend is worrying as artificial intelligence disproportionately benefits large multinational corporations and technology firms. Singapore already suffers from

rising income inequality, with one of the highest GINI coefficients amongst developed countries. In a society that emphasises meritocracy, artificial intelligence has the potential to further this gap by widening the gap between digitally fluent workers and others, and entrench the advantages that these technology firms have. For example, a recent survey by the South Central Community Family Service Centre found that 21 per cent of low-income households did not have Internet connection at home, and 39 per cent did not have laptops, desktops or tablets. This lack of connectivity increases the participatory gap in digital education, and leads to increased vulnerability in digital literacy.

Argument 2: Excessive artificial intelligence use may dull critical-thinking abilities amongst people over time.

Passage 1, para 3: "Will people become lazier if their bodies and brains are less engaged?"

In passage 1 paragraph 3, the author argues that people will become lazier if their brains are less engaged. This is a serious concern due to Singapore's high degree of technological integration within our education system. Singapore has one of the world's highest digital adoption rates, with a near-universal internet access rate of 96%-99% of households with access as of 2025. Furthermore, Singapore's Smart Nation initiative forms the backbone of several initiatives to enhance digital connectivity, such as integrating AI into education, and providing GovTech platforms and services to streamline digital operations. This suggests that Singaporeans may be more susceptible to the risks of cognitive decline associated with overuse of artificial intelligence – where people abuse such technologies blindly without further analysis or consideration. A recent, more egregious example is that of a lawyer in Singapore who was fined \$800 for using artificial intelligence to draft court submissions without additional due diligence, resulting in "hallucinated" citations which did not exist. This comes on the heels of many educational institutions facing the issue of students abusing artificial intelligence technology to draft essays, eliminating the learning process that comes with researching and compiling information personally. These examples serve to demonstrate the potential for dulled critical thinking abilities and cognitive decline owing to an abuse of artificial intelligence systems.

Argument 3: However, the risks of AI can be ameliorated when society adjusts to it.

Passage 2, para 4: "Staying ahead of AI will mean radically rethinking what education is for and what success means."

Passage 3, para 5: "Human involvement would still be essential, he predicted, but could be drastically different from the traditional role of a teacher..."

However, in passage 2 paragraph 4 and passage 3 paragraph 5, the authors argue that there will be a seismic shift in how society operates in adapting to artificial intelligence use. I take the view that the above risks may be overstated as the benefits outweigh the harm, and the society as a whole is taking steps in the right direction to adapt to the proliferation of artificial intelligence. For starters, artificial intelligence has the potential to automate repetitive and administrative tasks, allowing more intellectual capital to be spent on problem-solving and matters of major importance. One example is in Human Resources, where tools such as Applicant Tracker Systems reduce the need for a person to manually review resumes, and studies have suggested that 65% of Human Resources leaders in Singapore expect two-thirds of routine tasks to be automated by 2026. Furthermore, the Singapore government has come up with a series of governance frameworks and operating procedures to ensure that artificial intelligence is a tool to support, rather than to supplant, humans. For example, in the field of education, as part of the EdTech Masterplan, the Ministry of Education has rolled out initiatives to integrate AI tools into learning, such as training teachers in AI prompting and strengthening partnerships with the private sector to continuously develop learning technologies for schools and institutions. Furthermore, in areas such as finance and law, respective ministries have rolled out AI governance frameworks such as the Model AI Governance Framework, which seeks to ameliorate some of the risks associated with artificial intelligence such as personal data leaks and due diligence requirements when deploying artificial intelligence. As with any tool that disrupts the economy in a major way, we should recognise the strengths that AI can provide, and adapt our society in a way that allows us to best benefit from these tools.