

IELTS LISTENING- Automation and the Future of Work S73T3



IELTS LISTENING – Automation and the Future of Work listening practice test has 10 questions belongs to the Technology & Economics subject..

YOUNG MAN: That seminar yesterday on automation and the future of work was really good wasn't it? Looking at the first industrial revolution in Britain in the 19th century and seeing how people reacted to massive change was a real eye-opener.

YOUNG WOMAN: Yes. It was interesting to hear how people felt about automation then and what challenges they faced. I didn't know that first started with workers in the textile industry.

YOUNG MAN: With those protesting workers called the Luddites destroying their knitting machines because they were so worried about losing their jobs.

YOUNG WOMAN: Yes, and ultimately, they didn't achieve anything. And anyway, industrialisation created more jobs than it destroyed.



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YOUNG MAN: Yes, that's true – but it probably didn't seem a positive thing at the time. I can see why the Luddites felt so threatened. Q21/22

YOUNG WOMAN: I know. I'm sure I would have felt the same. The discussion about the future of work was really optimistic for a change. I like the idea that work won't involve doing boring, repetitive tasks, as robots will do all that. Normally, you only hear negative stuff about the future.

YOUNG MAN: Bit too optimistic, don't you think? For example, I can't see how people are about to have more leisure time, when all the evidence shows people are spending longer than ever at work.

Questions 21-30

Questions 21 and 22

Choose **TWO** letters, **A-E**.

Which **TWO** opinions about the Luddites do the students express?

- A Their actions were ineffective.
- B They are still influential today.
- C They have received unfair criticism.
- D They were proved right.
- E Their attitude is understandable.

Questions 23 and 24

Choose **TWO** letters, **A-E**.

Which **TWO** predictions about the future of work are the students doubtful about?

- A Work will be more rewarding.
- B Unemployment will fall.
- C People will want to delay retiring.
- D Working hours will be shorter.
- E People will change jobs more frequently.

YOUNG WOMAN: No – that's true. And what about lower unemployment? I'm not so sure about that. Q23/24

YOUNG MAN: Perhaps in the long term – but not in the foreseeable future.

YOUNG WOMAN: Mmm. And I expect most people will be expected to work until they're much older – as everyone's living much longer.

YOUNG MAN: That's already happening.

YOUNG WOMAN: I enjoyed all that stuff on how technology has changed some jobs and how they're likely to change in the near future.

YOUNG MAN: Yeah, incredible. Like accountants. You might think all the technological innovations would have put them out of a job, but in fact there are more of them than ever. They're still really in demand and have become far more efficient. Q25

YOUNG WOMAN: Right. That was amazing. Twenty times more accountants in this country compared to the 19th century.

YOUNG MAN: I know. I'd never have thought that demand for hairdressing would have gone up so much in the last hundred years. One hairdresser for every 287 people now, compared to one for over 1,500.

YOUNG WOMAN: Yeah because people's earning power has gone up so they can afford to spend more on personal services like that. Q26

YOUNG MAN: But technology hasn't changed the actual job that much.

YOUNG WOMAN: No, they've got hairdryers, etc. but it's one job where you don't depend on a computer ... The kind of work that administrative staff do has changed enormously, thanks to technology. Even 20 years ago there were secretaries doing dictation and typing.

YOUNG MAN: Yes. Really boring compared to these days, when they're given much more responsibility and higher status. Q27

YOUNG WOMAN: Mmm. A lot of graduates go in for this kind of work now ... I'd expected there to be a much bigger change in the number of agricultural workers in the 19th century. But the 1871 census showed that roughly 25% of the population worked on the land.

Questions 25-30

What comment do the students make about each of the following jobs?

Choose **SIX** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A-G**, next to **Questions 25-30**.

Comments

- A** These jobs are likely to be at risk.
- B** Their role has become more interesting in recent years.
- C** The number of people working in this sector has fallen dramatically.
- D** This job will require more qualifications.
- E** Higher disposable income has led to a huge increase in jobs.
- F** There is likely to be a significant rise in demand for this service.
- G** Both employment and productivity have risen.

Jobs

25 Accountants

26 Hairdressers

27 Administrative staff

28 Agricultural workers

29 Care workers

30 Bank clerks

YOUNG MAN: Yeah, I'd have assumed it would be more than 50%. Now it's less than 0.2%. Q28

YOUNG WOMAN: What about care workers?

YOUNG MAN: They barely existed in the 19th century as people's lifespan was so much shorter. But now of course this sector will see huge growth. Q29

YOUNG WOMAN: Yeah- and it's hard enough to meet current demand. The future looks quite bleak for bank clerks. They've been in decline since ATMs were introduced in the eighties.

YOUNG MAN: And technology will certainly make most of the jobs they do now redundant, I think. Q30

YOUNG WOMAN: I agree, although the situation may change. It's very hard to predict what will happen.

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