**DETAILED PROGRESS PLAN**

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| **21st March 2017** | Before I started my EPQ I knew I wanted to do it on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, so I looked in the school library and took out the only book related to the topic I could find. This backed up my reasons for wanting to do this topic, and gave me some initial ideas on what areas I would want to base my project on. The book was Industrial Robotics: Technology, Programming and Applications (referenced properly in bibliography) |
| **1st May 2017** | I had my definite subject of Artificial Intelligence, so I made a mind map of ideas to help me come up with a question idea before I had my first session with school. |
| **10th May 2017** | **First school session**  I looked at various question words and brainstormed ideas for questions based on individual interests and what I had already done. From the topic of Artificial Intelligence I came up with a few initial question ideas.  I ended up deciding on:  **First question idea:** To what extent could Artificial Intelligence replace the human race?  I may need to limit my question to a specific field so it is more realistic. |
| **11th May 2017** | I decided that I was definitely doing my dissertation based on pros and cons, based from different perspectives, and would end with an evaluation of all that I found. I also came up with a vague structure – three subtitles for research and to split my writing into: Psychology, Science and Media. I also made a mind map of some brief ideas about the possibilities of AI replacing humans in the workplace. |
| **12th – 13th May 2017** | I printed and annotated three online articles about AI taking over the workplace. All three sources linked together in the way that their information supported each other, but I am going to have to evaluate their reliability and bias as they were very opinionated articles, which is what I wanted, but isn’t really solid evidence. |
| **14th June 2017** | **Second school session**  I came up with my aims and objectives, and a rationale for why I chose the topic of AI in the first place. When writing my objectives I realised I needed to cut down my question to a specific field. I had seen a lot of data online I could use for AI in the workplace, and had already done some brief planning for it, so I made my question specific to that.  **Second question idea:** To what extent could Artificial Intelligence replace humanity in the workplace? |
| **5th July 2017** | **Trip to Robinsons Library**  I spent time learning about the Harvard referencing system and being introduced to the wide range of research opportunities available to me. I had a brief look at the Artificial Intelligence section of the library and got inspired to rethink my question and have it include more aspects of AI I find interesting, as I am not as limited in research as I thought I was. |
| **6th July 2017** | From the inspiration I got from visiting the library, I decided to mind map more question ideas until I came to one that I liked, based off one of the initial question ideas I had already had.  **Third question idea:** Analyse and evaluate common reasons behind positive and negative attitudes to Artificial Intelligence. |
| **12th July 2017** | **Third school session**  I looked at time management techniques and organised what needs to be done over the summer holidays. I decided that to record my time, I was going to create a Gantt Chart as well as this Progress Plan, and that during the holidays I was going to focus on writing up and presenting all of the planning stages of my project, gathering secondary research, and sorting out my primary research questionnaire. The goal was to start writing my dissertation by the end of the summer holidays. I filled in the first part of the PPR now that I had a decent idea of what I was doing. |
| **24th July 2017** | I decided that before I went and gathered my secondary research, I needed to update everything I had done so far. I updated my aims, objectives and rationale to better suit my new question, and made sure to document the reasons behind each question change in an Evolution of the Question section. I also created a title page and contents page for my project which I would continue to update as I completed various sections. I also updated my Gantt chart up to this point. |
| **26th July – 10th August 2017** | I spent this time visiting Robinson Library, reading the books on Artificial Intelligence and making notes of any quotes that may be relevant to my dissertation. These notes can be evidenced by a neater write-up in the Annexes section of this project. I was surprised by the amount of information I actually had available to me, and the books I read were extremely interesting. Reading these books convinced me to actually go on to study AI further at University. |
| **11th August 2017** | Since I now had my secondary research, and was due to start work experience on the 14th, I decided to create my questionnaire so that it would be ready to collect data while at work experience. I made note of the types of questions I wanted to ask, what I wanted to get out of this questionnaire and also who I planned to ask to fill it in. I also made my first rough draft of the questionnaire itself. |
| **12th August 2017** | I spent this time refining my questionnaire, including an informational paragraph at the beginning to educate people on what the questionnaire was about. I also included a paragraph on anonymity, and told people what their answers were being used for, which would fit with the ethical guidelines of the project when I got around to writing them. |
| **12th August – 18th August 2017** | This time was spent gathering data for my questionnaire. I asked family, friends of family, friends and the engineers I was doing work experience with at the time. I made sure that they were all done anonymously to avoid bias, however encountered a problem when people weren’t getting back to me as quickly as I had hoped, so had to cut down the number of people I was going to ask. I made sure that the people I was asking came from different backgrounds – engineers, nurses, students etc. Because of this, my data should be varied and have a rough representation of the general public. |
| **20th August 2017** | Since I now had all of my data, I decided to create my initial dissertation plan. The initial idea was to have 8 subtitles, each on a different source of opinion towards AI, and including all of my secondary research. I split my research into these sections so that when it came to actually writing my dissertation it would be easier to see what I actually had to write about. |
| **21st August 2017** | At this point I had realised that if I wanted to come even close to not exceeding the word limit, I needed to severely cut down my question. Since most of my secondary research revolved around the negative opinions and fears revolving around AI, I decided that I would focus my question on that as well.  **Final question idea:** Analyse the reasons behind common negative attitudes towards Artificial Intelligence.  After deciding this, I made sure that my aims and objectives were still relevant, and slightly altered my rationale. I am a lot happier with this question than the previous versions, as this one will come to an actual conclusion and be a lot easier to manage my time with. I updated my PPR to make sure it was still relevant to the new question. |
| **22nd August 2017** | I decided to refine my dissertation plan, as 8 subtitles was too much and most of my points were going to be very similar. I cut it down into 3 major titles, so that I could avoid repeating myself but still include all of the necessary information. Up to this point, I had a plan for my dissertation and all of the data that I would need. I decided that I was going to focus on presenting and complete the planning stages of my project before starting to write my dissertation. I also updated my Gantt chart up to this point in the project. |
| **23rd August – 27th August 2017** | I spent this time completing my planning stages. I wrote an introduction to my project, using some of my secondary research as sources, as well as a hypothesis for what I thought I would get out of this project. I typed up my aims and objectives, and finally got round to writing the ethical guidelines of the project. I typed up the evolution of my question up to this point, explaining each refinement and the reasons behind them. After looking at the checklist I was given, I also included a brief Methodology explaining how I was going to gather my primary and secondary research, and how they would contribute to the project as a whole. At the end of my planning section, I also included my initial and refined dissertation plans, as well as my plan for my questionnaire. After completing this, I was ready to start actually writing my dissertation. |
| **28th August – 4th September 2017** | I created a very rough version of my dissertation during this time, fully aware that it would not be my final version but wanting to have a brief idea of what I would be writing and how close to my word limit I would be. It ended up being below the limit, around 4500 words, however I was not happy with what I had written as it was not very detailed and was mostly quotations with no explanations or analysis. I knew I was going to have to redo it, but now I had a better idea of what I needed to do, even if I now had no motivation to actually do it. |
| **5th September – 7th September 2017** | Ignoring my dissertation for now, I decided to instead do my primary research analysis. I gathered all of the data I had from my questionnaire, and created charts and graphs for each question. I analysed that data I had received and talked about any patterns I had seen, and whether the data was expected or unexpected. I wrote about every question, including the final thoughts question, where I talked about the actual opinions of the people I asked and whether they coincided with the data I had received from my secondary research. Overall, I found that my primary and secondary research mostly agreed with each other, which I found interesting. |
| **28th December 2017** | After taking a break from my project to focus on my A Level Mocks, I looked back at my initial dissertation and decided to redo it. I gathered a couple more web sources to support my dissertation, and chose the most relevant quotes from my secondary research, omitting a few sources by accident. By doing this, I made sure that the research I was going to use was the most relevant possible and was something that I could write about sufficiently. |
| **29th December – 31st December 2017** | During this time, I completely rewrote my dissertation, including the relevant quotations and making sure most of the writing was in my own words. I took care not to repeat myself, but did not make an effort to cut down the words, as I would probably do that at a later time. My dissertation ended up being extremely over the word limit, even without a conclusion or evaluation, however it is a piece of writing I am proud of and is infinitely better than the original version. |
| **30th December 2017** | A new discovery in AI technology was announced, and I decided to include the source in my dissertation last minute to show the rapid pace of the technology’ evolution, as it was evolving even as I was writing my project. |
| **31st December 2017 – 1st January 2018** | I looked back at my primary research analysis to make sure it was to as good of a standard as my new dissertation, and after reading that most people had admitted they were not knowledgeable on the topic of AI, I decided to include an extra source in my dissertation outlining exactly how AI is used in technology today. The subtitle ‘Current Applications’ was originally not going to be a part of my project, but finding this source convinced me to add it as it was very educational, and allowed me to write about the fears of AI resulting from not knowing how and where it is used. After adding this source, I completely finished my dissertation and was happy where I was in terms of the actual project.  I also filled in the Mid Project Review on the PPR sheet, talking about what I had done up to this point and what I still needed to do, and the strengths and weaknesses of the project so far. My weaknesses include staying under a word limit, but my strengths are definitely in time management and self-assessment in order to improve my project quality. |
| **3rd January 2018** | I typed up my bibliography now that I had essentially finished my dissertation, and wrote a short review on every source that I used, as well as the ones I didn’t. I made note of how many times I had used each source, and commented on the relevance, reliability and bias of each source. I split this into sections – Books, Journals & Articles, and Websites. I am happy with the varied sources I have gathered for this project, and now that I have completed this review, only need to write my conclusion and evaluation before completing my project. |
| **5th January 2018** | I spent time today refining all parts of my project so far, making sure it was all up to the same standard and consistently presented. I also updated my Gantt chart up to this point in the project, and made sure that all I now need to do is write a conclusion and evaluation for my project. |
| **13th January 2018** | I wrote the conclusion to my project, answering my question and tying up the loose ends in my dissertation and primary research analysis. I talked about whether the conclusion was expected or not, and whether my primary and secondary research agreed. I also commented that I should have tailored my topic title to be an actual question, so that I had something to answer in my conclusion, and I also plan to mention this in my evaluation when I come to write it. |
| **20th January 2018** | I typed up the evaluation to my project, tying up any loose ends and talking about what I could have improved in my project overall, as well as what I accomplished with it. I made sure everything else was up to date – this progress plan and my Gantt chart included. Up to this point, my project is now completed, and I plan to spend the rest of my time before the deadline doing any suggested improvements, as well as the oral presentation. |
| **24th February 2018** | I filled out the end of project review on my PPR document after receiving feedback from submitting the first draft of my project. I wasn’t given anything to improve, so now that I have completed the review, all I need to do is prepare a presentation, which I will do closer to the time of the final deadline. |
| **22nd March 2018** | Created a PowerPoint presentation summarising my project and created an accompanying set of notes to be used when delivering the presentation to an audience. Once I have delivered the presentation, my project will be complete. |