

AI5 - Humans and Intelligent Machines: Coursework 2

Your task

Produce an essay of approximately 2,000 words around a single topic chosen from the below list. Essays may include diagrams, tables and figures if appropriate.

Use all the inspiration you have developed from reading about the topic and discussing it with your cohort. Aim to be credible but challenging: be balanced, but try to take a side in your writing and argue strongly for your position.

Your essay should answer one or two **questions**:

- If you decide to answer one or two of the questions provided in each topic, please specify them in your essay and be sure to discuss them.
- You can also answer other questions pertinent to your chosen topic as long as you explain why this question is relevant and why you are focusing on it.

You've got limited words [c. 2000] so keep them tightly on topic. Don't dwell on points that are of marginal relevance and **don't try to answer too many questions**.

If you are answering two questions, try to balance the amount of attention you give to each. Make your decision and its rationale explicit and compelling.

Topics list

1. **Accountability and Responsibility.** Discuss who should be responsible and held accountable for intelligent technology. For example: What are the responsibilities of governments (local, national, transnational) in determining and regulating the place of intelligent technology in law, commerce, and society? What are the responsibilities of the individual programmer? Should any other entities hold responsibility?

2. **Data collection and Privacy.** Select a device (e.g. Domestic robots, Intelligent speakers) and discuss how data is collected and issues around privacy. For example: Is regulating the flow of data and information sufficient to protect naïve users of domestic robots? how much could an "intelligent speaker" such as Alexa or Cortana learn about a family's lives and habits? How different would this be for a robot capable of moving around the home?

3. **Human - Intelligent Computing Interaction.** Interaction with computer systems has been dominated for decades by the combination of a physical keyboard and visual display. Discuss whether this combination is still appropriate for intelligent computing. For example: what could be the most effective way to interact with intelligent computing? The most accessible?

4. **Ethics and Intelligent Computing.** In developing intelligent computing, issues of ethics are central. Select a specific field (e.g. prisons, cars, art) and discuss what are the key issues in terms of ethics and intelligent computing. For example: How can the developer of intelligent systems be aware of and reason about these issues in the development processes? How can the user be aware of these issues and how to deal with breaches of them?

Assessment

The essay contributes 70% to the total assessment mark for this unit. Four criteria will be considered as follows, for a total of 70:

- The selected topic (and its number) is stated at the beginning of the essay (/2)
- Knowledge and understanding (/13): how relevant your writing is to the selected topic and how much understanding of this topic you demonstrate
- Research and evidence (/20): the thoroughness with which the topic is researched and evidenced. Your arguments and claims are backed by appropriate sources (using the Bath Harvard Referencing System)
- Structure and presentation (/15): the extent to which your arguments are well organised (e.g. introduction, discussion, conclusion) and flow throughout your essay
- Developing your argument (/20): the extent to which your arguments are fully developed, justified and match your set aim/question

Provide evidence

Don't make unsupported claims and assertions. Use more than a handful of (appropriate) references. If you use various non-scholarly (web-based) sources, try to balance them with a reasonable proportion of reputable, ideally peer-reviewed, publications (e.g. journal papers).

You need to be thorough and consistent when referencing sources. Use the Bath Harvard Referencing System throughout your essay⁵. For example:

When citing a source in your essay:

- If the author's name occurs naturally within your writing, enter only the year in parentheses. E.g. Benedikt (1879)
- If the author's name does NOT occur naturally within your writing, enter both surname and year in parentheses. E.g. (Benedikt, 1879)

When writing a **reference**, include: Author/editor; Title; Year of publication; Name of the publisher; Place of publication; Page range if your source is from a larger paginated work like a book chapter or if you are directly quoting from a text. If you use a source that you found **online** (not a paper/pdf found online but, for example, a magazine webpage), you should add [Online] and "Available from: [web address/URL] [date that you accessed the document]".

Word count

2000 words (+/- 10%). This limit does not include references, diagrams, tables and figures. Keep your diagrams, tables and figure short and clear. They should be there only to support your argument not to replace content in the essay.

Remember to not put your name or other personally identifying information on the coursework so anonymous grading can be undertaken.

⁵ More information regarding the Bath Harvard Referencing System:
<https://library.bath.ac.uk/referencing/harvard-bath>