Anglais STN A2 NAME : Viet NGUYEN

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Student number: 20006303

“When man meets metal: the rise of transhumans” (The Guardian)

The #Bdyhax Conference took place in Austin (Texas, USA) in 2017. During the conference, scientists, researchers and fans presented how the mix of biology and technology can revolutionize human capability. These people make experiments to improve their body with biometric implants and cognitive enablers1. They extend their senses and surpass their physical limitation: For example, one experimenter presented a vest that converted sound into multiple vibrations which you can feel in your back when you are deaf; a drummer who had lost an arm customized a prosthetic arm. These people are called “transhumanists”.

The idea of augmenting our natural senses and abilities with surgery2 is a difficult ethical question. James Young lost his arm and leg in a train accident in London in 2012. He won a competition to receive a bionic arm with phone-charging ports and a personal drone attachment. He has mixed feelings about the arm: It is a cool gadget with a futuristic style, but it is heavy and limited. He usually does not use it, and he plans to replace it with a model that can be properly attached to his bone. But he needs roughly £70,000 to get it. Rob Spence, the “Eyeborg” tells a similar story: Nearly 10 years ago he replaced the eye he had lost in a childhood accident with a video camera that he could use to record and transmit videos of what he was seeing. He developed the device with the aid of friends at home. Spence has talked to various commercial companies about developing applications for the eyeborg, but they all refused: “It is a strange product that raises legal and medical questions”.

Answer the questions /4

1. What is presented during the #Bdyhax Conference ?

à During the conference, scientists, researchers and fans presented how the mix of biology and technology can revolutionize human capability.

2. What are the characteristics of James Young’s bionic prosthesis? (give 2 characteristics)

à - This is a bionic arm with phone-charging ports and a personal drone attachment,

- but it is heavy and limited.

3. Why do we call Rob Spence “the Eyeborg”?

à Because he replaced the eye he had lost in a childhood accident with a video camera that he could use to record and transmit videos of what he was seeing.

4. Why do companies refuse to work with him on his project of an improved artificial eye?

à Because they are hesitant about legal and medical issues in this matter.

Writing task [/15]

In a well-structured essay, give your opinion about the computer (or the laptop). Do you think it is an important invention? What are its advantages/disadvantages, according to you?

(MIN 120 words)

è For almost the students, the employer, having a computer or a laptop is essential. If we are going to school or work, it is absolutely indispensable for us to have a phone and a laptop, because it will be difficult if you will not have one or both of the above. I don't know what it will be like for others, but for me without a computer or laptop, it is counted as "blind", especially for learning Informatique, this is unacceptable. Most information and materials for classroom assignments can be accessed through websites and applications on computers, although they can also be found on phones. But phones are not designed for homework, text editing, ... they are only made for phone calls, texting. Or at least the original purpose of this invention just wanted that. And computer is the invention built on many different technologies, including phones, then after, the laptop appears to facilitate all the basic uses of computers and to move more easily. The computer can can store data at high speed continuous and can undertake many different jobs, providing absolute accuracy for users. In which, the computer also has remarkable advantages, it can help you store a large amount of information that can be easily searched whenever you want to find it. Besides, it can also undertake many different jobs with its automatic information capability. You just need to install the program and set the items, the computer will automatically process and complete functions in an independent way. the computer can also assist you with many different functions and the screen space is also more spacious. As a result, it makes it easy to work and perform many operations at the same time. Not only that, computers also have many replacements and easily find other replacements without incurring too high a cost. There is only one downside to desktop computers: bulky, suitable in fixed workplaces. And laptops are designed to deal with that. With most of the same functions but more compact. Anyway, the computer is a great invention in work and study today.

Grammar /6

1. Use object pronouns.

a. My brother is a music fan. This CD is for \_\_\_\_him\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. My nieces love mangas. These books are for \_\_\_\_\_them\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. My mother collects jewels. These rings are for \_\_\_\_\_her\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. My parents like old books. I found this one in an antique shop for \_\_\_\_\_\_them\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Use possessive adjectives.

a. Where are (you) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_your\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ friends?

b. Here is a letter from (I) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_my\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cousin Max.

c. She lives in Paris now with (she) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_her\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ children.

d. (He) \_\_\_\_\_\_His\_\_\_\_\_\_ brother is a banker.

3. Translate.

a. C’est ma voiture : This is my car.

b. J’ai vu John hier : I saw John yesterday.

c. Il est venu avec son père : He came with his father.

d. Je suis en train de lire un livre : I'm reading a book.

4. Form the interrogative and negative sentences.

a. I like books.

à What do you like?

à I don’t like books.

b. He went to the cinema on Tuesdays.

à Where does he go on Tuesdays?

à He didn’t go the cinema on Tuesdays.

c. They will go to the shop every Sunday.

à Where will they go every Sunday?

à They won’t go to the shop every Sunday.

d. You watch a lot of movies.

à Do you watch a lot of movies?

à You don’t watch a lot of movies.

e. We had ice-cream in the freezer.

à What do we have in freezer?

à We hadn’t ice-cream in the freezer.

f. She hates math lessons.

à What does she hate ?

à She doesn’t hate math lessons.

5. Choose the correct verb form. (vous choisissez le temps et la conjugaison. Trouvez les indices, il n’y a qu’une seule possibilité à chaque fois).

a. She\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_sent\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (send) an email to her aunt yesterday.

b. Karl \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is eating\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (eat) cake right now.

c. Tomorrow Max \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_watches\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a film.

d. This year, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_goes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to guitar practice on Saturdays.

e. Next Sunday she \_\_\_\_\_\_flies\_\_\_\_\_(fly) to London.

f. Can you please be quiet? I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’m work\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (work).

6. Choose: is / are / do / does

a. \_\_\_Is\_\_ he a teacher?

b. \_\_\_Is\_\_\_ she fear dogs?

c. \_\_\_Are\_\_\_ you from Spain?

d. \_\_\_\_Are\_\_\_\_ they read comics?

e. \_\_\_\_\_Is\_\_\_ your father nice?

f. \_\_\_Do\_\_\_\_ you speak Chinese?

g. \_\_\_\_\_Is\_\_ he have to go to grandma’s today?

7. Fill in the gaps with comparatives of superiority.

a. An elephant is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_bigger\_\_\_\_\_\_\_than a horse. (big)

b. Our apartment is \_\_\_\_\_nicer\_\_\_\_than yours. (nice)

c. This dress is \_\_\_\_\_more beautiful\_\_\_\_\_\_than that one. (beautiful)

d. Jake is a \_\_\_\_\_better\_\_\_\_\_student than Fred. (good)

e. Planes are \_\_\_\_\_faster\_\_\_\_\_\_than trains. (quick)

8. Much or many?

a. How \_\_\_\_\_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_ sugar do you want in your coffee?

b. I don’t have \_\_\_\_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_ time for you today.

c. He’s very lonely, he does not have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_many\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ friends.

d. I drank too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ beer yesterday.

e. I don’t like them very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.