**Unit 1: Current Affairs and Issues**

**Reading I: How Driverless Cars Will Change Our World**

**A. Match the words with their meanings:**

1. **glare** → ii) an intense blinding light
2. **curb** → ii) something that checks or restrains
3. **hail** → i) to call to somebody to attract attention
4. **commute** → ii) to travel regularly between workplace and home
5. **serene** → i) calm and peaceful
6. **liability** → i) a person or thing that causes problems
7. **deploy** → ii) to use something effectively
8. **autonomous** → i) a vehicle that drives itself
9. **perception** → i) a belief or image about understanding something

**B. Choose the correct alternatives:**

1. **iii)** They have their own voice to welcome people.
2. **i)** The USA
3. **iii)** It reduces carbon production.
4. **ii)** It cannot deal with human drivers.
5. **i)** Safety from the human environment
6. **ii)** Partly trustworthy

**C. Answer these questions:**

**a) Mention any three features of the driverless car:**

1. Voice greeting system
2. Autonomous navigation
3. Empty driver seat

**b) Describe the benefits of driverless technology:**

1. Enhanced safety by reducing accidents caused by human errors like fatigue and distractions.
2. Positive environmental impact by reducing fuel consumption and lowering carbon emissions.
3. Improved accessibility for people who cannot drive, such as the elderly and disabled.

**c) What, according to Camilla Fowler, is the special advantage of automated vehicles?**

Automated vehicles reduce fatalities and accidents by eliminating human errors, such as speeding and distractions.

**d) What are the problems with driverless vehicles in David Hynd's views?**

1. Difficulty in predicting unpredictable human behaviors, such as reckless driving and jaywalking.
2. Legal challenges, particularly regarding liability in accidents involving autonomous vehicles.

**e) What are scientists doing to make driverless technology safer?**

1. Conducting advanced testing through simulated real-life scenarios to evaluate vehicle performance.
2. Enhancing AI and sensor technology to better handle complex situations, such as detecting erratic drivers and children crossing the street.

**f. Do you think driverless technology is safer than human-controlled driving? Why?**

Yes, driverless technology is safer because it eliminates common human errors, such as driving under the influence, fatigue, and distractions. Studies from companies like Waymo show lower accident rates in autonomous vehicles compared to human-driven cars.

**D. Think of any three other areas where artificial intelligence (AI) has been used. What are the benefits of using AI in these areas?**

1. **Healthcare**: AI assists in diagnosing diseases and analyzing medical data, leading to quicker and more accurate diagnoses.
2. **Agriculture**: AI-driven drones and sensors optimize farming practices, improving crop yields and reducing water usage.
3. **Retail**: AI improves customer experience by providing personalized recommendations and automating customer support via chatbots.

**Pronunciation**

*(Pronounce these words with the help of your teacher.)*

**Speaking**

*(Do it by yourself.)*

**Grammar I: Reported Speech**

**A. Match the statements with reported speech:**

* 1. Khushi said → v) Khushi said she went to school every day by bus.
  2. Karma said → i) Karma apologized for coming late.
  3. Susan says → ii) Susan says she will leave for Bhanu next week.
  4. Tshering said → iii) Tshering promised to meet that Saturday.
  5. The agent said → iv) The agent informed that the bus left at six.
  6. She said → vii) She said she had already finished her project work.
  7. Yanjal said → vi.)Yanjal said he worked from home those days.

**B. Complete with reporting verbs:**

1. admitted
2. advised
3. warned
4. offered
5. informed
6. thanked
7. agreed
8. promised
9. apologized

**Writing I: Newspaper Article on AI Challenges**

*The Dark Side of AI: Challenges We Cannot Ignore*

*By [Your Name], [Today’s Date]*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a key part of modern technology, making tasks faster and more efficient. From smart assistants to medical advancements, AI is transforming daily life. However, as AI evolves, it brings a range of new challenges that must be addressed.

One of the biggest concerns is the impact on jobs. Many industries are using AI to replace human workers, leading to fears of unemployment. Automation in fields like manufacturing, customer service, and even creative roles could disrupt the workforce, creating uncertainty for workers in those industries.

Another issue is privacy. AI systems rely on large amounts of personal data to operate, raising concerns about how this information is collected, stored, and used. Without proper protection, there is a risk of data breaches or misuse, putting individuals' privacy at risk.

While AI offers incredible benefits, these challenges highlight the need for careful regulation. Governments and businesses must work together to ensure that AI is used ethically and responsibly, ensuring a future where technology benefits everyone without creating harm.

**Reading II: Open Letter to UN Secretary-General**

**A. Fill in the blanks:**

1. corporate
2. tackle
3. catalyse
4. expertise
5. net-zero
6. at stake
7. outrage

**B. Write True/False/Not Given:**

1. False
2. Not Given
3. True
4. Not Given
5. False
6. True

**C. Answer these questions:**

1. **Where is the UN Secretary-General’s office located?**  
   The UN Secretary-General’s office is located in New York, USA.
2. **What does the letter demand regarding children under 18?**  
   The letter demands the inclusion of children under 18 in climate decision-making processes.
3. **Why is the Youth Advisory Group important?**  
   The Youth Advisory Group accelerates climate action by incorporating youth perspectives and solutions.
4. **What actions have children taken to address climate change?**  
   Children have organized strikes, proposed innovative solutions, and pressured leaders through campaigns and social media.
5. **How did Greta Thunberg and Fabrizio influence climate awareness?**  
   Greta Thunberg’s global protests brought attention to climate issues, while Fabrizio’s warnings highlighted the urgency of immediate action.
6. **What specific demand does the letter make about COP26?**  
   The letter calls for the inclusion of children in COP26 planning and ensuring their voices are heard directly.

**Listening**

*(Do it by yourself.)*

**Grammar II: Indirect Speech**

**A. Choose the correct verbs:**

1. witnessed
2. the earth revolves round the sun
3. she can’t stay here anymore
4. she loves to listen to music
5. he had completed his homework
6. is
7. wanted

**B. Rewrite in indirect speech:**

1. Rainna said that they had to cross the river and go ahead.
2. Smarika told her friends she would meet them the next day.
3. Chandani said that she couldn’t come to school the next day.
4. Dorje apologized for not lending money that day.
5. The teacher told us that we could solve the remaining problems ourselves.

**Writing II: Letter to the Mayor**

[Your Address]

[Today’s Date]

The Mayor  
[Municipality Name]  
[Municipality Address]

**Subject: Request for Inclusion of Children’s Representatives in Decision-Making**

Respected Mayor,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to request that representatives of children be included in the decision-making processes regarding issues affecting children in our municipality.

Children’s perspectives are essential in shaping policies on education, health, and welfare. Including them in these discussions will ensure that their needs are fully understood and addressed.

I kindly urge you to consider involving child representatives in future decisions, helping to create a more inclusive and child-friendly community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
A True Nepali Citizen

**Project Work & Other Tasks**

*(Do it by yourself.)*

**Disclaimer:** Some exercise solutions might be incorrect. If you notice any mistakes, please contact us at [bibeksahofficialyt@gmail.com](mailto:bibeksahofficialyt@gmail.com)