This idea first came to mind in class when I saw a classmates' presentation on IQ tests, and I thought to myself: "huh, with all the research and things we know now about the strengths and weaknesses of IQ tests and standardized tests, why not rethink how we could redesign it? Or create a new test that'd cover what those tests don't, rather than trying to make THE comprehensive test?" As I had that thought and wrote it down, I explored the idea by thinking about and talking to AI about what the key skills in life might be, the possibly faint line to be drawn between a human and machine. So I did some research and found relevant sources documenting the skills that are likely to remain relevant in the age of AI. This project comes at a point where it intersects with my desire to explore the concerns around HOW to prosper in the future across a longer time horizon in spite of all the uncertainty we currently face.

For my experimental questionnaire, I've designed a set of 30 questions across 10 categories in the form of situational questions, where they are designed to relate and resonate with day to day life. It's meant to be a helpful and constructive reflection on how we see the world, and how to better move forward. I've designed a scoring system of 0, 1, 3, 4, 5, to give a scoring range for each category, and associate it with a description of what it means and a quick tip.

My exploration has led me to conclude that adaptive abilities and skills, more liquid than the traditional sense of hard skills, might matter more. The ability to learn, think, self-motivate, and adapt in an era where many skills are increasingly outpaced by AI, as well as those who are able to wield AI as an ally, seems to be things that AI won't be able to replace in the near future. Machines, for a long time, have been seen as stiff, where programs and outcomes are explicitly programmed, but AI as a concept has opened the door to giving machines 'human agency'. The world as we know seems to be changing gradually and rapidly at the same time, where according to a report by the World Economic Forum, 39% of workers' core skills are estimated to change by 2030. The top cited skills are analytical thinking, resilience, flexibility and agility, leadership and social influence, underscoring the critical role of adaptability and collaboration alongside cognitive skills. This shift marks the inevitable integration of humans and machines, like the yin and yang coming together, where humans' 'fluid' skills complement AI's 'hard' and technical skills. AI has and will continue to disrupt the way humans live and navigate the world, but finding out HOW is the important question to a reasonable path forward. For now, it instills hope in me to know that there are fundamentals that I can continue to invest in on my personal development journey, which I deem less likely to be obsolete with the progression of AI. On the contrary, more necessary than ever, to complement the AI which may soon become ubiquitous in all we see and touch.

As a software developer myself, I've seen the pros and cons of what AI can do, and with the current circumstance as it stands, AI doesn't operate the way humans do, as much as they seem to. They don't 'think' the way we do, often coming to simple conclusions about the number of Rs in the word 'strawberry' incorrectly. Yet, it's extremely capable, from developing websites and app in a matter of minutes as compared to hundreds of hours, to launching weapons systems and bombs and spotting enemies on the battlefield, all on its own. AI as it stands, is a truly powerful machine by nature, operating on computers and electricity, with the promise and illusion of human intelligence. More accurately, it's machine intelligence, a type of being that is

no longer our kind--opening the pandora box to the potential of human civilization collapse and even extinction. AI, as a form of intelligence, works in a way best described as uncontrolled. As we humans have integrated more tech into our lives, we become increasingly cybernetically charged, with the risk of being carried away into a machine we no longer desire to be nor control. The best example off the top of my head is phones, where humans created such a machine and thus should be the master of, but at the same time, gets morphed and sucked into the ways of machine-like behaviors we never intended to adopt. For example, the unhealthy amounts of scrolling and the psychological effects from the ring of notifications. The phone as an invention has rewired the way our brains work, and fundamentally how people live their life. The change in dopamine reward circuits, the unconscious adaptations to cues, and many other effects as illustrated by the constant need to check phones and the host of mental health problems observed across the whole of gen Z. This also highlights the increasing importance of self-mastery, consisting of skills like delay of gratification and controlling one's impulses, in order to navigate our world of increasing temptations. Maybe the fusion of humans and machines isn't inherently bad, creating a novel challenge forging an evolved species of humans to come, but the circumstances in which the effects of machines are uncertain yields a scary and possibly disastrous outcome. In the near term, the trend of human-centric skills shifting to skills involving both human and AI will continue, where those with adaptive ability to adopt and learn the new changes are more likely to be triumphant. Yet, I have a good feeling that the fundamentals will remain, where humans need machines for their abilities as machines need humans for their adaptability.

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