

## Sujet 2: "Computers are useless. They can only give you answers" (Pablo Picasso, 1968). Contextualise and explain, then give your opinion.

A house without a computer is like a body without a soul. We can say that this sentence sums up my essay. Nowadays, computers have a significant impact on us. They take and control a large part of our life. Pablo Picasso said: "Computers are useless. They can only give you answers." This quote makes me wonder whether it is true that computers are useless? are they changing our lifestyles? Do they have an important role in our daily life? The lifestyle we lead today increasingly requires the use of this technology, so I think we can never say that computers are useless.

I cannot imagine what it looked like 100 or more years ago, when it was impossible to use a computer, but history tells us that the human race has always tried to automate / facilitate many of their tasks or daily quests, we can cite several devices or mechanisms that have been used for calculation for thousands of years, such as bar counters, the abacus or the Pascaline addition and subtraction machine created by Pascal in 1642. Likewise today, computers can help control the COVID-19 pandemic for example. They are effectively used to predict the spread of the coronavirus, map its genetic evolution as it is transmitted from human to human, speed up diagnosis and develop potential treatments.

Then I think Picasso just mean that human do the same work as computers and more had real intelligence that comes from their ability to ask questions. Those questions are giving us answers and other questions. So He is saying only we can do all this more than a machine. But the computer makes us look for answers and other questions too, namely devices capable of having conversations with us (Artificial Intelligence); Another example, the field of statistics requires these machines to find answers to our daily problems, they answer questions like "what is the unemployment rate?". Once the math is done and an answer is found, let's say a time series, we will ask "what affects the unemployment rate". This in turn leads to more and more calculations.

By examining the poem of the influential modern artist Louis Zukofsky, " Calculators can only give answers ". He is trying to explain that there is a difference between computers and calculators. Computers can give more than a simple answer. After reading all those cotes , In my opinion Picasso had no basics for his judgement, which makes it invalid. So for me the statement , it is obviously incorrect . I can defend my opinion by this example ; Today we have a lot of machines able to maintain conversations with a person . Computers are immensely useful in many ways. In particular, they lead to deeper questions in arts and sciences. For example, how to best display Picasso's paintings on digital monitors. statistics require a computer to calculate. They answer questions like "what is the unemployment rate?". Once you get a number, say a time series, you are going to ask "what affects the unemployment rate". This in turn leads to more and more calculations. So computers are not providing questions any less than answers.

Ultimately, by using computers, artists and content creators can focus more on their work today, or even create new things that no human has ever thought of (work by Bill Wirtz by example), they can easily share it with the world, review it, and tell the story behind it.

In conclusion, I think we can all agree that computers are not useless, but their use depends on the person behind them.

Links:

<https://quoteinvestigator.com/2011/11/05/computers-useless/>

[https://www.researchgate.net/post/How can computer science contribute to stop the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.researchgate.net/post/How_can_computer_science_contribute_to_stop_the_COVID-19_pandemic)

<https://www.quora.com/Pablo-Picasso-stated-Computers-are-useless-They-can-only-give-you-answers-Is-this-a-valid-judgement>

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