

Code branche ANGLA	Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES TECHNIQUES Régime technique – Session 2015	
Épreuve écrite	Branche	Division / Section
Durée de l'épreuve 180 min.	Anglais	CG / CC
Date de l'épreuve		

PART A : Set Texts

You are not allowed to use a dictionary for this part.

I) Essential Articles (15m)

1. Let's junk the junk food

Who is doing something against the obesity epidemic in the UK and why, according to the text, do their efforts fail in the end? (7m)

2. Bring back the cane

Describe what personal experience Nick Freeman has had with corporal punishment and explain why he is convinced that this type of punishment is effective. (8m)

II) Short Stories (15m)

3. Three is a lucky number

How do Edyth and the police manage to catch Ronald red-handed? (8m)

4. Sauce for the Goose

Explain the title of the story in relation to its events. (7m)

PART B : Unknown Text

You are allowed to use a dictionary for this part.

The Glass Cage: why our brains are at risk of automation as well as our jobs

Author Nicholas Carr argues that our increasing dependency on computers and technology is causing us to lose vital skills.

Our skills become rusty and eventually disappear when they go unused. As a result, humans are becoming less capable as we rely increasingly on technology. This is the thesis of a new book, *The Glass Cage*, by US technology writer Nicholas Carr, whose previous work has included the popular essay “Is Google Making us Stupid?”. He argues that our jobs and lives are being impoverished by our dependence on computers and automation.

Carr cites examples of just how dangerous the result can be. On the last day of May 2009, an Air France flight plunged into the Atlantic, killing all 228 passengers on board. The reason, it was found later by investigators, was the autopilot had disengaged. The pilots, faced with having to fly the plane manually, suffered a “total loss of cognitive control”.

But our dependence does more than just lead to dangerous consequences, says Carr. It also leaves us bored and unsatisfied, both in and out of the workplace. Mastering and using skills is one of life’s greatest pleasures, yet it is the very thing that automation works against by distancing us from being actively involved in the world. Not only do we become prone to “stupid” driving mistakes as we blindly follow our satellite navigation systems but we rarely exercise our mental mapping skills and lose the pleasure of wayfaring in the process.

So much of the cognitive and manual work pilots now undertake has become automated that they can be considered to sit not in glass cockpits but glass cages, Carr argues. As doctors increasingly follow automated diagnostic templates and architects use computer programs to generate their building plans, their jobs become duller. “At some point you turn people into computer operators – and that’s not a very interesting job,” Carr says. We now cede even moral choices to our technology, he says. The Roomba vacuum cleaning robot, for example, will unthinkingly Hoover up a spider that we may have saved.

Not everyone buys Carr’s gloomy argument. People have always lamented the loss of skills due to technology: think about the calculator displacing the slide rule, says Andrew McAfee, a researcher at the MIT Sloan School of Management. But on balance, he says, the world is better off because of automation. There is the occasional high-profile crash – but greater automation, not less, is the answer to avoiding that.

Carr counters that we must start resisting the urge to increase automation unquestioningly. Reserving some tasks for humans will mean less efficiency, he acknowledges, but it will be worth it in the long run.

In the meantime, he sees flickers of hope. In 2013, US regulators notified airlines that they should get pilots to spend more time flying manually rather than on autopilot so they remained able to take over in emergencies. And last year, looking to boost craftsmanship in its cars and innovation in its production lines, Toyota began replacing some of the robots in its Japanese factory with human workers. Could it be time for a “made by humans” movement?

(539 words)

(adapted from the guardian.co.uk)

I) Comprehension questions (15m)

Use your own words as much as possible.

1. What is Nicholas Carr's main argument in the book, *The Glass Cage*? (4m)
2. How does our dependence on technology affect people's everyday lives? (6m)
3. What is Carr's vision for the future and why does he have hope for it? (5m)

III) Development essay (15m)

Write a structured essay of 250 words (+/- 10%) without repeating the ideas from the text.

Indicate the number of words used.

“Can we argue that technology (in the broadest sense) has always been a gift to humanity?”