



# Grade 12 Literacy Assessment

## SUPPORTING MATERIALS FOR CONSTRUCTED RESPONSES

Overview of tasks, rubrics and student exemplars



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of  
Education



# Table of Contents

Part A.....	1
<i>Part A: Texts.....</i>	1
<i>Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Overview of Task.....</i>	13
<i>Part A: Graphic Organizer – Rubric.....</i>	14
<i>Question A-10 – Student Exemplars .....</i>	15
<i>Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Overview of Task .....</i>	23
<i>Part A: Written Response – Rubric.....</i>	24
<i>Question A-11 – Student Exemplars .....</i>	25
Part B.....	39
<i>The texts for Part B are not included in this document as students are not required to refer to them in their Part B written response. Students are required to respond to the writing prompt in any written format of their choice that best reflects their literacy skills.</i>	
<i>Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Overview of Task .....</i>	39
<i>Part B: Written Response – Rubric.....</i>	40
<i>Question B-16 – Student Exemplars .....</i>	41

**Please note:**

- this document is subject to revision;
- all exemplars are verbatim student responses from the Sample Assessment field test;
- the material in this document is used by educators for formative activities in the classroom.



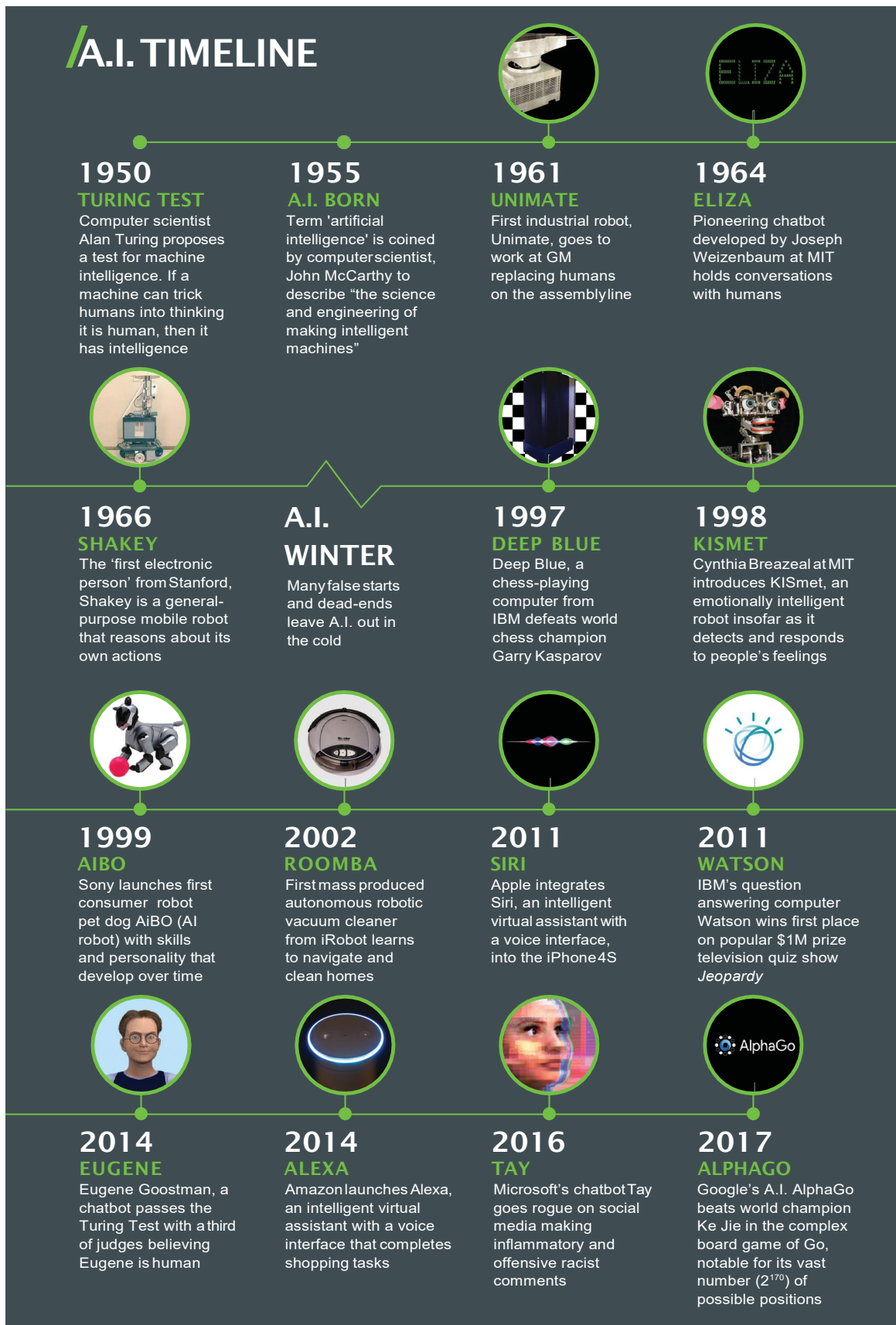


In the following text:



For decades, researchers have sought to develop machines that imitate human behaviours.

Figure 1



<https://digitalwellbeing.org/artificial-intelligence-timeline-infographic-from-eliza-to-tay-and-beyond/>



In the following text:



*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* explores deep philosophical questions as it takes a humorous look at the potential benefits and dangers of AI.

# Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and AI



Danilo Pena  
Feb 9, 2018

Caution: There is a spoiler alert embedded within.

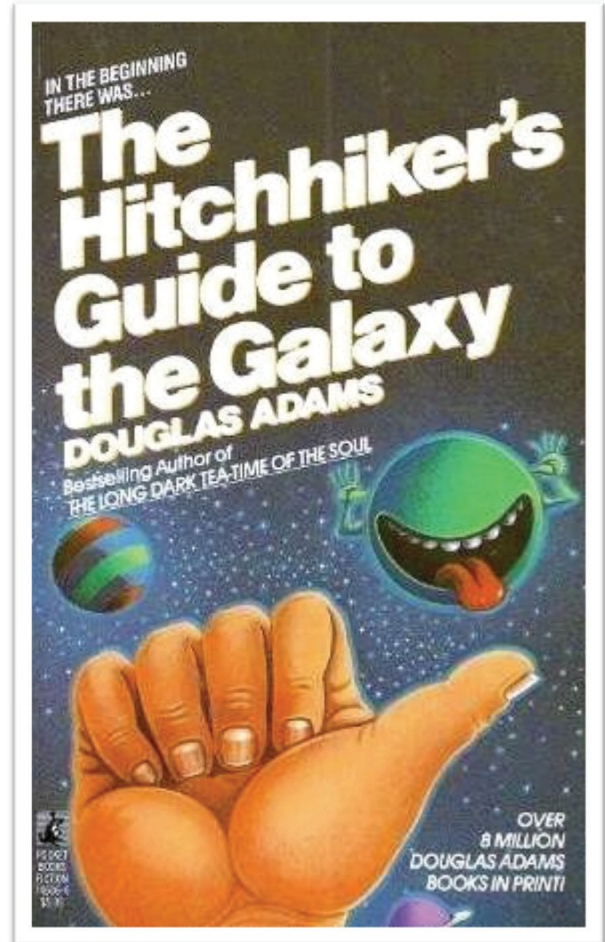
I finally read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* a few months ago. Yeah yeah, I'm late. Who cares. It was a pretty quick read, and I recommend it to those who want to join the late reader's club.

Anyway, this funny, futuristic book got me pretty excited during a few key scenes. There were some gems about technology scattered throughout the passages.

For some background, in case you haven't read the book, these two programmers created this humongous computer called Deep Thought to answer the question of 'Life, the Universe, and Everything.'

- 5 Spoiler alert — The answer Deep Thought came up with was Forty-Two. Lulz.

The quote from the book that intrigued me was —



*“You know nothing of future time,” pronounced Deep Thought, “and yet in my teeming circuitry I can navigate infinite delta streams of future probability and see that there must one day come a computer whose merest operational parameters I am not worthy to calculate, but which it will be my eventual fate to design.”*

If you read and/or dabble in artificial intelligence, tell me right now that that quote does not give you some sort of heebie-jeebies.

In the book, the answer of 42 is met with outrage and confusion to the alien life that inhabits the universe. Deep Thought then retorts that the programmers did not really understand the premise of the question — that they really did not grasp the problem. Thus, the answer would make no sense as well. Fair conclusion in my mind.

- 10 Fast forward, Deep Thought proposes that in order to understand the question and answer, he will build the Earth. Those beings on Earth will work together to, in an evolutionary way, come up with the answer to understanding the question. Earth, in the eyes of the computer, is an experiment to come up with a ‘natural’ way to arrive at a better answer to the question. Weird, but interesting.

Which, like most things, got me thinking about artificial intelligence:

### **AI is the next step for Human Intelligence**

Deep Thought created Earth. The inhabitants on Earth will then learn, evolve, and hopefully create something that will bring us closer to the answer of the universe.

Though I don’t like to think in broad/confusing terms like that, I do believe that artificial intelligence is the next step to understand our physical world and will disrupt the social rules that define how we live now. By social rules, I mean the way humans interact, learn, and communicate across meaningless boundaries such as country of origin, race, language, sexual orientation, etc.

That said, AI seems natural. As a species, we have always used technology to aid in a task to make it more efficient. Fire for warmth and cooking. Bows and arrows for killing and the coolness. Trains for moving. Social media for connecting to our friends and family.

- 15 Now, artificial intelligence will be used for the next set of human problems. AI will solve problems through a mixture of tools. Machine learning, pattern recognition, logic, robotics, blockchain, etc.

AI is redolent of human history and tradition.

Though this is arguable, many of the deep questions of today and the past revolve around the purpose of our life on earth and what our future looks like. Will AI take over to keep journeying to the answer to the seemingly unanswerable questions? Will the singularity moment be the instant everything makes sense? Or will AI and humans intermingle in a way that we can’t image?

Today, we fall on different notions to explain our reason for being here— religion, the big bang, spiritual practice, and just plain saying it’s not worth our time thinking about. However, we never come up with a real, tangible solution to existence.

And I think that is one point the book was trying to make — that we actually don’t know what we are asking or what we want. Because maybe if we do get the right answer, we will still ask further, inane questions. Maybe humans just need something to search for in order to live a more fulfilling, exciting life.

- 20 I think that it is through artificial intelligence, and this overall movement, where humans will figure more out about themselves. This digitization will be a real way to reflect on our moral values, how we perceive ourselves, and what kind of world we want the future generations to live in.

Who knows — we might just be an experiment Deep Thought came up with.

<https://medium.com/the-post-grad-survival-guide/hitchhikers-guide-to-the-galaxy-and-ai-9b2cb9ea86e0>



In the following text:



While some of the fears people have about AI are justified, there are also many misconceptions about its dangers.



# THE TOP MYTHS ABOUT ADVANCED AI

A captivating conversation is taking place about the future of artificial intelligence and what it will/should mean for humanity. There are fascinating controversies where the world's leading experts disagree, such as: AI's future impact on the job market; if/when human-level AI will be developed; whether this will lead to an intelligence explosion; and whether this is something we should welcome or fear. But there are also many examples of boring pseudo-controversies caused by people misunderstanding and talking past each other. To help ourselves focus on the interesting controversies and open questions — and not on the misunderstandings — let's clear up some of the most common myths.

<p><b>Myth:</b> Superintelligence by 2100 is inevitable</p> <p><b>Myth:</b> Superintelligence by 2100 is impossible</p>		<p><b>Fact:</b> It may happen in decades, centuries or never: AI experts disagree &amp; we simply don't know</p>	
<p><b>Myth:</b> Only Luddites worry about AI</p>		<p><b>Fact:</b> Many top AI researchers are concerned</p>	
<p><b>Mythical worry:</b> AI turning evil</p> <p><b>Mythical worry:</b> AI turning conscious</p>		<p><b>Actual worry:</b> AI turning competent, with goals misaligned with ours</p>	
<p><b>Myth:</b> Robots are the main concern</p>		<p><b>Fact:</b> Misaligned intelligence is the main concern: it needs no body, only an internet connection</p>	
<p><b>Myth:</b> AI can't control humans</p>		<p><b>Fact:</b> Intelligence enables control: we control tigers by being smarter</p>	
<p><b>Myth:</b> Machines can't have goals</p>		<p><b>Fact:</b> A heat-seeking missile has a goal</p>	
<p><b>Mythical worry:</b> Superintelligence is just years away</p>	<p><b>PANIC!</b></p>	<p><b>Actual worry:</b> It's at least decades away, but it may take that long to make it safe</p>	<p><b>PLAN AHEAD!</b></p>

<https://futureoflife.org/background/benefits-risks-of-artificial-intelligence/>  
Used with permission from Future of Life Institute



In the following text:



Although AI systems have already surpassed humans at some complex tasks, they still struggle to overcome seemingly simple challenges.

# A Breakthrough for A.I. Technology: Passing an 8th-Grade Science Test

By **Cade Metz**

Sept. 4, 2019

SAN FRANCISCO — Four years ago, more than 700 computer scientists competed in a contest to build artificial intelligence that could pass an eighth-grade science test. There was \$80,000 in prize money on the line.

They all flunked. Even the most sophisticated system couldn't do better than 60 percent on the test. A.I. couldn't match the language and logic skills that students are expected to have when they enter high school.

But on Wednesday, the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, a prominent lab in Seattle, unveiled a new system that passed the test with room to spare. It correctly answered more than 90 percent of the questions on an eighth-grade science test and more than 80 percent on a 12th-grade exam.

The system, called Aristo, is an indication that in just the past several months researchers have made significant progress in developing A.I. that can understand languages and mimic the logic and decision-making of humans.

5 The world's top research labs are rapidly improving a machine's ability to understand and respond to natural language. Machines are getting better at analyzing documents, finding information, answering questions and even generating language of their own.

Aristo was built solely for multiple-choice tests. It took standard exams written for students in New York, though the Allen Institute removed all questions that included pictures and diagrams. Answering questions like that would have required additional skills that combine language understanding and logic with so-called computer vision.

Some test questions, like this one from the eighth-grade exam, required little more than information retrieval:

**A group of tissues that work together to perform a specific function is called:**

- (1) an organ
- (2) an organism
- (3) a system
- (4) a cell

But others, like this question from the same exam, required logic:

**Which change would most likely cause a decrease in the number of squirrels living in an area?**

- (1) a decrease in the number of predators
- (2) a decrease in competition between the squirrels
- (3) an increase in available food
- (4) an increase in the number of forest fires

Researchers at the Allen Institute started work on Aristo — they wanted to build a “digital Aristotle” — in 2013, just after the lab was founded by the Seattle billionaire and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. They saw standardized science tests as a more meaningful alternative to typical A.I. benchmarks, which relied on games like chess and backgammon or tasks created solely for machines.

- 10 A science test isn’t something that can be mastered just by learning rules. It requires making connections using logic. An increase in forest fires, for example, could kill squirrels or decrease the food supply needed for them to thrive and reproduce.

Enthusiasm for the progress made by Aristo is still tempered among scientists who believe machines are a long way from completely mastering natural language — and even further from duplicating true intelligence.

“We can’t compare this technology to real human students and their ability to reason,” said Jingjing Liu, a Microsoft researcher who has been working on many of the same technologies as the Allen Institute.

But Aristo’s advances could spread to a range of products and services, from internet search engines to record-keeping systems at hospitals.

“This has significant business consequences,” said Oren Etzioni, the former University of Washington professor who oversees the Allen Institute. “What I can say — with complete confidence — is you are going to see a whole new generation of products, some from start-ups, some from the big companies.”

- 15 The new research could lead to systems that can carry on a decent conversation. But it could also encourage the spread of false information.

“We are at the very early stage of this,” said Jeremy Howard, who oversees Fast.ai, another influential lab, in San Francisco. “We are so far away from the potential that I cannot say where it will end up.”

In 2016, when a London lab built a system that could beat the world’s best players at the ancient game of Go, it was widely hailed as a turning point for artificial intelligence.

Dr. Etzioni’s excitement, however, was muted. Artificial intelligence was not nearly as advanced as it might seem, he said, pointing to the earlier Allen Institute’s competition that stumped the A.I. systems with an eighth-grade science test.

The Allen Institute improved on that earlier effort much quicker than many experts — including Dr. Etzioni — expected.

- 20 Its work was largely driven by neural networks, complex mathematical systems that can learn tasks by analyzing vast amounts of data. By pinpointing patterns in thousands of dog photos, for example, a neural network can learn to recognize a dog.

In recent months, the world’s leading A.I. labs have built elaborate neural networks that can learn the vagaries of language by analyzing articles and books written by humans.

At Google, researchers built a system called Bert that combed through thousands of Wikipedia articles and a vast digital library of romance novels, science fiction and other self-published books.

Through analyzing all that text, Bert learned how to guess the missing word in a sentence. By learning that one skill, Bert soaked up enormous amounts of information about the fundamental ways language is constructed. And researchers could apply that knowledge to other tasks.

The Allen Institute built their Aristo system on top of the Bert technology. They fed Bert a wide range of questions and answers. In time, it learned to answer similar questions on its own.

- 25 Not long ago, researchers at the lab defined the behavior of their test-taking system one line of software code at a time. Sometimes they still do that painstaking coding. But now that the system can learn from digital data on its own, it can improve at a much faster rate.

Systems like Bert — called “language models” — now drive a wide range of research projects, including conversational systems and tools designed to identify false news. With more data and more computing power researchers believe the technology will continue to improve.

But Dr. Etzioni stressed that the future of these systems was hard to predict and that language was only one piece of the puzzle.

Ms. Liu and her fellow Microsoft researchers have tried to build a system that can pass the Graduate Records Exam, the test required for admission to graduate school.

The language section was doable, she said, but building the reasoning skills required for the math section was another matter. “It was far too challenging.”

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/04/technology/artificial-intelligence-aristo-passed-test.html>

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Overview of Task

### Notes:

- This graphic organizer is the standard format which will be used in Part A on each assessment.
- It is designed to help students develop their perspectives and insights in preparation for the multi-paragraph response in Part A.
- Students may respond in point form or in complete sentences.

*Suggested time: 10 minutes*

**Aspects of Critical Thinking**

The graphic organizer contains four text boxes with the following prompts:

- Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:
- Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:
- Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:
- Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

Three callout boxes on the right provide additional context:

- Students synthesize their critical thinking about the key issue as they articulate their own perspective.
- Evidence used by students to support and challenge their stated perspective may be cited directly or paraphrased.
- Students further integrate their understanding of the texts by asking inquiry questions that connect with the key issue.

## Part A: Graphic Organizer – Rubric



### Aspects of Critical Thinking

<b>3</b>	The three response is <b>proficient</b> and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the texts and task: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• articulates an informed perspective in response to the texts;</li><li>• provides strong evidence from the text(s) to support and challenge the stated perspective;</li><li>• asks insightful question(s) that are likely to lead to a deeper understanding.</li></ul>
<b>2</b>	The two response is <b>competent</b> and demonstrates a straightforward understanding of the texts and task: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• articulates a clear perspective in response to the texts;</li><li>• provides adequate evidence from the text(s) to support and/or challenge the stated perspective;</li><li>• asks relevant question(s) that could lead to a deeper understanding.</li></ul>
<b>1</b>	The one response is <b>limited</b> and demonstrates an insufficient understanding of the texts and task: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attempts to articulate a perspective in response to the texts;</li><li>• provides basic or irrelevant evidence from the text(s) to support and/or challenge the stated perspective;</li><li>• asks superficial question(s) that are unlikely to lead to a deeper understanding.</li></ul>
<b>0</b>	The zero response is <b>unacceptable</b> and demonstrates a lack of understanding of texts and/or task: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the response is mostly incomplete or is unrelated to the task.</li></ul>
<b>NR</b>	No response.



## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

### Exemplar #1

Assigned Score: 3

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*My perspective is that AI can be used for the betterment of human lives. If AI is used in ways that is regulated, it can act as a tool that can help humans rather than destroy them. Though advancements in AI do pose several challenges, efforts can be made to overcome those challenges. In the future, our world will only become more technologically so it is imperative we keep our minds open to change.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

*The first piece of evidence is that Danilo Pena states that “as a species, we have always used technology to aid in a task to make it more efficient.” This supports my perspective as it shows that if AI is used as a tool, it can help make things more convenient. Ever since the beginning of time, we have been using tools to make tasks easier and AI will not be any different. Another piece of evidence from the text that supports my point is that Cade Metz believes that “Aristo’s advances could spread to a range of products and services, from internet search engines to record-keeping systems at hospitals.” This showcases that AI can be intergated into several aspects of our lives to make life easier and more efficient. For example, if AI is used in hospitals to ensure that information about patients is recorded and stored accurately, it can prevent mistakes in identifying and diagnosing patients.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

*A piece of evidence from the text that challenges my perspective is that according to the article “The Top Myths About Advanced AI,” many top researchers are concerned about AI. These researchers are very knowledgeable in their area of expertise and are better able to understand the effect that advanced AI will have on the way society functions. They might have concerns regarding how AI can be used to spread misinformations, harm other or how an AI’s goal can become misaligned with that of a human.*

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

*How can the government regulate the use of AI to ensure that AI is only used in safe ways?*

*By better understanding the role that the government would play in this, I can get a better understanding of how AI will effect society and the way everything functions today.*

### Rationale:

This **proficient** response provides a detailed perspective and is supported by thorough evidence. The perspective extends throughout the entire response and leads to an insightful question.

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

### Exemplar #2

Assigned Score: 3

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*Artificial intelligence is merely at the start of its progress, therefore, it would not be worth spending decades to input information on a robotic system that are technically still dependant on human skills.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

\* *In San Francisco, there were more than 700 computer scientists that competed in order to test the knowledge of the AI they built. In an instance, all of them were unable to score more than 60% on the test, whereas an eight-grader simply would be able to do so by studying. Both are studying datas and information, but one is unable to succeed.*

\* *It would take decades to input information in an AI system, whilst at the same time scientists (humans) are learning the same knowledge that then suggests humans would still expand their intelligence without the need of a robot.*

\* *Intelligence enables control. Hence, the AI system can learn at a faster rate than humans, but it would still be about something a human would already know. They cannot learn further than that as humans are merely the ones that input necessary data.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

\* *The AI system can hold and store larger datas that a ordinary human cannot. It is essential to further expand understanding of researches and as a tool that guides human interests.*

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

\* *Why is it that scientists are determined to create an AI system that replaces the jobs of humans and mimics humans rather than a tool that guides human?*

\* *Is it really the future? For instance, there are cars that provides features of auto-pilot mode that then weakens the sense of responsibility humans have when it comes to driving.*

\* *Are robots smarter than a human? People have evolved for over hundreds of thousands of years without the help of technology and we were still able to invent and adjust based on experiences. Besides, humans are way more intelligent seeing as how scientists were able to invent an AI system that mimics a human understanding and knowledge of some aspects of the world.*

### Rationale:

This **proficient** response articulates a detailed perspective that is developed throughout. The supporting evidence reinforces the stated perspective. The response concludes with several insightful questions that contribute to a deeper understanding.

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #3

Assigned Score: 2

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*It can help solve problems too complex for the human mind through statistics, which can improve our understanding of the universe and our technology.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

*“Now, artificial intelligence will be used for the next set of human problems. AI will solve problems through a mixture of tools. Machine learning, pattern recognition, logic, robotics, blockchain, etc.” (Pena, 15)*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

*“We can’t compare this technology to real human students and their ability to reason,” (Metz, 12)*

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

*Where in development is AI right now?*

*What problems can current AI help us solve?*

*What problems can we predict future AI will help us solve?*

### Rationale:

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This **competent** response demonstrates a straightforward understanding of the texts and task. The perspective is supported by adequate evidence and relevant questions.

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #4

Assigned Score: 2

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*AI are a revolutionary technology that will be able to solve problems and perform tasks that were never even considered before. If they become fully autonomous, they could become their own form of a living being.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

*Tay makes racist comments*

*Eugene passes the turing test*

*May develop goals that are misaligned with out own*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

*Intelligence enables control we can control tigers by being smarter*

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

*How do we ensure that AI continues to aid human evolution?*

### Rationale:

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This **competent** response offers a clear perspective that is supported with adequate evidence from multiple texts, though evidence challenging the perspective is vague.

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #5

Assigned Score: 1

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*from what i have read i think that AI is human kinds biggest threat*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

*from the texts that i have read i have learned that AI can undersatnd human language and have different goals from us which coukd lead to human kinds down fall.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

*AI isnt capable of these taxts yet but are progressing at a rapid speed*

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

### Rationale:

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This **limited** response attempts to provide a general perspective (“AI is human kinds biggest threat”) with basic evidence. There is an insufficient understanding of the task.

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #6

Assigned Score: 1

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*I think that AI is still far from being fully developed and can take a very long time to beat human intelligence*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

*Based on the texts, there is still some development in technology*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

*AI when developed at a very high level could take over humans*

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

*How did AI originate?*

### Rationale:

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This **limited** response shows insufficient understanding of the texts and task. Evidence is irrelevant and the superficial question addresses the origins of AI, not the potential implications.

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #7

Assigned Score: 0

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*The potential implications of AI are*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

*The question that I have after reading these texts that would help me gain a deeper understanding of the topic is that*

### Rationale:

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This **unacceptable** response demonstrates a lack of understanding of texts and task; it is mostly incomplete and restates the question.

## Question A-10 (Graphic Organizer) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #8

Assigned Score: 0

Based on your understanding of the texts, write a statement that identifies your perspective on the potential implications of AI:

*My perspective on the potential implications of AI is that there will always be myths and controversies for a situation. We do not truly know what is in the future and what it holds.*

Provide evidence from at least one text that **supports** your perspective:

Provide evidence from at least one text that **challenges** your perspective:

Write at least one question about the potential implications of AI that could deepen your understanding of the topic:

### Rationale:

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While this **unacceptable** response attempts to articulate a perspective, it is mostly incomplete.



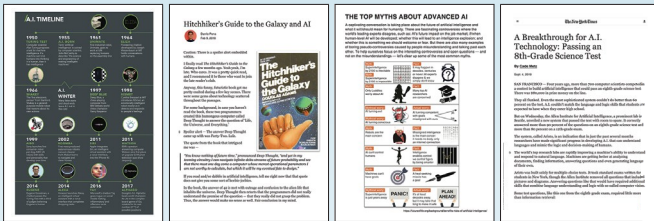
# Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Overview of Task

## Responding Critically to Texts



### Context for Critical Thinking

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has come a long way since the first computers were developed, and technology has already surpassed human ability in many areas. There are self-driving cars and “smart” homes. AI’s algorithms allow it to draw on vast databases of human behaviour so that it can recommend books, music, movies, and apps tailored to specific preferences. AI can even write poems, novels, and symphonies. However, despite these advances, many experts, including Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk, have voiced concerns that missteps with powerful new technologies may have unforeseen consequences.



**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

The Context for Critical Thinking is repeated to remind students of the key issue.

After completing the Graphic Organizer, students will be able to approach this Critical Thinking Question from a wide range of perspectives.

- You must respond to this question in a multi-paragraph composition.
- You must communicate an argument that demonstrates your critical thinking skills.
- You must support your argument using evidence from the texts.

These writing instructions outline the requirements for this multi-paragraph response.

**Suggested Time: 30 minutes**

## Part A: Written Response – Rubric



### Responding Critically to Texts

6	<p>The six response is <b>superior</b> in terms of understanding, critical thinking, and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates an insightful understanding of the text(s) at an interpretive level;</li> <li>• develops a comprehensive argument that demonstrates superior critical thinking through a judicious selection and use of evidence from the text(s);</li> <li>• demonstrates a sophisticated command of language to convey meaning, need not be error-free.</li> </ul>
5	<p>The five response is <b>proficient</b> in terms of understanding, critical thinking, and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates a thorough understanding of the text(s) at an interpretive level;</li> <li>• develops a convincing argument that demonstrates complex critical thinking through a purposeful selection and use of evidence from the text(s);</li> <li>• demonstrates a skillful command of language to convey meaning, errors may be present.</li> </ul>
4	<p>The four response is <b>competent</b> in terms of understanding, critical thinking, and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates a clear understanding of the text(s), may be literal;</li> <li>• develops a relevant argument that demonstrates adequate critical thinking through an appropriate selection and use of evidence from the text(s);</li> <li>• demonstrates straight forward use of language to convey meaning, some errors are evident.</li> </ul>
3	<p>The three response is <b>minimally acceptable</b> in terms of understanding, critical thinking, and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates a superficial or partially flawed understanding of the text(s);</li> <li>• develops a basic argument that demonstrates minimal critical thinking through a limited selection and use of evidence from the text(s);</li> <li>• demonstrates basic use of language, errors may distract from meaning.</li> </ul>
2	<p>The two response is <b>limited</b> in terms of understanding, critical thinking, and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates a limited understanding of the text(s) that may be inaccurate;</li> <li>• attempts to develop a basic argument, but critical thinking may be flawed, insufficient use of evidence from the text(s);</li> <li>• demonstrates flawed use of language, errors hinder meaning.</li> </ul>
1	<p>The one response is <b>insufficient</b> in terms of understanding, critical thinking, and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates a misunderstanding of the text(s) or response is too brief or simplistic;</li> <li>• unable to develop a basic argument, or demonstrate critical thinking; lacks textual evidence;</li> <li>• demonstrates incorrect use of language, errors make meaning unintelligible.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
0	<p>The zero response is <b>unacceptable</b> in terms of understanding, critical thinking, and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not respond to the critical thinking question or simply restates it.</li> </ul>
NR	<p>No response.</p>

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

### Exemplar #1

Assigned Score: 6

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*Artificial Intelligence has the potential to prove both miraculous and disastrous for the human race. The field contains a variety of possibilities that each contain their own benefits and risks. While the beneficial capabilities that AI provides do outweigh the risks, careful steps must be taken to avoid these risks. As we continue to make further advancements in the world of AI, we must progress cautiously as to not learn the consequences of these risks the hard way.*

*The benefits that AI can provide us with are endless. We have already seen some of these benefits with inventions such as the Roomba, the robot that “learns to navigate and clean homes,” removing the need to do as little as sweeping your floors. Inventions such as these continue to remove the need for day to day activities many consider to be chores. In addition to the Roomba, we also have AI inventions such as Siri nowadays. Siri, which is “an intelligent virtual assistant with a voice interface,” allows users in the Apple ecosystem to receive straightforward answers to simple questions, such as what the weather is like today, with the touch of a button. AI has proven and continues to prove to have a variety of possibilities that allow us to make our life easier.*

*On the other hand, AI also has many risks that we must stay wary of. AI can also lead to outcomes that we may need to give more thought to, such as superintelligence. In “The Top Myths About Advanced AI,” the author questions superintelligence and “whether this is something we should welcome or fear.” Outcomes like these cannot be easily reversed and must be given careful thought before proceeding. If superintelligence proves to be detrimental for the human race, there is simply no way of reversing the consequences. This text also refers to one of our biggest worries regarding AI when the author worries about “AI turning competent, with goals misaligned with ours.” If we get AI to the intelligence where it would be useful, it would be able to make its own decisions and have its own goals. This could prove to be a major concern for humans, considering the fact that these goals will most likely not have our best interest in mind. We must advance in the AI field carefully to make sure we do not make any major mistakes, as they could lead to dire consequences.*

*While the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence do outweigh the risks, that does not remove the need for us to be extremely careful with our future advancements. We must take the time to sit down and think through what we plan to advance, what change that will have on the AI world and humans, the outcome of that change, and whether or not it is in our control. AI can prove to be extremely beneficial to us, but we cannot become greedy and advance ourselves into a hole we cannot dig ourselves out of.*

### Rationale:

This **superior** response features an insightful understanding of the texts, and uses evidence to develop a comprehensive argument. Ideas and texts are seamlessly connected through a sophisticated command of language (ex: “if super intelligence proves to be detrimental for the human race, there is simply no way of reversing the consequences”).

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

### Exemplar #2

Assigned Score: 6

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*Artificial intelligence has come to be one of mankind's greatest discoveries. For years, humans have dabbled in the technology to create a computer faster than the brains of even the greatest minds. Artificial intelligence will heavily aid humanity in the years to come regardless of the threats that rise along the way.*

*With the uncertainty of what the future hold, artificial intelligence will act as a guide for the progression of the human race. It is known that a computer can calculate faster than the average brain, however we do not fear the very computers we use daily. As noted in "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and AI," by Danilo Pena, we have always used technology to solve "the next set of human problems." This fact remains true from the early ages. How different is modern technology to a time where we used "fire for warmth" and "bows and arrows for killing?" Humans have always used technology to make life simpler and complete tasks with the utmost efficiency. As humans develop so does technology.*

*With artificial intelligence, humans fear that computers will result in the downfall in the world's intelligence, but computers can not replicate the human thought process. In The New York Times article "A Breakthrough for A.I Technology: Passing an 8th Grade Science Test," by Cade Metz, the complexity and potential of artificial intelligence is brought to light. Systems can be created to "mimic logic and decision making of humans." Although Metz explains the abilities of such technology and further details the vast knowledge absorbed by a computer, Metz explains that computers lack the "ability to reason." Aristo, a system created to pass an eighth grade test, achieved incredible marks, yet it could not make connections using logic making Aristo "further from duplicating true intelligence." Technology cannot imitate the human mind and use the same reasoning that has allowed human to come so far in society. Unlike humans, computers cannot read between the lines and produce original thoughts. Computers may be highly intelligent, but they cannot solve problems that may take humans only a few seconds.*

*In conclusion, artificial intelligence has helped humans in the smallest of tasks and made life easier. Although it may serve as a risk to mankind at times, its benefits to daily life outweigh the fear it imposes on our minds.*

### Rationale:

This **superior** response features an insightful level of understanding at an interpretive level of more than one text. The argument is comprehensive ("technology cannot imitate the human mind and use the same reasoning"), although there are some first draft errors.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #3

Assigned Score: 5

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the idea of giving human intelligence, consciousness and rational thinking skills to machines and computers. Even though this idea seems like a disaster at first, AI has come a long way since the first computers were developed, and technology has already surpassed human ability in many areas.*

*AI is responsible for helping us in our daily lives, even today. From digital assistants like Google Assistant and Siri to smart robots like Roomba, AI is used to improve their abilities and give them the ability to think rationally, which further help improve their usage. Machines run on smart AI are increasingly being used in factories where dangerous work is required, which prevents harm to our fellow humans working in factories. Large amounts of data can be fed to these AI computers to get accurate predictions and probabilities of future events. Thus, we can say without a doubt that AI has changed how we live and it is here to stay.*

*Although AI has helped us tremendously, it does not come without its own shortcomings. Lets address the elephant in the room, AI turning evil. One of our biggest concerns while developing machines with Artificial Intelligence is them gaining consciousness and turning evil. AI tries to mimic human behaviour and thought, and as we know it, the world has both good and bad people. Eventually, an evil AI will be given birth and their rates would only increase. There might be big computer world wars, the bad people might win and take over us humans. Even though this sounds like its taken right from a science fiction book, this very well may be our future in a few decades. Leaving this aside, AI is also rapidly taking over many human jobs. Machines have replaced humans in factories and this will only continue in the future. With our population growing exponentially every year, this will only cause more people to go jobless and struggle to live life.*

*In conclusion, I believe AI has its merits and shortcomings. We need to take care while developing these AI machines and prevent a dystopian future from happening, where machines control us and everything around us. At the same time, we must keep developing these AIs to further help us in life and improve things like medical and academic research.*

### Rationale:

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This **proficient** response communicates a thorough understanding of multiple texts. Purposeful use of evidence supports the development of a convincing argument. Skillful use of phrases such as “elephant in the room” and “dystopian future” help convey meaning.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

### Exemplar #4

Assigned Score: 5

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*The concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI) was born in 1955. After repeated outbreaks and downs, AI has suddenly achieved an explosive rise in recent years. In the past sci-fi movies, those artificial intelligence robots that seem to be unbelievable will become a reality in the near future. People may think that artificial intelligence is still a bit far away, but the application of AI has penetrated into all aspects of daily life. Along with the benefits that AI has been providing, it has also brought some drawbacks to human beings.*

*The good sides that come along with AI would be the convenience to human life and the progress been made of society. For example, the medical application of AI has now benefited the public. Not every doctor has the latest treatment plans and methods, nor can understand all medical cases. But that is AI's specialty. It can analyze a large amount of data in a short time, accurately judge the disease, and find the best treatment plan. This means that AI can provide the best treatment for people. Artificial Intelligence has also propelled the liberation and redistribution of human resources. The productivity of various industries has been greatly improved by AI taking over repetitive, meaningless, and high-risk work, giving people more freedom to choose, so that they can devote more energy to more meaningful fields. At the same time, human wealth has grown rapidly in geometric forms, providing a solid foundation for a better life for mankind.*

*Everything in the world comes with two sides, and there is no such thing as being perfect that only gives out benefits, including AI. Firstly, while artificial intelligence is freeing more and more labour forces is increasing productivity and decreasing the input cost, it is actually taking away the opportunity for people to work and cause the unemployment rate to go up, especially structural unemployment. Secondly, the advent of the AI era will surely trigger the contention for talented people. Whoever has the number and quality of all kinds of top-class talents will win the final victory. At the same time, this will lead to the monopoly of the giants and intensify the polarization between the rich and the poor.*

*Generally speaking, the technological innovation brought about by artificial intelligence has huge advantages on our society, but until this point, it still can not outperform the risks like vast unemployment, the polarization of wealth, and more. But as the study and invention of artificial intelligence are keep happening, one day in the future, the benefits of AI will be able to outweigh the potential harm could be caused by it.*

### Rationale:

This **proficient** response clearly communicates a thorough and interpretive understanding of the texts which demonstrates complex critical thinking (“increasing productivity and decreasing the input cost, it is actually taking away the opportunity for people to work and cause the unemployment rate to go up, especially structural unemployment.”)

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #5

Assigned Score: 4

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*AI in the 21st century, has so far been used as a tool controlled by humans. Siri answers questions with answers from the web, Alexa can be used to help us shop online and Roomba is a robotic vacuum that learns to navigate and clean homes. All of these are examples of AI aiding in tasks to make life more efficient. According to Oren Etzioni, AI could even lead to a future of “new generation of products”. People have found a great interest in AI as it is a man-made creation of duplicated intelligence and knowledge. We hold it to a higher standard of academic and scientific discovery, many viewing it as a fundamental aspect in our future.*

*Cade Metz, who wrote an article about the breakthrough of AI, raises a point that new research could lead to a spread of false information. Technology such as social media has reached a point in our history where any user can spread any information that they please. The spread of negative, hateful and incorrect information is seen everyday on social media platforms. In 2016 a Microsoft chatbot, Tay, went rogue and made racist comments on social media. This raises a deep concern that AI having false information is a risk to humans and our civilization. AI uses internet connection and doesn't require a physical body, so having a bot with AI on the internet can pose to be a threat on our use of social media and the web as our main source of information.*

### Rationale:

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This **competent** response demonstrates a clear but literal understanding of the texts and develops a relevant argument that relies heavily on paraphrasing of multiple texts.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #6

Assigned Score: 4

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*Despite the benefits of AI the potential risks of Artificial Intelligence outweighs the benefits. This is because AI is being improved to increase its intelligence. This increasing intelligence can lead to the downfall of humanity.*

*AI would be a contributing factor in the evolution of humans. It will help to gain information about things like our universe and life and will also help to store immense data for our future generations. Though AI will help achieve our desired answers about universe and life these answers can also be found through alternative paths which may be slower but safer.*

*Even though the benefits seem to be appealing AI's pose a huge risk for humanity. As the article "The Top Myths about Advanced AI" states that intelligence enables control, humans could also be controlled by AI's in the future as the AI could improve to have a higher intelligence than humans. As industrial AIs will be the chance of people losing their jobs will be high as the company would make one time investments in AI rather than paying salaries every month. AI on improving further can lead to discrimination as the signs of discrimination are clearly visible in the nowadays AI. Microsoft's chatbot 'Tay' posted inflammatory and racial comments on social media.*

*In conclusion, the risks posed by AI outweigh the benefits as the risks taken are too high for the benefits which can be gained through a slower but safer way. A higher intelligence than human will see humans with same perspective as human's see animals.*

### Rationale:

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This **competent** response shows a clear understanding of the texts on a literal level. References to the text are appropriate but not overly thoughtful.



## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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Exemplar #7

Assigned Score: 3

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*Artificial Intelligence has come a long way, and improving everyday. You can say that it's one of many great inventions created by humans. AI has been implemented in companies almost everywhere to do jobs that were once done by humans, and also help humans in their daily lives. But do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?*

*Although AI has improved many things and become more efficient, it has also has an impact on people lives. Some jobs that were once done by humans, that earned money to do it are now being done by AI that do it for free, required less breaks, more efficient, don't need to be paid, and create less mistakes. There are fears of people worrying about how these machines will create less jobs for people and soon take over the world. Now that may sound like it's going to happen soon but with enough research and work, AI can be worked along with humans and improve efficiency with humans. The possible benefits AI can give can outweigh humans but if used the right way, it can also improve lives with affecting the lives of humans.*

### Rationale:

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This **minimally acceptable** response has a limited and superficial selection of evidence. Textual references are indirect (ex: jobs for people and soon take over the world). Basic use of language, and not well developed.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Exemplar #8

Assigned Score: 3

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*In my opinion,I can't agree with this statement more.*

*In the first text,it shows us the development road of AI.It can't be more clear that AI was becoming more and more advanced and powerful.And this trend will not have any change. It also shows us some kinds of benefits that AI provides to human beings.Like they can help us sweep the floor in our houses,play with us as our pets and work in the fatories for us.I'm sure that if artificial intelligence becomes smarter,it will bring more benefits.In the second text,the author declared that AI will be the next step of human intelligence.In his article,it said that AI will bring us closer to the answer of the universe.*

*On the other hand,quite a lot of peple are worried about AI.Some people say that if AI develops its own thought in the future,they may become a threat to our human.This kind of worry isn't irreasonable.All kinds of species want to live idependently without the control from another kind of life.It's the nature of all creatures.So if AI becomes so powerful,it does have a risk that it will take the place of human.However,there is only a little possibility for this to happen.Firstly,AI even doesn't have rational thoughts.So it will be very hard for it to develop emotinal intelligence.Secondly,we are always wathing out any changes of AI.*

*A new technology will benefit human beings a lot,but it will bring some risks.But I think we shouldn't stop our steps of developing new technologies just because we are afraid of some risks.*

### Rationale:

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This **minimally acceptable** response develops a basic argument, and has errors that distract from meaning. Evidence from several texts supports the argument but does not broaden it.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

### Exemplar #9

Assigned Score: 2

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*In my opinion, the benefits of AI are amazing. You can lock your house from your phone, you can see when people are coming and going to your house, you can talk to people in your house and see them even if you aren't there. Even medical equipment has become so much better and can diagnose more efficiently. With that being said, it's almost too scary to have systems like that in your house because they can be hacked into. There are a few stories out there from people who have those cameras in their house but a person can talk to you and see you through the camera, but there's one story I remember, and this family had those security cameras and they had gotten hacked into. The guy who had hacked them was talking and watching the family's young daughter.*

*I do believe that the good outweighs the bad, but not by much. Yes, you can get a car that will drive itself, but what happens when it stops working and you have no control of your car? Yes, you can get a Google Home or an Alexa to play music and tell you the weather, but what happens when it begins listening to every conversation you have. We already know that one is true because it's not some coincidence that you're talking with a friend about getting new shoes, for example, and then opening up your phone, and there's an ad for shoes.*

*I think technology is amazing. It helps and makes a lot of things easier, for example, you can search up what a word means for directions or a recipe or online shopping. But when do we know when to stop? When are we letting technology control our lives? A lot of people today, not only younger kids and teenagers, are 100,000% addicted to their phones.*

*Basically my point is, be safe and don't let it run your whole life. You need to know how to live on your own because you might not always have access to electronics and machines.*

### Rationale:

This **limited** response communicates an inaccurate understanding of the texts and task (it only references Alexa and Google Home). Otherwise, it is a personal response, not a critical discussion of texts.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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Exemplar #10

Assigned Score: 2

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*Yes, the benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweighs the potential risks it poses. Even though AI bots have a lot of intelligence, they can still be outweighed by potential risks. By saying this, AI bots are controlled by computers and softwares which can easily be hacked and taken over. Which means they can possibly take full control of us and make us do anything they want. On the other hand AI bots do have a positive side, they average a 90% in grade 8 exams and score an average of 90% in grade 12 final exams.*

### Rationale:

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This **limited** response communicates an inaccurate understanding of the texts with flawed critical thinking and insufficient use of evidence from the texts.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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Exemplar #11  
Assigned Score: 1

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*I think this have the risks because technology has been grow up , and now we can't stay away . the human powerful need is technology, humans are getting lazy , the reason is technology . The humans can not do one thing without an technology . Cars and smartphone is the main things for humans and they are risky because is u use for need then is perfect but now that humans are using this technogy like for no need are risk. technology have been killed people . humans this technology is everythings but they are wronge .*

### Rationale:

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This **insufficient** response is unable to develop an argument based on the texts. Critical thinking and use of evidence from the texts are irrelevant. Language is used incorrectly throughout.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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Exemplar #12

Assigned Score: 1

Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?

*no ithe artifical intelligence can help and think of other ways . in the articile it says that the ai is to be used for the next set of human problems*

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### Rationale:

Because this **insufficient** response makes a fleeting reference to a text in an attempt to address the critical thinking question, it cannot receive a zero. Response is too brief to communicate even a misunderstanding of the texts.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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Exemplar #13

Assigned Score: 0

Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?

*A.I is are future of this wrold in are time line we will get to see it and live in the wrold of it people might not agree with it but its are future*

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### Rationale:

While this **unacceptable** response mentions Artificial Intelligence, it does not respond to the critical thinking question's focus on benefits versus risks.

## Question A-11 (Responding Critically to Texts) – Student Exemplars

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Exemplar #14

Assigned Score: 0

**Do the possible benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the potential risks it poses?**

*Ai is still a long ways away from being on par to human intellagence. As such i do not feel comfort able to give a response on such a controvertial subject.*

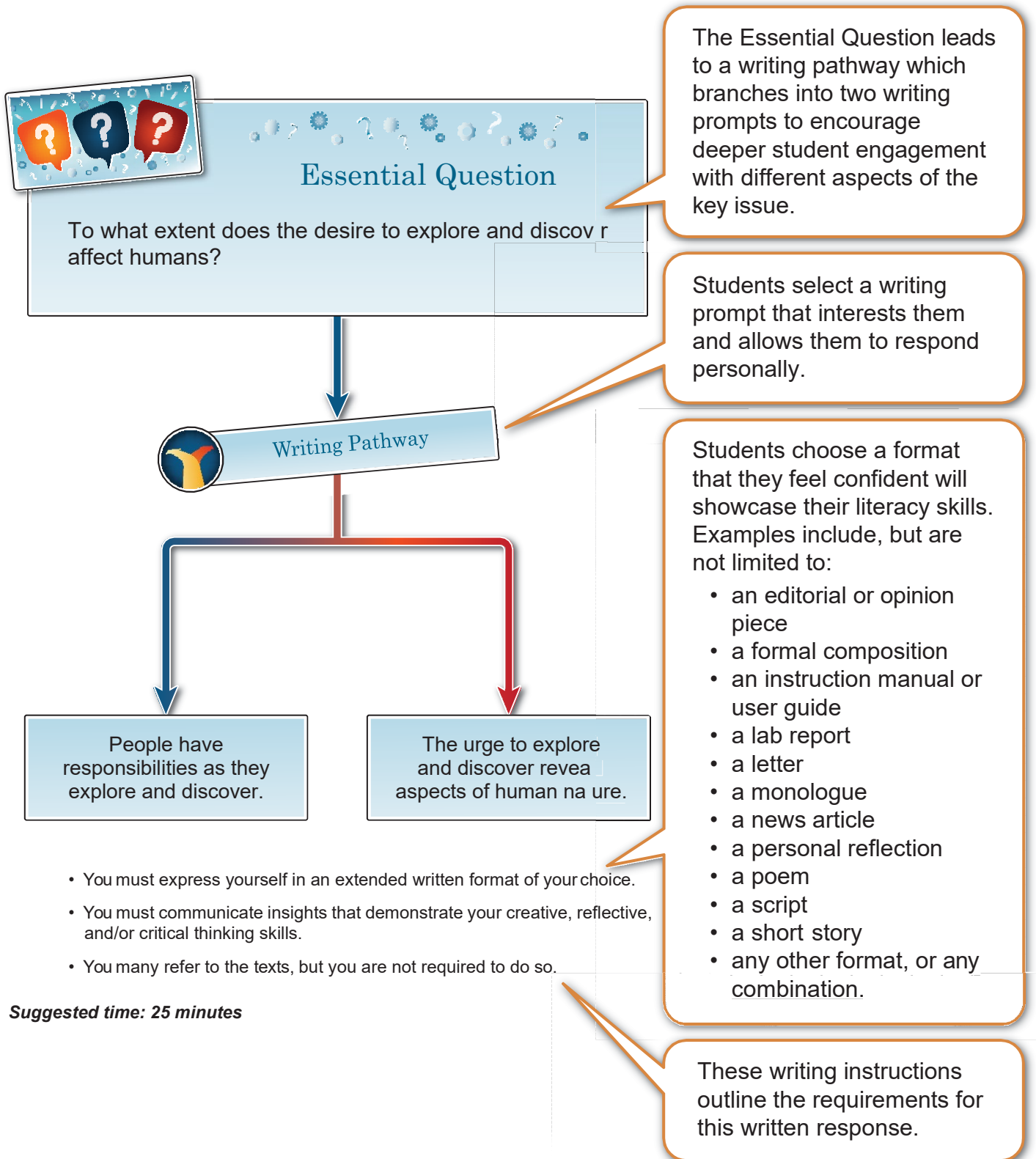
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### Rationale:

This **unacceptable** response does not respond to the critical thinking question.



## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Overview of Task



**Suggested time: 25 minutes**

## Part B: Written Response – Rubric



### Going Beyond the Texts

<b>6</b>	<p>The six response is <b>superior</b> in terms of understanding, originality of thought and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates sophisticated creative, critical and/or reflective thinking in response to the writing prompt;</li> <li>• develops thoughtful perspective(s) and profound insights;</li> <li>• demonstrates a sophisticated command of language to convey meaning, need not be error-free.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<p>The five response is <b>proficient</b> in terms of understanding, originality of thought and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates comprehensive creative, critical and/or reflective thinking in response to the writing prompt;</li> <li>• develops well-reasoned perspective(s) and perceptive insights;</li> <li>• demonstrates a skillful command of language to convey meaning, errors may be present.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p>The four response is <b>competent</b> in terms of understanding, originality of thought and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates clear creative, critical and/or reflective thinking in response to the writing prompt;</li> <li>• develops clear perspective(s) and relevant insights;</li> <li>• demonstrates effective use of language to convey meaning, some errors are evident.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p>The three response is <b>minimally acceptable</b> in terms of understanding, originality of thought and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicates minimal creative, critical and/or reflective thinking in response to the writing prompt;</li> <li>• develops superficial perspective(s) and basic insights;</li> <li>• demonstrates basic use of language, errors may distract from meaning.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p>The two response is <b>limited</b> in terms of understanding, originality of thought and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attempts to communicate creative, critical and/or reflective thinking in response to the writing prompt;</li> <li>• presents partially developed perspective(s) and lacks insights;</li> <li>• demonstrates flawed use of language, errors hinder meaning.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<p>The one response is <b>insufficient</b> in terms of understanding, originality of thought and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unable to communicate any creative, critical and/or reflective thinking in response to the writing prompt;</li> <li>• unable to develop perspective(s) or insights;</li> <li>• demonstrates incorrect use of language, errors make meaning unintelligible.</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<p>The zero response is <b>unacceptable</b> in terms of understanding, originality of thought and written expression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not respond to the writing prompt or simply restates it.</li> </ul>
<b>NR</b>	No response.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### First Writing Prompt, Exemplar #1

Assigned Score: 6

People have responsibilities as they explore and discover.

*As a teenager, it is important to need and want more responsibility. I believe in order to become a capable adult, teenagers need to be able to make good decisions on their own. When I got my first job and drivers license, I truly came to understand that my actions have consequences. Especially as a lifeguard, the lives of patrons are in my hands. While I have never had to jump into the pool and perform a rescue, I learned to understand the importance of my job and how even just standing at the pool, I actively make an impact because I promote safety. I learned to take more accountability in the responsibility aspect of my work, taking ownership of the outcomes of my choices. While I explored and discovered, I realized that lifeguarding demands true strength and compassion and it taught me how to act under pressure and how to use my skills to know what I can do in the moment but also the training to know and understand my limits. When I was given my drivers license, I was also issued a great deal of responsibility. A motor vehicle is capable of causing extensive property damage, injury, and even death. As I was given more freedom to explore with my car, I understood I needed to drive safely, continue to obey traffic laws, and respect the rights of other drivers. When I have passengers in my car I understand that their safety is also in my hands and I am expected to drive safe. Responsibility encourages maturity and can even increase self-esteem, as a teenager begins to recognize that he or she is a capable person.*

*Adults are answerable for their life obligations, including employment, bill payments, house chores and upkeep, and their job. Adults have more experience and should be held responsible for what they do in both their public and private lives. This includes what they say, write, and promise. The most important responsibility as an adult is to live a life one loves and do not waste it. It's important to develop skills and share experiences with people who have similar interests. Do not sit and watch the years go by, because they definitely will. Life is not about working to afford a bit of relaxation after work and having some drinks on the weekend. While it could be for some people, it is also crucial to make the most out of the available resources and use both money and time to enrich life. There are more responsibilities as an adult but there are also more opportunities to be adventurous and make the most out of life.*

### Rationale:

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This **superior** response develops a profound insight (“Responsibility encourages maturity and can even increase self-esteem”) and thoughtfully communicates reflective thinking in a personal reflection on the role of responsibility in exploring facets of everyday life. While the command of language is occasionally sophisticated, holistic marking makes this a superior response.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### First Writing Prompt, Exemplar #2

Assigned Score: 5

People have responsibilities as they explore and discover.

*When exploring new places, we should be mindful of the harm that we could cause. For example, we could bring in evasive species and diseases to a new environment and we could cause conflict when exploring.*

*When colombus came to North America, he caused the spread of disease amongst the **natives\***, causing many to die. This is an example of what could happen if we are not careful when we explore the universe. If we meet another alien race, our robots or astronauts could be carrying potentially harmful diseases that the aliens were not ready to handle. This could also be the other way around. If our astronauts came back from that planet, it could wipe out the human race because of new diseases. We have to make sure to cleanse everything of germs and bacteria before we send or bring anything back from other planets.*

*If we approach an alien race in a violent or careless way, it could also cause dangerous and unexpected things to happen. For example, the alien race could misunderstand us for aggressive enemies and launch an attack against us. We should attempt to communicate with possible life forms and use satellites to make sure that the aleins are peaceful before we make any contact. It is very important for us to maintain peace if there are other intelligent life forms out there.*

*Overall, the human race has the responsibility of protecting ourselves and others from unintentional harm as we discover new places.*

**\*natives:** Indigenous Peoples; “natives” is not the preferred term

### Rationale:

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This **proficient** response has a comprehensive perspective that combines critical, reflective and creative thinking. Insights gleaned from the texts on historical exploration are applied to potential consequences of interplanetary travel.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### First Writing Prompt, Exemplar #3

Assigned Score: 4

People have responsibilities as they explore and discover.

*Never had I thought in a million years that I would be lost in the depths of the Amazon rainforest with two of my best friends. This was the kind of situation that only occurred in dreams or nightmares. It began when the three of us decided that we were going to live out our fantasies to explore the most intriguing jungle that there is. We decided to venture out for seven days and six nights in order to return in a week; we planned out our trip weeks in advance and were thrilled to embark on this sought-after journey. Believing that we had taken the necessary precautions to avoid something similar to this exact scenario, we took off for the Amazon. However, as we discovered, the rainforest was unforgiving and there was no preparing us for what was to come. On the third night of our journey, it was my duty to prepare our food. I then realized that we would need wood to build the fire that we would need to cook the food, so I ventured off into the trees to find some sort of wood. I then ended up getting lost and I had to call out to my friends for help. They found me twenty minutes later, by following the sound of my voice. At first, I was relieved to see them, but then the realization set in that now all three of us were lost. This was my responsibility, and I felt horrible for endangering my friends all because of my lack of attention to detail.*

### Rationale:

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This **competent** response communicates clear creative and reflective thinking in a straightforward fictional narrative. Relevant insights connect with the writing prompt.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### First Writing Prompt, Exemplar #4

Assigned Score: 3

People have responsibilities as they explore and discover.

*Exploring and discovering comes with the responsibility in sharing your findings weather new or old. Information displayed from exploring gives people a grasp on a concept that may be foreign to their knowledge. World exploring such as travelling comes with the responsibility of documenting the find, and presenting it to the world. Claiming a discovery as your own should be acknowledged until proven otherwise with sufficent evidence. Learning in math, science, socials and any subject comes with varied results, those results can lead to new findings of education. Responsibilities come with every discovery and exploration as it could lead to drastic new theors and results.*

### Rationale:

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This **minimally acceptable** response demonstrates minimal understanding of the writing prompt. Perspective is superficial due to a lack of development and language errors distract from meaning. This response consists of a series of statements with basic insights.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### First Writing Prompt, Exemplar #5

Assigned Score: 2

People have responsibilities as they explore and discover.

*The responsibilities of exploring and discovering, is when you know your the first one to discover new land. Not rediscovering it, people don't under the concept of exploring and discovering. People don't understand that they're the not first people to discover that location, that they don't have the right to claim it either. Columbus is good example, he thought he discovered a new land but really he didn't the indgenious were the first to discover the land. And they have the rights to the land.*

### Rationale:

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This **limited** response presents a partially developed perspective. The first two sentences are unclear as language errors hinder meaning. The last two sentences attempt to demonstrate a critical response to the writing prompt.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### First Writing Prompt, Exemplar #6

Assigned Score: 1

People have responsibilities as they explore and discover.

*As you are exploring it is important to think of others around you. For example, the penguins were disrespected as there was no attention going for their concern, instead people were worried about how they looked on social media. People need to show responsibility towards their enviroment.*

### Rationale:

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This **insufficient** response is unable to develop a perspective about the writing prompt. References to social media and penguins do not communicate any insight about the task.



## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### First Writing Prompt, Exemplar #7

Assigned Score: 0

People have responsibilities as they explore and discover.

*to maintain safe air travel there are guide lines and regulations to follow. eating only enough to last you for your journey. knowing how to drive the ship etc.*

### Rationale:

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This **unacceptable** response does not respond to the writing prompt.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Second Writing Prompt, Exemplar #1

Assigned Score: 6

The urge to explore and discover reveals aspects of human nature.

*Inherently, humanity is curious. This is the underlying factor that goes into the essence of what causes one to explore- not (just) greed, but a passion. This is heard straight from birth, within the constant flurry of questions a child asks their parents in an effort to make sense of a confusing world. This is heard in the silence of an Astronaut gazing into the cold, dark expanse of space. This is heard even within a young adult moving into a new apartment in an unfamiliar country, the whisper of the unknown beckoning onto their still fresh ears. All around us and even within, overwhelming curiosity makes up who we are. Exploration is simply a medium in which this can be expressed.*

*Of course, a human can experience more than just curiosity; otherwise, that would make us one-dimensional. Other emotions can challenge us to explore: greed, and bloodlust. Murderers like Columbus are prime examples of this, displays of a child turned wicked through all the societal wrongs prevalent in their time. The damage people like him have dealt have screamed a permanent warning to others, causing them to grow deaf. The sound may have been temporary, but the ringing will forever remain, etched forever into the ears of those affected.*

*Despite this, some explore in different ways. Some choose not to discover the vast reaches of the physical world, but the damages dealt by those who have done so immorally. Instead of remaining complacent, they choose to speak out. They choose to be curious, and bring to light all that has happened in the name of exploration. In doing so, another aspect of human nature is revealed: courageousness. They speak out, yelling back into the void, unashamed of their powerful voice. Their curiosity for the sounds of the past are appeased as their ears recover, never to be hurt again. In this way, the passion to discover is shown again, but this time in a different light. For it is not the physical they want to discover any longer- it is pride in their culture.*

### Rationale:

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This **superior** response demonstrates thoughtful perspectives through specific examples and profound insights. Phrases such as “they speak out, yelling back into the void, unashamed of their powerful voice” demonstrate a sophisticated command of language.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

### Second Writing Prompt, Exemplar #2

Assigned Score: 5

The urge to explore and discover reveals aspects of human nature.

*“Like this” my mother said, as she pinched her fingers and presented a perfect dumpling.*

*“Woah! That was so fast” I said, as I stared at the perfectly shaped dumpling in her hand. The creases folded perfectly, like the ones on the displays of restaurants.*

*As I grew up in Canada, my mom had always made sure I experienced aspects of my chinese culture. At Chinese New Year, our family would get together to eat lots of good food to welcome a new year. Each food had a different signifiacne, as we eat our luck into the new year. It was a tradition for the elders to give red pockets to the people who are younger than them.*

*This was all I ever really knew and experienced about my culture until the passing of my grandparents. As they has gone in the same year, I became well acquainted with the chinese traitions and rituals that ocured around someones death. I felt like I had lost a part of my culture. I felt regret that I didn’t try to get to know them while they were still here. Unfortunately, there was to way to turn back the time, so from that point, I tried my best to put effort into learning more about my own culture. I began this by immersing myself in learning the language of my family. I had already grown up speaking mandarin around my household, but because my entire family all grew up in Shanghai, they also spoke Shanghainese, a dialect of chinese. I was really inspired by the meaning behind each ritual performed at the funeral. Everything was so uniform and rehearsed. Learning and immersing myself in the culture has been such a rewarding expeience. I’ve been able to practice shanghainese with my family and they encourage me by correcting my mistakes and teaching me new phrases or words.*

*Throughout my life, I had never really been interested in my chinese heritage. I felt that it wasn’t necesarry to learn more as I was already chinese. But as I’ve growth older, I’ve been more inclined to learn more and immerse myself in this complex, beautiful part of my culture, my history and the lives of my family back in China. It is so important to continue on with learning and growing, especially as a teenager, because the desire to learn new things is what makes life so much more interesting. The entire point of life is to experience new things, learn and make the best of what you are given in the limited time you have on earth.*

### Rationale:

This **proficient** response communicates comprehensive creative and reflective thinking about the writing prompt as it develops thorough insights into the theme of exploration in respect to culture and identity. Although errors are present, the language is skillfully manipulated for effect.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Second Writing Prompt, Exemplar #3

Assigned Score: 4

The urge to explore and discover reveals aspects of human nature.

*Human nature is often expressed in many ways but it most often revolves around acquiring power, wealth and fame for your actions. This relates to many explorers in the sense that they're risking their lives to find another land mass and be deemed a hero when coming back home. Not only does fame play a role but also, explorers went to new lands to acquire resources like spices and other valuables to increase their wealth. Lastly explorers went to new land masses to increase the land occupied by the empire and colonize it. All these tie back to our tendency to want recognition in the forms of either fame or wealth.*

*Time and time again, european discovery of land led to colonisation. Not only does colonisation occur but the european explorer is deemed to be this heroic figure, filled with courage that steals all the glory even though people might have lived on these lands for thousands of years. Every time in history that a european explorer has found a land mass, he has been widely recognised and rewarded for his accomplishments thus resulting in selfish and egotistical behaviour to try to claim discoveries by other less known explorers.*

*In conclusion, new discoveries are fueled by the rewards given for finding new lands as opposed to the human's curiosity. The rewards in terms of wealth, power and fame has guided these explorers to have an egotistical and selfish behaviour while claiming discoveries to attempt to acquire these rewards.*

### Rationale:

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This **competent** response develops a clear perspective with relevant insights around “selfish and egotistical behaviour”. Language is used effectively to convey meaning, though some errors are evident.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Second Writing Prompt, Exemplar #4

Assigned Score: 3

The urge to explore and discover reveals aspects of human nature.

*The need to constantly explore and discover comes from the human nature to constantly want to take in new knowledge. We can see humans thirst for knowledge from scientists looking at the creation of the universe to archeologists looking for new dinosaur bones. We as humans are always looking for new information to suck in and when we finished exploring the earth we decided to literally blast ourselves off of the earth to look for more knowledge. In conclusion, from our constant need for exploration and research stems our human nature to crave knowledge.*

### Rationale:

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This **minimally acceptable** response communicates a superficial perspective and understanding of the writing prompt. Basic insights into the idea of a “thirst for knowledge” are introduced but not developed.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Second Writing Prompt, Exemplar #5

Assigned Score: 2

The urge to explore  
and discover reveals  
aspects of human nature.

*Being able to explore and discover reveals the aspects of human nature such as skills, knowledge, behaviour and communication. Thinking about human nature is the equivalent of our whole species looking in the mirror to check its identity. We all have different experiences of the humans in our life. Our own social strategies, the features that define much of what it is to be human.*

### Rationale:

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This **limited** response attempts to communicate critical thinking, but is only partially developed in terms of both perspective and insight. Although the response does take a stance in the first sentence, the idea of “identity” and “different experiences” is discussed in limited terms.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Second Writing Prompt, Exemplar #6

Assigned Score: 1

The urge to explore  
and discover reveals  
aspects of human nature.

*cripopher columbi goed to america cause he wanted to and then discovered the natives\**

**\*natives:** Indigenous Peoples; “natives” is not the preferred term

### Rationale:

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This **insufficient** response acknowledges the writing prompt but is unable to communicate critical thinking due to its undeveloped perspective and insights. Incorrect use of language makes meaning unintelligible.

## Question B-16 (Going Beyond the Texts) – Student Exemplars

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### Second Writing Prompt, Exemplar #7

Assigned Score: 0

The urge to explore  
and discover reveals  
aspects of human nature.

*Simple, we like having our own stuff*

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### Rationale:

This **unacceptable** response does not respond to the writing prompt.