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The Question Bank

## Comprehension Test Questions for IBPS Clerk Pre, SBI Clerk Pre and LIC Assistant Pre Exams.

### Passage No. 171

**Direction:** Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions.

The fear that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robots will automate many jobs has been growing as technological change accelerates. Some studies have predicted that 40-50% of US jobs could be automated in the next 20 years, and many people are worried that they could be forced into retirement.

The world has navigated a number of industrial revolutions in the past: First Industrial Revolution - Steam & Mechanical Production - 1700s & 1800s, Second Industrial Revolution - Electricity & Mass Production 1870 to 1914, Third Industrial Revolution - Digital Revolution - 1980s, Fourth Industrial Revolution - AI, Robotics, Networks, Biotechnology, Internet of Things – Today.

Each time many jobs were lost, but we created new ones and overall employment stayed high after the initial disruption. But this time it feels different partly due to the fact that real wage growth has been low to flat for many people meaning their standard of living isn't rising. As we've become more productive through automation and globalization the share of GDP that goes to labor has fallen, while the share to capital has risen. Basically it's better to be an investor rather than a worker - unless you have special skills.

Is the fear overblown? Some experts say yes. I spoke with Ken Goldberg, a UC Berkeley Robotics Professor and Eric Brewer, a VP at Google and UC Berkeley Computer Science Professor about AI Automation and the Future of Work on a recent **podcast**. Both felt that the fears around AI and Robotics destroying jobs or worse leading to the Singularity where AI takes over are overblown. The Singularity is a term promoted by Ray Kurzweil which predicts that based on Moore's law and the doubling of computing power per dollar every few years that: by 2023 a \$1,000 computer will have the processing power of 1 human brain; by 2030 the Singularity will occur and runaway AI will emerge; by 2050 a \$1,000 computer will have the processing power of all human brains.

Both Professors feel that predictions like self-driving cars will take much longer to play out, and that while some industries may face big disruptions. The jobs that get automated will be the boring **mundane** jobs which will be replaced by more interesting, creative jobs.

Ken Goldberg in particular believes "Rather than worrying about an impending Singularity, consider instead the concept of Multiplicity: where diverse combinations of people and machines work together to solve problems and innovate."

They are both hopeful for the future where we all learn new skills faster and live more diverse rich lives. Eric Brewer shared “I feel like our kids will grow up in a generation that expects that they can do whatever they want at any time. That’s super empowering.”

### Questions :

**1. Which of the following statements is/are true with respect to the passage?**

- I. The fourth industrial revolution brought the digital universe to our doorstep.
- II. Robotics and A.I. are likely to lead to the laying off of many skilled workers.
- III. 40-50% of jobs in the US could be automated in the next 20 years due to automation.

A. Only I                      B. Only II                      C. Only III                      D. Only I and II                      E. Only II and III

**2. Which of the following statements is/are not true with respect to the passage?**

- I. With each industrial revolution, many jobs were lost, but new types of jobs also came into being.
- II. In the present time, wages of many workers have been going downhill in many cases.
- III. With the advent of A.I. and faster internet connections, self-driving cars have become a reality.

A. Only I                      B. Only II                      C. Only III                      D. Only I and II                      E. Only II and III

**3. Which of the following statements is/are not true with respect to the passage?**

- I. At present a \$1000 computer has processing powers far superior to that of a human brain.
- II. Due to globalization and automation the share to capital has gone up though, the share of GDP that goes to labor has fallen.
- III. The job crisis caused by the fourth industrial revolution is very similar to that of previous industrial revolutions.

A. Only I                      B. Only II                      C. Only III                      D. Only I and III                      E. Only II and III

**4. Identify the words that are similar in meaning to the word given below. If none of the options conveys the correct meaning, mark (E) as your answer. The options do not necessarily need to be grammatically correct.**

### PODCAST

- A. News broadcast on television
- B. A ceremony where people debate with each other
- C. A digital audio file made available on the Internet, typically available as a series
- D. A seminar where scholars discuss current issues of international importance
- E. None of the above

5. Identify the words that are opposite in meaning to the word given below. If all the options are correct, marks (E) as your answer. The options do not necessarily need to be grammatically correct.

**MUNDANE**

- A. Tedious                      B. Monotonous                      C. Clichéd                      D. Exhilarating                      E. All of the above

6. Which of the following statements is/are true with respect to the passage?

- I. Being an investor is better than being a worker now-a-days.
- II. Humans and AI cannot co-exist; AI is expected to take over control from the humans in future.
- III. Humans have become more productive with the help of robotics and AI.

- A. Only I                      B. Only II                      C. Only III                      D. Only I and II                      E. Only I and III

7. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage regarding “Singularity”?

- A. Singularity denotes the shift in evolution when humans become a super-intelligent species.
- B. Singularity denotes that growth in A.I. intelligence, when the AI can think for themselves without the need for human control.
- C. Singularity denotes that phase of life when AI takes away all human jobs.
- D. Singularity will occur when the processing power of a \$1000 computer surpasses the processing power of a human brain.
- E. All of the above

**Correct Answers :**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	E	D	C	D	E	B



## Explanations:

### 1. Refer to:

The world has navigated a number of industrial revolutions in the past: First Industrial Revolution - Steam & Mechanical Production - 1700s & 1800s, Second Industrial Revolution - Electricity & Mass Production 1870 to 1914, **Third Industrial Revolution - Digital Revolution** - 1980s, **Fourth Industrial Revolution - AI, Robotics, Networks, Biotechnology, Internet of Things** – Today.

The highlighted parts above prove that statement I is not true.

### Refer to:

As we've become more productive through automation and globalization the share of GDP that goes to labor has fallen, while the share to capital has risen. Basically it's better to be an investor rather than a worker - **unless you have special skills**.

The highlighted part above implies that skilled workers are safe. Hence, statement II is also not true.

### Refer to:

Some studies have predicted that **40-50% of US jobs could be automated in the next 20 years**, and many people are worried that they could be forced into retirement.

The highlighted part above confirms that statement III is true.

Hence, Option C is the correct answer.

### 2. Refer to:

The world has navigated a number of industrial revolutions in the past...

**Each time many jobs were lost, but we created new ones** and overall employment stayed high after the initial disruption.

The highlighted part above confirms that statement I is true.

### Refer to:

But this time it feels different partly due to the fact that real **wage growth has been low to flat** for many people meaning their standard of living isn't rising.

The highlighted part above confirms that there has been a wage growth, though it was 'low'. The word "flat" indicates stagnation, but, the passage does not mention anywhere that people's wages are declining. Hence, statement II is not true.

### Refer to:

Both Professors feel that predictions like **self-driving cars will take much longer to play out**, and that while some industries may face big disruptions.

The highlighted part hints that self-driving cars will be a reality in the future. But they are not available at present. Hence, statement III is not true.

Therefore, Option E is the correct answer.

**3. Refer to:**

The Singularity is a term promoted by Ray Kurzweil which predicts that based on Moore's law and the doubling of computing power per dollar every few years that: **by 2023 a \$1,000 computer will have the processing power of 1 human brain...**

The highlighted part above confirms that statement I is not true.

**Refer to:**

As we've become more productive **through automation and globalization the share of GDP that goes to labor has fallen, while the share to capital has risen.**

The highlighted part above confirms that statement II is true.

**Refer to:**

Each time many jobs were lost, but we created new ones and overall employment stayed high after the initial disruption. **But this time it feels different partly due to the fact that real wage growth has been low to flat for many people meaning their standard of living isn't rising.**

The highlighted part above confirms that statement III is not true.

Hence, Option D is the correct answer.

**4. "Podcast" literally means 'a digital audio file made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or mobile device, typically available as a series, new installments of which can be received by subscribers automatically'.**

"Podcast" is a portmanteau word (a word blending the sounds and combining the meanings of two others), a made-up word coined from a combination of the words iPod and broadcast.

Obviously, Option C is the correct answer.

**5. "Mundane" means 'lacking interest or excitement; dull'.**

Tedious: too long, slow, or dull; tiresome or monotonous

Monotonous: dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest

Clichéd: showing a lack of originality; based on frequently repeated phrases or opinions

Exhilarating: making one feel very happy, animated, or elated; thrilling

Obviously, 'tedious', 'monotonous' and 'clichéd' are synonymous with 'mundane'.

Only 'exhilarating' is opposite to 'mundane'.

Hence, Option D is the correct answer.

6. Refer to:

Basically **it's better to be an investor rather than a worker** - unless you have special skills.

The highlighted part above confirms that statement I is true.

Refer to:

Ken Goldberg in particular believes "Rather than worrying about an impending Singularity, **consider instead the concept of Multiplicity: where diverse combinations of people and machines work together to solve problems and innovate.**"

The highlighted part hints that statement II is not true.

Refer to:

As **we've become more productive through automation and globalization** the share of GDP that goes to labor has fallen, while the share to capital has risen.

Automation has been possible through robotics and AI. The highlighted part proves that statement III is true.

Hence, Option E is the correct answer.

7. Refer to:

Both felt that the fears around AI and Robotics destroying jobs or worse **leading to the Singularity where AI takes over** are overblown. The Singularity is a term promoted by Ray Kurzweil which predicts that based on Moore's law and the doubling of computing power per dollar every few years that: by 2023 a \$1,000 computer will have the processing power of 1 human brain; **by 2030 the Singularity will occur and runaway AI will emerge**; by 2050 a \$1,000 computer will have the processing power of all human brains.

The highlighted parts confirm that the AI can take over control from the humans when they can think for themselves. If the AI always follow the algorithm developed by humans, they'll never be 'runaway'. They'll run away from human control when they can create their own algorithm, when they can 'think' for themselves.

Obviously, the statement contained in option B is true. The other statements are false.

Hence, Option B is the correct answer.





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