

## UNIT 1

### Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. She worked on the \_\_\_\_\_ line of a luxury car company.
  - a. automation
  - b. executive
  - c. assembly
2. We're falling behind, so we need to \_\_\_\_\_ the process if we want to meet our deadline.
  - a. accelerate
  - b. maximize
  - c. master
3. The company held a party to celebrate 200 years since the birth of its \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. founder
  - b. automation
  - c. assembly
4. The complicated process was broken down into smaller \_\_\_\_\_ steps that were easy to learn and perform.
  - a. inevitable
  - b. repetitive
  - c. imaginary
5. The process for recycling large items is \_\_\_\_\_, so many end up in landfill sites.
  - a. imaginary
  - b. inevitable
  - c. troublesome

### Complete the sentences with the correct words.

automation	imaginary	inevitable	influence	maximize
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6. My grandfather was the person who had the biggest \_\_\_\_\_ on my career choices.

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7. She dreamt of an \_\_\_\_\_ world where she wouldn't have to get up and go to work every day.
8. Because of \_\_\_\_\_, many people at the supermarket lost their jobs.
9. You should rethink your workflow and cut out inefficiencies if you really want to \_\_\_\_\_ your time.
10. The extinction of this species is not \_\_\_\_\_. There is still time to save it.

**Match the words to complete the sentences.**

- |  |   |   |                 |
|--|---|---|-----------------|
| 11. They developed a machine that could complete complex tasks using artificial _____.                           | ● | ● | a. turf         |
| 12. The beauty of the night sky in many urban areas is hidden by bright artificial _____.                        | ● | ● | b. light        |
| 13. The yard was low-maintenance because it was made of artificial _____ that never needed to be watered or cut. | ● | ● | c. intelligence |

**Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in parentheses.**

14. Please \_\_\_\_\_ (**familiar**) yourself with the layout of the office, especially the location of the printers.
15. The program allows for a small degree of \_\_\_\_\_ (**custom**).
16. I find it easier to understand data when I can \_\_\_\_\_ (**visual**) it with charts or graphs.

**Read the passage.****The Robot Revolution Has Arrived (by David Berreby)**

- A** The word “robot” was coined by the Czech writer Karel Čapek in 1920, in a play that set the template for a century’s machine dreams and nightmares. The robots in that play look and act like people, do all the work of humans—and wipe out the human race before the curtain falls.
- B** Ever since, imaginary robots—from the Terminator to Astro Boy, to Star Wars’s droids—have had a huge influence on the plans of robot-makers. They have also shaped the public’s expectations of what robots are and what they can do.
- C** I met a robot on a bright, windy day last January, near Colorado’s border with Kansas, in the company of a 31-year-old from San Francisco named Noah Ready-Campbell. To the south, wind turbines stretched to the horizon in uneven ranks, like a silent army of shiny three-armed giants. In front of me was a hole that would become the foundation for another one.
- D** A Caterpillar 336 excavator was digging that hole—62 feet (19 meters) wide, with walls that sloped up at a 34-degree angle, and a floor 10 feet (3 meters) deep and almost perfectly level. The Cat piled the dug-up earth on a spot where it wouldn’t get in the way; it would start a new pile when necessary. Every dip, dig, raise, turn, and drop of the 41-ton machine required firm control and careful judgment.
- E** The seat in this excavator, though, was empty. The operator lay on the cab’s roof. It had no hands; three snaky black cables linked it directly to the excavator’s control system. It had no eyes or ears either, since it used lasers, GPS, video cameras, and gyroscope-like sensors. Ready-Campbell, co-founder of a San Francisco company called Built Robotics, walked across the dirt, climbed onto the excavator, and lifted the lid of a fancy luggage carrier on the roof. Inside was his company’s product—a 200-pound (90-kilogram) device that does work that once required a human being.
- F** “This is where the AI runs,” he said, pointing into the collection of circuit boards, wires, and metal boxes that made up the machine: Sensors to tell it where it is, cameras to let it see, controllers to send its commands to the excavator, communication devices that allow humans to monitor it, and the processor where its artificial intelligence makes the decisions a human driver would. “These control signals get passed down to the computers that usually respond to the joysticks and pedals in the cab.”
- G** When I was a child in the 20th century, hoping to encounter a robot when I grew up, I expected it would look and act human, like C-3PO from Star Wars. Instead, the real robots that were being set up in factories were very different. Today, millions of these industrial machines bolt, weld, paint, and do other repetitive, assembly-line tasks. Often fenced off to keep the remaining human workers safe, they are what roboticist Andrea Thomaz at the University of Texas has called “mute and brute” behemoths.
- H** Ready-Campbell’s device isn’t like that. And of course it isn’t like C-3PO, either. It is, instead, a new kind of robot, far from human but still smart, adept, and mobile. Once rare, these devices—designed to work with people who have never met a robot—are moving steadily into daily life.

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**Choose the correct answers.**

17. The robots in Karel Čapek's play \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. were responsible for the extinction of mankind  
b. set the template for how robots look today  
c. were completely destroyed by the humans
18. Who or what does the word *They* at the start of the second sentence of paragraph **B** refer to?  
a. imaginary robots  
b. plans  
c. robot makers
19. What is NOT true about the robots that Noah Ready-Campbell works with?  
a. They are equipped with video cameras.  
b. They are operated by joysticks and pedals.  
c. They are monitored by humans.
20. In the last sentence of paragraph **F**, the phrase *passed down* is closest in meaning to:  
a. inherited  
b. recycled  
c. transferred
21. How are the robots in factories today different from the robots the writer expected to see as a child?  
a. The robots of today don't usually take on a human form.  
b. The robots are unable to work side by side with humans.  
c. The robots are not intelligent enough to do tasks on their own.
22. What is the main idea of the article?  
a. Work chat platforms have a negative impact on the health of employees.  
b. Companies need strategies in place to use work chat platforms more effectively.  
c. Work chat platforms have eliminated the need for people to work in an office.

**Read the passage.****Digital Communication in the Modern Workplace**

**A** Rapid technological advances in the last 40 years have completely changed the landscape of work life. Work chat platforms—software that allows employees to send instant messages, share files, and have video conferences—have accelerated communication and collaboration between people in offices all over the

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world. However, while they offer undeniable benefits, they also come with their share of challenges. So how can we maximize the benefits and minimize the drawbacks of online communication tools at work?

- B** One of the most significant positive impacts of work chat platforms is their ability to make office communication more efficient than ever before. They eliminate the need for prolonged email chains or physical meetings. With real-time messaging, teams based in different locations can communicate and collaborate in an instant, sharing ideas, making decisions, and resolving issues promptly.
- C** However, this enhanced efficiency comes at a potential cost. In particular, the brief nature of written communication on these platforms can lead to miscommunication between different generations due to their distinct communication styles. Younger generations, often more used to texting than speaking, are quite comfortable conducting business discussions via short, direct written messages, even using animated gifs and emojis. In contrast, older colleagues might prefer traditional face-to-face conversations or video conferences, where tone and nonverbal cues play a vital role. They cannot relate to the casual nature of texts and perceive younger coworkers as unprofessional.
- D** Something that would have been unimaginable just a few decades ago is the rise of remote working. The ability to install these work chat platforms on personal devices has made remote working not only feasible but inevitable. These tools have allowed employees to collaborate smoothly from various locations, transforming how organizations operate. Remote work has proved crucial, especially in times of crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. Through video conferencing and instant messaging, colleagues can work together on projects, attend meetings, and maintain a sense of connection despite never being in the same physical location. It has also expanded the talent pool for employers, giving them access to a wider range of skilled individuals regardless of where they are based.
- E** For some, the ability to work from home has allowed them a greater work-life balance. Less time commuting means more time spent with family, which also cuts the cost of care for children and elderly relatives by a considerable amount. For others though, the boundaries between work and personal life have become less distinct. Messaging apps have made it challenging for individuals to disconnect from work. The constant notifications and messages can create an environment where the pressure on employees to respond is relentless, even outside the regular workday. Many workers are afraid of being perceived as someone who responds to questions too slowly, or who is not immediately available to discuss issues that arise. This erodes the clear line between work and leisure, potentially leading to burnout and decreased overall well-being. The ability to answer work-related queries during weekends or evenings may sound like an advantage, but it can ultimately harm both individual and team dynamics if not managed effectively.
- F** To achieve a balanced approach, it is essential to master the art of using work chat platforms wisely in the workplace. First, it's crucial to recognize and respect diverse communication styles. Training sessions that focus on effective written communication can bridge the gap between different generations, fostering a culture of clear and precise messaging. Second, to address the challenges of remote working, establishing guidelines for work hours and response expectations can help employees maintain a healthy work-life balance. Encouraging employees to disconnect from work-related communication outside of work hours can

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prevent burnout and improve overall mental well-being. Third, promoting occasional offline team-building activities can strengthen personal connections in a way that digital interactions cannot.

- G** Work chat platforms have undeniably transformed the landscape of work life, accelerating communication, enabling remote work, and altering how we balance work and personal time. While they offer unparalleled efficiency and flexibility, they also pose challenges related to miscommunication and overwork. By acknowledging and addressing these issues, companies can enjoy the positive impacts of work chat platforms while minimizing their potential negative impacts.

**Choose the correct answers.**

23. In what way does the passage say work chat platforms can lead to miscommunication?
- The meaning of emojis differs in each country, causing misunderstandings.
  - Nonverbal clues are difficult to pick up with video conferencing systems.
  - Employees of different ages find it difficult to understand each other's communication style.
24. According to the passage, why do some people respond to work messages outside of office hours?
- They want to be seen as ready to help at any time.
  - They prefer to work during weekends or evenings.
  - They are busy with childcare during office hours.
25. In the third sentence of paragraph **F**, the word *fostering* is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- developing
  - maturing
  - expanding
26. What is NOT mentioned as a strategy for using work chat platforms effectively?
- Putting limits on when employees should use work chat platforms.
  - Hosting virtual team-building workshops to strengthen personal connections.
  - Training employees on understanding different writing styles.
27. In the line *This erodes the clear line between work and leisure*, what does *This* refer to?
- The fact that working from home makes us reachable at any time in any place.
  - The fact that we have to combine work with taking care of family.
28. Which word from paragraph **F** is closest in meaning to the word *instructions*?
- approach
  - guidelines
  - expectations

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**Choose the word or idea that each underlined word refers to.**

29. The journalist wrote an article about technology which got a lot of attention from the public. That was then turned into a book, and a movie deal is expected to follow.
- a. an article
  - b. technology
30. Game designers employ a number of tricks to get users quickly hooked on their games. One of the most common is to let users win easily at first to give them a feeling of happiness.
- a. tricks
  - b. games
31. We will have self-driving cars, space tourism, and 3D printers that can manufacture drugs. Advances like these may seem like a fantasy now, but they'll be commonplace in the next 50 years.
- a. 3D printers
  - b. advances
32. The company's new phone has some impressive features, such as a high-spec camera and increased data storage. It will totally change the way we can capture and store memories.
- a. the camera
  - b. the smartphone
33. Virtual reality headsets are hugely popular among gamers due to their immersive capabilities. They allow players to feel like they are inside the game.
- a. players
  - b. virtual reality headsets
34. As e-commerce continues to grow, companies are investing heavily in their online platforms. They want to enhance the consumer experience, making it more convenient for customers.
- a. online platforms
  - b. user experience

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**Complete the sentences with the correct word or phrase.**

All in all	Furthermore	In contrast	In other words	Similarly
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35. The weather in the coastal region is warm and humid, which is ideal for growing tropical fruit.  
\_\_\_\_\_, the cooler temperatures in the mountain areas suit tougher crops better.
36. The company has introduced a program to reduce waste during production.  
\_\_\_\_\_, they have committed to using eco-friendly packaging for all their products.
37. Despite the excellent view from our hotel room, the room itself wasn't very impressive and service was slow. \_\_\_\_\_, I would give that place an average rating.
38. Agility is vitally important in our volatile and constantly evolving industry.  
\_\_\_\_\_, we have to be quick to respond to market changes.
39. The two rival companies employ cutting-edge technology to stay ahead in the market.  
\_\_\_\_\_, both companies invest heavily in research to continuously improve their products.

**Choose the option that best supports each sentence.**

40. Preserving our natural environment is not just a responsibility, but a moral imperative that ensures a sustainable future for generations to come.
- By implementing effective recycling programs and reducing plastic waste, communities can significantly decrease their ecological footprint.
  - Environment issues have tipped beyond the point where we can make any significant progress or changes.



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41. Banning single-use plastics is a necessary step towards reducing pollution and protecting marine life.
- Single-use plastics can be recycled and turned into a wide variety of products.
  - Countries that have banned single-use plastics have seen a noticeable decline in plastic debris on their coasts.
42. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to transform healthcare by increasing diagnostic accuracy, recommending personalized treatments, and improving overall patient outcomes.
- AI-powered diagnostic tools can analyze vast amounts of medical data, leading to early detection of diseases and more effective treatment plans.
  - AI will inevitably lead to job losses for healthcare professionals, especially those in support roles such as technicians and pharmacists.
43. Online education has opened new avenues for learning, providing flexibility, accessibility, and a diverse range of educational resources to learners worldwide.
- Online education allows a wider range of people to pursue degrees and gain new skills, allowing them to better balance work and family responsibilities.
  - Students usually prefer printed textbooks to digital versions, although they often prefer online assignments to printed worksheets.
44. Innovative technologies are playing a vital role in environmental conservation, enabling us to monitor ecosystems, reduce carbon emissions, and develop sustainable solutions for a greener future.
- Traditional methods of conservation have proved just as effective at reducing harmful emissions as newer technologies.
  - Satellite-based monitoring systems have significantly improved our ability to track deforestation and climate changes, aiding conservation efforts.

LEVEL 4 Assessment

**You are going to write an essay on the following topic.**

45. Write about one of these two topics.

**Topic 1:** How do you think emerging technologies will impact schools and universities in the future?

**Topic 2:** What kind of jobs do you think will disappear or change because of emerging technologies?

**A. OUTLINE Plan an outline for your essay.**

Write notes for your introduction and the thesis statement.

Write the topic sentences for your three body paragraphs.

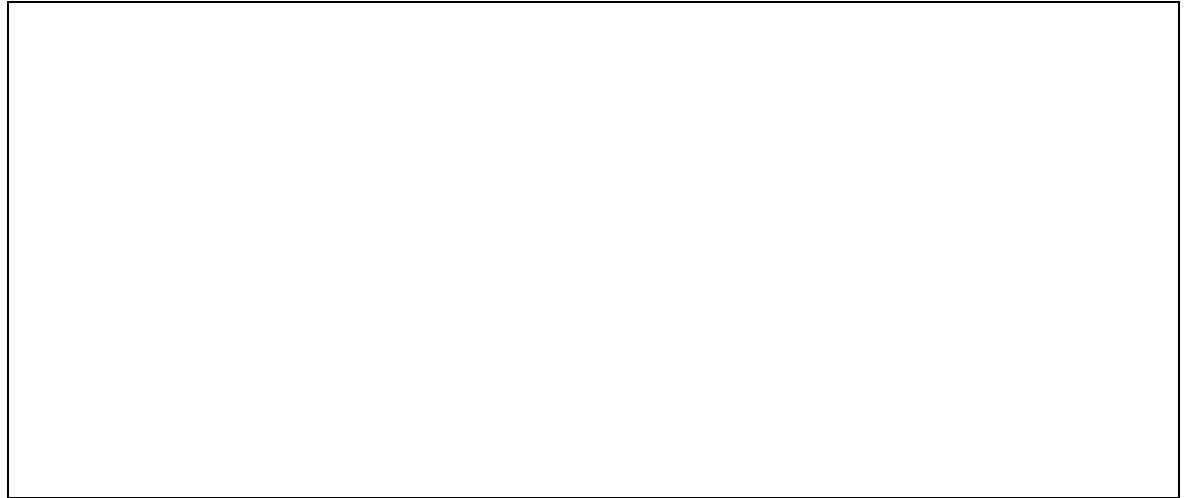
Write some notes for your conclusion.

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**B. Think of some words and phrases you can use in your essay. Write them in the box.**

The words and phrases below can be useful when writing about the impact of new technology.

- *maximize*
- *positive*
- *negative*
- *impact*
- *influence*
- *inevitable*

**C. Write your essay based on your outline. Use the model to help you. Remember to use the vocabulary you wrote down.****Model:**

*Technology continues to evolve at an astonishing pace, changing the job landscape and posing both challenges and opportunities for individuals and societies. It is important that we anticipate how different professions may react to these changes if we are to maximize the benefits and minimize the downsides of these technological advancements.*

*One role that faces significant change is that of the traditional cashier. Automated checkout systems and self-service kiosks are becoming more common in stores, reducing the demand for human cashiers. While this shift may increase overall efficiency, it poses a problem for the type of people who rely on this kind of work. Young parents and retired people, for example, find this type of work very attractive as it does not take up too much time, can be done locally, and doesn't require skills or qualifications. How will they stay relevant in the job market if these jobs are lost?*

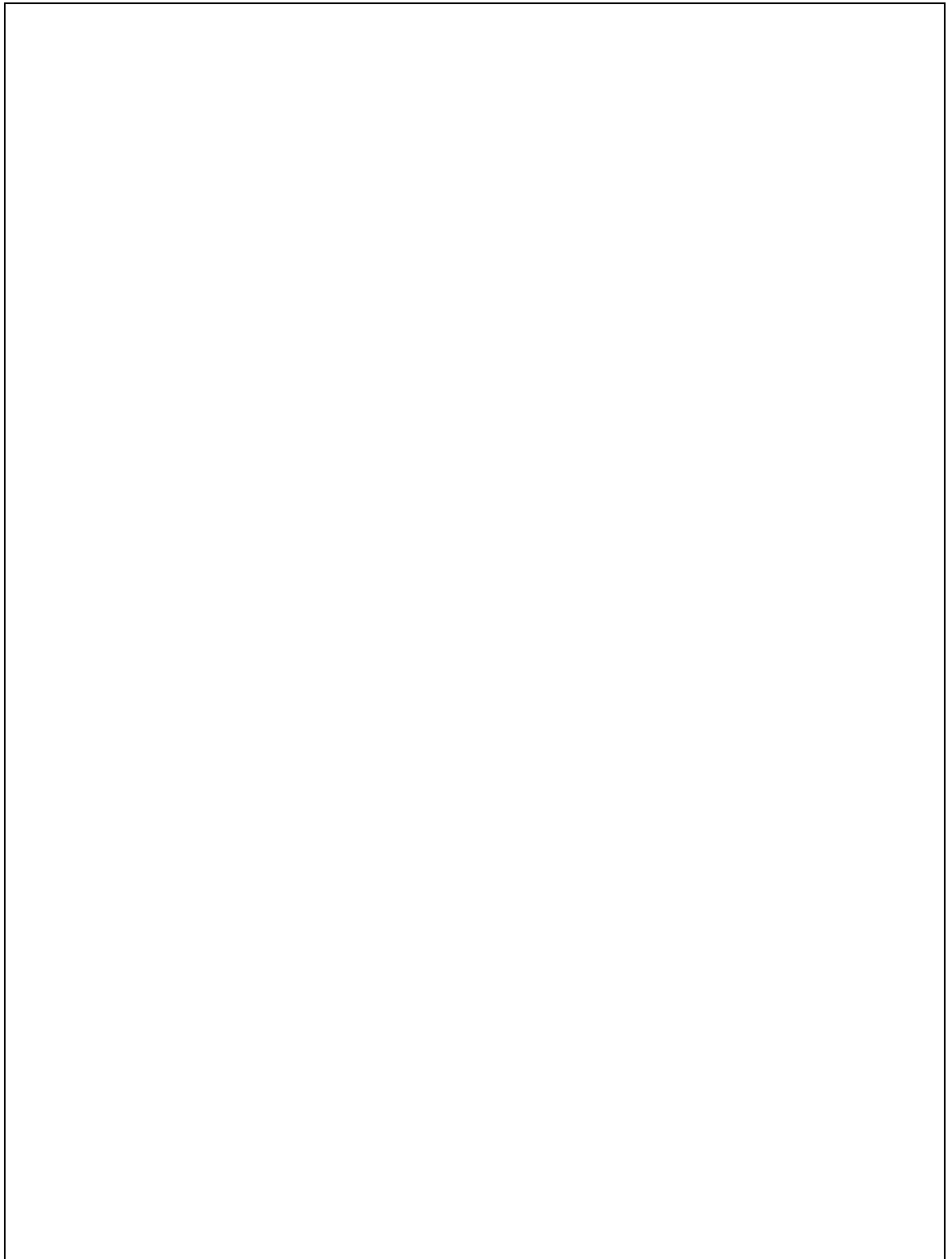
*The transportation industry is also undergoing a period of transformation. Driverless technology is set to become commonplace, and this will likely lead to the eventual loss of many driving jobs. This will have a huge impact on many people; it is estimated that over 2 million people in the U.S., for instance, are employed as drivers. While driverless technology is predicted to enhance road safety, increase fuel efficiency, and even improve traffic, a widescale shift to driverless vehicles will likely necessitate a major career shift for a vast number of people.*

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*The impact of technology will likely also extend to the field of medicine, where certain repetitive tasks may become automated, such as medical data entry. Advanced speech recognition technology and automated electronic health record systems are poised to maximize efficiency while reducing the need for human input. Medical administrators must therefore adapt by specializing in quality control or data analysis to remain relevant in this evolving healthcare landscape.*

*Advances in technology will bring inevitable changes to various industries and professions. While some roles may disappear or change significantly, affected individuals can cope by learning new skills, embracing adaptability, and recognizing the benefits technology brings. By doing so, they can help ensure that the workforce of the future remains prepared for the changes to come.*

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(12 points)