

**Participant's NAME:**

## ARTICLE

*You are going to write an article for an English website.*

*Before writing, you are going to watch a short video presentation. The video will be shown twice.*

*You can take notes if you wish. Use this sheet for your notes.*

*After viewing the video presentation, you will have 60 minutes to write your article.*

**Follow this plan:**

- *state the topic / issue of the talk;*
- *give a short summary of the content of the talk and formulate the main message;*
- *respond to the message of the talk by giving your opinion on the issue discussed by the speaker and / or linking the topic / issue to your personal experience;*
- *comment on the speaker's presentation style (manner of speaking, visuals etc.).*

*Use the sheets provided for your draft and your final version.*

**Write at least 300 words.** Give a title to your article.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/may\\_el\\_khalil\\_making\\_peace\\_is\\_a\\_marathon](https://www.ted.com/talks/may_el_khalil_making_peace_is_a_marathon)

**USE THIS SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE PRESENTATION**

**USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR DRAFT**

**Participant's NAME:**

**USE THIS SHEET TO WRITE YOUR FINAL VERSION.**

**YOU MUST WRITE AT LEAST 300 WORDS.**

**TITLE:**

## Student A

### PAIR DISCUSSION

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Student A and Student B read the same news item.

Student A starts the conversation by summarising the news item.

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## NO 1.

Source: <http://www.popsci.com/navys-robot-firefighter-will-get-algorithmic-sea-legs>



### ***New sea legs for a robot firefighter***

Where there's smoke, there should be firefighting robots. That's the aim of the Shipboard Autonomous Firefighting Robot (SAFFiR) currently in development by the Office of Naval Research. The Navy demonstrated the robot last winter, and now, to help SAFFiR walk a little better, the Navy has awarded a \$600,000 grant to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) to teach the robot new skills.

WPI is testing new algorithms in a simulation of a complex environment using a virtual model of the robot. The team can plan a variety of movements for the robot and see if it is able to walk correctly or if it falls down. Later, the WPI team will test the actual robot in real conditions within a ship environment. The robot will walk up the stairs and perform other tasks to ensure the algorithms are generating the correct motion.

The robot is made humanoid to fit into spaces built for humans, so it makes sense to give it sea legs. Yet there's nothing inherent about the design of ships that necessitates a humanoid robot. In fact, making the firefighter person-sized and person-shaped might even get in the way. The team have already proposed an alternative idea to fight fires on ships – a wall-crawling spider.

## Student B

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## NO 2.

Source: <http://www.popsci.com/now-you-can-download-an-earthquake-sensor-onto-your-smartphone>



### ***You can now sense earthquakes on your smartphone***

Researchers at the University of California announced the release of a new app called MyShake, available as a free download for Android smartphones.

It uses the accelerometer in your phone and GPS to measure how much shaking is happening in a given location. The hope is that eventually, if enough people download it, the app will allow your phone to function as a personal seismometer and an early warning system.

When the app detects shaking that resembles an earthquake, the information is sent to a server. If enough phones detect shaking, that data is pooled together and analyzed. If it's a large earthquake, in the future alerts can be generated from the phones of people closest to the earthquake's epicenter, and sent out ahead of the shaking, giving people further away the chance to drop, cover, and hold on.

But in order for the app to be effective as an early warning system, a decent number of people have to download it. The researchers estimate that in order to accurately detect the origin and start time of large earthquakes in a location, there need to be at least 300 phones equipped with the app in a roughly 4,700 square mile area. The more MyShake-equipped phones in an area, the faster the team can get accurate information.

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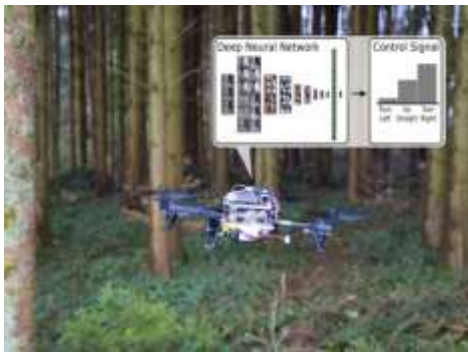
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## NO 3.

Source: <http://www.popsci.com/drones-learn-how-to-find-people-lost-in-woods>



### ***Drones learn how to find people lost in the woods***

Trails are narrow ribbons of civilization cutting through wilderness. They tell us about what is worth exploring as well as about what is off the limits. If a hiker loses a trail, they are suddenly in a deep wilderness, unmoored from the world until they stumble back to that thin path again. To find missing hikers, it makes sense to look near trails, and to do that, a team at the University of Zurich is training drones to identify and follow trails into the woods.

The drone used by the Swiss researchers observes the environment through a pair of small cameras, similar to those used in smartphones. Instead of relying on sophisticated sensors, their drone uses very powerful artificial-intelligence to interpret the images to recognize human-made trails. If a trail is visible, the software steers the drone in the corresponding direction.

The drones learned to identify trails using deep learning neural networks. This network reads forests to find the paths that look like they're supposed to be there. Don't expect rescue drones to find missing hikers just yet, but someday, they will become a reliable rescue tool.



## Student B

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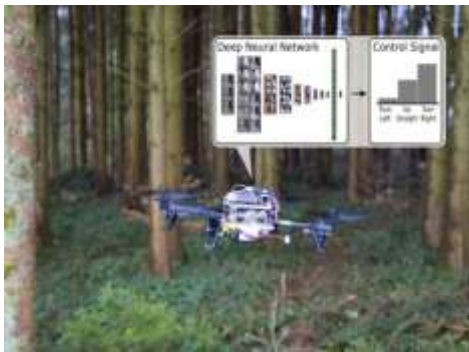
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## NO 4.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/science-news/>



### ***Hand you write with can determine how you vote***

Being left or right handed can change how you view the world and even influence how you vote in an election, scientists have found.

People who are right handed are more likely to buy products that are on shelves to the right of them and vote for names on the right side of voting forms. For "lefties", it is vice versa.

Dr Daniel Casasanto, of Chicago University, said people unconsciously favour the side that they find less clumsy. It means that if a right handed person sees two equally attractive people in a bar, they will choose the person standing to their right hand side instinctively.

We – as handed creatures – experience more motor fluency with one hand and therefore on one side of the body compared to the other side. There is a 'fluid' side and a 'clumsy' side of space because of our handedness.

This rule has become applicable to behaviours like voting where we are all being asked to judge candidates whose names are written on the right and left of the ballot paper. "We found in a large simulated election that the righties will choose the candidate they see on the right side of the ballot paper about 15 per cent more than the lefties. So these kinds of invisible influences could have real impact."

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## NO 5.

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/>



### **Facebook could affect the brain in similar ways to cocaine**

Facebook can have similar effects on the brain to cocaine addiction, a study has found.

A total of 20 students were asked to fill in a questionnaire that assessed 'addiction-like' symptoms relating to Facebook, such as anxiety, withdrawal and conflict relating to the website. Students were then shown a series of images, and asked to press, or not press, a button. Researchers used brain imaging to monitor their brain activity while they did this.

The study states that technology-related 'addictions' share some neural features with substance and gambling addictions. It has revealed that images relating to Facebook activated those brain regions which are involved in compulsive behaviour. These brain patterns were similar to those in people addicted to cocaine.

Researchers at Norway's Bergen University have developed the 'Bergen Facebook Addiction Scale', which asks those being tested to respond to statements such as "You use Facebook in order to forget about personal problems" and "You become restless if you are prohibited from using Facebook." Those who respond to at least four of the six statements on the test may have a Facebook addiction.

As many as 71 per cent of internet users have a Facebook account, and 70 per cent view the site every day – with just under half going on several times a day.

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Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/>



### ***Learning a second language can delay ageing of the brain***

Learning a second language can boost thinking skills, improve mental agility and delay the ageing of the brain, according to scientists who believe that speaking minority languages should be positively encouraged in schools and universities. Studies have found that children and adults who learn or speak another language benefit from the extra effort it takes to handle two sets of vocabularies and rules of grammar.

"In the UK, fewer and fewer parents speak minority languages to their children because of the perceived lack of usefulness. Many people still think that a minority language makes children confused and puts them at a disadvantage at school," said Antonella Sorace of the University of Edinburgh.

These feelings clash with much research on bilingualism, which shows instead that when there are differences between monolingual and bilingual children, these are almost invariably in favour of bilinguals. Bilingual children tend to have enhanced language abilities, a better understanding of others' point of view, and more mental flexibility in dealing with complex situations.

Many of the same improvements are seen in adults who speak two languages, or are learning a second language. A study of retired people doing an intensive language course of five hours a day on the Isle of Skye to learn Gaelic found improvements in other mental abilities.



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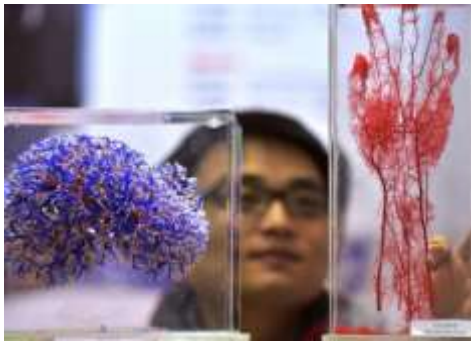
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## NO 7.

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/>



### **3D 'bioprinters' could soon make organs for transplant**

Human tissue and organs good enough for transplants could soon be made using a 3D “bioprinter” that would help solve the problem of donor shortages. A team of regenerative medicine scientists in the United States has proved that it is feasible to print organs and tissues for replacement of injured parts.

Although the printed body parts – including ear and muscle structures – have been tested only in laboratory animals, the researchers said that the structures have the right size, strength and function for use in patients suffering from battlefield injuries. Their work was funded by the US Armed Forces Institute of Medicine.

This novel printer is an important advance in our quest to make replacement tissue for patients. It can fabricate stable, human-scale tissue of any shape. This technology could potentially be used to print living tissue and organ structures for surgical implantation.

With donor shortages being a constant challenge, the precision of 3D printing has provided hope for surgeons. However, current printers are not yet advanced enough to produce structures with sufficient size or strength to implant in the body.

The scientists have already printed a human-sized ear and attached them under the skin of mice, as well as planted muscle and bone tissue with its own blood supply within rats.



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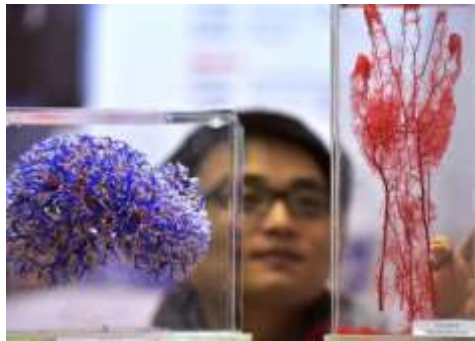
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### **3D 'bioprinters' could soon make organs for transplant**

Human tissue and organs good enough for transplants could soon be made using a 3D “bioprinter” that would help solve the problem of donor shortages. A team of regenerative medicine scientists in the United States has proved that it is feasible to print organs and tissues for replacement of injured parts.

Although the printed body parts – including ear and muscle structures – have been tested only in laboratory animals, the researchers said that the structures have the right size, strength and function for use in patients suffering from battlefield injuries. Their work was funded by the US Armed Forces Institute of Medicine.

This novel printer is an important advance in our quest to make replacement tissue for patients. It can fabricate stable, human-scale tissue of any shape. This technology could potentially be used to print living tissue and organ structures for surgical implantation.

With donor shortages being a constant challenge, the precision of 3D printing has provided hope for surgeons. However, current printers are not yet advanced enough to produce structures with sufficient size or strength to implant in the body.

The scientists have already printed a human-sized ear and attached them under the skin of mice, as well as planted muscle and bone tissue with its own blood supply within rats.