

12 UNIT

The Impact of AI on Society, Human Relationships, and Ethics

(Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of technology that enables machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks include learning, problem-solving, language processing, and decision-making. This unit explores how AI influences these areas, the benefits and challenges it presents, and the need for ethical considerations in its use.)

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this unit, the students will be able to:

- engage in extended discussions and critiques considering other speakers' viewpoints and presenting one's own with clarity.
- link new facts, terms, and concepts with prior knowledge.
- reading to analyse descriptive/argumentative/ persuasive essays.
- change tense in indirect/direct speech (present, past and perfect tenses, future, modals, time and questions, orders, requests, suggestions and advice) in narrative paragraphs.
- write multiple paragraphs essays or stories, poems or playscript using mechanics for correct writing.

Pre-reading:


- What kinds of technology do you use regularly? e.g., smartphones, computers, social media, etc.
- How do they think technology has impacted the way you work, communicate, or learn?
- Have you ever heard of Artificial Intelligence (AI)? In what contexts have you encountered it?
- Have you ever used an AI-powered app or service? If so, which one(s)?

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a transformative force that has redefined how people live, work, and interact. It is a branch of computer science that enables machines to perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, decision-making, language processing, and visual recognition. In recent decades, AI has become a central technology in various sectors, including healthcare, education, finance, and entertainment.

2. In healthcare, AI-powered systems assist doctors in diagnosing diseases, predicting patient outcomes, and even performing robotic surgeries. In education, AI-based learning platforms provide personalised lessons, adapt to students' needs, and offer **automated** assessments, making learning more effective. Financial institutions use AI for fraud detection,

While-reading

How does AI assist doctors in diagnosing diseases and predicting patient outcomes?



customer service chatbots, and automated trading, ensuring faster and more accurate transactions. The entertainment industry relies on AI for content recommendations, video editing, and even the creation of realistic digital characters.

3. Despite these advancements, the rapid integration of AI into daily life has raised important questions about its impact on society. It offers many benefits, but it also poses significant challenges related to human relationships and ethical considerations.

4. AI's Influence on Society – AI has brought remarkable improvements to society, making daily tasks faster, more accurate, and more convenient. In the healthcare sector, AI-powered diagnostic tools, such as image recognition software, can identify diseases like cancer at an early stage, improving patient outcomes. In education, intelligent tutoring systems adapt lessons to each student's learning pace, providing a more personalised educational experience. Businesses use AI to automate processes, such as managing inventory, processing transactions, and analysing customer data, reducing human error and increasing efficiency.

5. However, the widespread use of AI also presents significant challenges. One of the most pressing concerns is job **displacement**. As AI systems become capable of performing repetitive or even skilled tasks, many jobs are at risk of being automated. For example, self-checkout systems in supermarkets can replace cashiers, and automated customer support chatbots can replace human agents. In manufacturing, robots can perform **assembly** tasks faster and more accurately than human workers.

While-reading

How can AI contribute to job displacement in supermarkets?

6. This shift towards automation means that workers in affected industries must adapt by acquiring new skills. Governments and educational institutions must focus on re-skilling and up-skilling the workforce, ensuring that individuals are prepared for a technology-driven future. Furthermore, society must develop strategies to support those who lose their jobs due to automation, ensuring that technological progress benefits everyone.

7. AI and Human Relationships – Artificial Intelligence has **transformed** how people communicate and interact. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok use AI algorithms to personalise content, showing users posts and videos that match their interests. This helps people connect with others who share their hobbies and beliefs. Messaging apps and virtual assistants, such as Siri, Google Assistant, and Alexa, make communication faster and more convenient.

8. However, while AI-powered communication tools make it easier to stay connected, they also risk reducing the quality of human relationships. **Excessive reliance** on digital

While-reading

How do AI-powered communication tools help people stay connected?

communication can lead to a decline in face-to-face **interactions**. Young people, in particular, may spend more time interacting with their devices than with their family and friends, resulting in social **isolation**.

9. Moreover, AI has enabled the creation of virtual companions and chatbots, which can simulate human conversation. For instance, Replika is an AI-powered chatbot designed to provide emotional support and **companionship**. Although these systems can be helpful, they lack genuine emotions and understanding. Overreliance on AI for social interactions can reduce empathy and emotional intelligence among users, making them more comfortable interacting with machines than with real people.

10. Ethical Considerations in AI – AI systems often require large amounts of data to function effectively. For example, facial recognition systems used in public spaces can identify individuals by analysing their facial features. This technology can be useful for security, but it also raises serious privacy concerns. Individuals may be monitored without their consent, and their data may be stored, shared, or misused.

11. AI systems learn from data, and if the data used to train them contains biases, the systems can inherit those biases. For instance, an AI recruitment tool may favour male candidates over female candidates if it is trained on historical data reflecting gender bias in hiring practices. Similarly, facial recognition systems may perform better on certain racial groups than others, leading to unfair treatment in security and law enforcement.

12. When an AI system makes a harmful decision, determining who is responsible can be challenging. For example, if an autonomous vehicle causes an accident, is the manufacturer of the vehicle responsible? Is the developer of the AI software at fault? Or is the user accountable? Without clear guidelines, it can be difficult to ensure that justice is served in such cases.

13. AI can be used to create fake or misleading content, such as deepfake videos, which can manipulate public opinion or damage an individual's reputation. Social media platforms use AI to detect and remove such content, but the technology is not always effective.

14. The Need for Responsible Use of AI – To maximise the benefits of AI while minimising its risks, it is essential to promote responsible use. Governments, organisations, and individuals must work together to establish ethical guidelines for the design, development, and deployment of AI systems. These guidelines should focus on:

Transparency: AI systems should be designed in a way that allows users to understand how they work and how they make decisions.

Fairness: AI systems should be trained on diverse and unbiased data to ensure fair

treatment for all individuals.

Privacy Protection: AI developers must ensure that user data is securely stored and processed only with user consent.

Accountability: Clear rules should define who is responsible for the actions of an AI system.

Continuous Monitoring: AI systems should be regularly tested and updated to ensure they operate ethically and efficiently.

15. By following these principles, society can harness the power of AI for good while avoiding its potential harms. As technology continues to advance, a commitment to ethical AI development is essential for ensuring that it serves humanity responsibly.

Theme

The theme of this unit, "The Impact of AI on Society, Human Relationships, and Ethics," delves into the transformative role that artificial intelligence (AI) plays in modern life. It explores how AI is reshaping various sectors, from healthcare and education to entertainment and finance, enhancing efficiency and opening new possibilities. At the same time, the unit examines the consequences of AI's pervasive presence on human relationships, considering how it alters communication, connection, and social interactions. Ethical issues also take centre stage, as the unit challenges students to reflect on concerns such as privacy, bias in AI, and the accountability of those who develop and deploy these technologies. Through this exploration, students will critically engage with the benefits and risks of AI, while reflecting on the broader implications it holds for both society and individuals.

Glossary:

Words	Meanings
assembly	the process of putting together the parts of something such as a vehicle or piece of furniture
automate	to use machines and computers instead of people to do a job or task
companionship	the pleasant feeling that you have when you have a friendly relationship with somebody and are not alone
displacement	the act of forcing somebody/something away from their home or position
excessive	greater than what seems reasonable or appropriate
interaction	the act of communicating with somebody, especially while you work, play or spend time with them

Words	Meanings
isolation	the act of separating somebody/something; the state of being separate
reliance	the state of needing somebody/something in order to survive, be successful, etc.; the fact of being able to rely on somebody/something
transform	to change the form of something; to change in form

Reading and Critical Thinking

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Can AI replicate true human creativity? What aspects of creativity might AI struggle with?
2. How can society balance AI-driven job loss with new job opportunities? What new jobs might AI create?
3. How might AI affect human emotions and social interactions? Can it improve or harm our well-being?
4. What ethical guidelines should govern AI use? Who is responsible for ensuring these standards?
5. Can AI replace human teachers? What limitations does AI have in education?
6. What might be some long-term consequences if AI continues to replace human workers in various sectors? How should society address these challenges?
7. What are the long-term effects of AI on society? Will humans and AI coexist or will AI surpass human capabilities?
8. What will be the impact of AI on human relationships? Can AI truly understand emotions?

B. Choose the correct option for each question.

1. What is one of the main concerns associated with the widespread use of AI?
 - a. improved job security
 - b. job displacement
 - c. increased social isolation
 - d. reduced healthcare costs
2. Which of the following is an example of AI being used in healthcare?
 - a. automated car driving
 - b. personalised learning platforms
 - c. AI-powered diagnostic tools like IBM's Watson for Health
 - d. social media content recommendations

3. How does AI benefit the education sector?

- a. by replacing teachers entirely
- b. by providing personalised lessons and automated assessments
- c. by creating virtual classmates
- d. by limiting student-teacher interactions

4. In what way does AI enhance the financial industry?

- a. by replacing all human workers
- b. through fraud detection, customer service chatbots, and automated trading
- c. by making transactions slower and less accurate
- d. by reducing the need for data analysis

5. What is a potential risk of excessive reliance on AI-powered communication tools?

- a. increased face-to-face interaction
- b. enhanced emotional intelligence
- c. social isolation and decline in human relationships
- d. better quality of human communication

Vocabulary and Grammar

A. Create word maps for the following words: *automation, bias, privacy, accountability, social isolation*. Each word map should include the following components:

- **Word:** The vocabulary term.
- **Definition:** A clear explanation of what the word means.
- **Synonyms:** Words with similar meanings.
- **Antonyms:** Words with opposite meanings.
- **Example sentence:** A sentence that demonstrates how the word is used in context.

Rules of Converting Indirect Speech into Direct Speech

When converting an **Indirect Speech** sentence into **Direct Speech**, follow these rules carefully.

Rule	Explanation	Examples
1. Use an appropriate reporting verb (say, said to, asked, exclaimed).	Ensure the reporting verb is used correctly in its tense and form.	Indirect: She advised me to study well. Direct: She said, "Study well."

2. Insert quotation marks, punctuation, and sentence mood properly.	Use quotation marks to enclose the spoken words and add question marks, exclamation marks, or full stops as needed.	Indirect: He asked whether I was ready. Direct: He said, "Are you ready?"
3. Remove unnecessary conjunctions (that, if, whether, to).	Conjunctions like "that," "if," "whether," or "to" used in indirect speech should be omitted in direct speech.	Indirect: She asked if I wanted help. Direct: She said, "Do you want help?"
4. Change the tense of the reported speech appropriately.	If the reporting verb in indirect speech is in the past, the tense of the reported speech should change to present or past tense.	Indirect: He said that he was tired. Direct: He said, "I am tired."
5. Adjust pronouns based on the speaker and listener.	Change pronouns according to the speaker (I, we) or listener (you) in the direct speech.	Indirect: She said that she had lost her pen. Direct: She said, "I have lost my pen."
6. Change time expressions to suit the direct speech context.	Words like "that day" become "today", "the next day" becomes "tomorrow", etc., based on the context.	Indirect: He said that he would visit the next day. Direct: He said, "I will visit tomorrow."
7. Maintain correct word order for questions and exclamations.	In direct speech, question format and exclamation format should match natural sentence structure.	Indirect: She asked what I was doing. Direct: She said, "What are you doing?"

B. Read the following narrative paragraphs. Convert the Indirect Speech in each paragraph into Direct Speech and change the tense accordingly.

Paragraph 1: Maria said that she loves reading books and spends most of her free time exploring different genres. She mentioned that reading helps her relax and learn new things.

Maria said, "_____."

She added, "_____."

Paragraph 2: The coach told the team that they could achieve victory if they worked hard. He also mentioned that they should focus on their strategies and never lose hope.

The coach said, "_____."

He added, "_____."

Oral Communication

- A. Work in small groups of 4–5. Think about this question: Does the rapid development of AI improve society, or does it bring risks that outweigh its benefits?**

Discuss your ideas within the group. Consider its impact on society, human relationships, and ethical concerns. Reflect on both the positive and negative effects of AI, using examples from healthcare, education, finance, and daily life. After the discussion, each group will share their argument with the whole class.

Writing Skills

- A. Write a short story (300–400 words) based on the following prompt. Ensure that your story addresses the theme of AI's impact on society, human relationships, and ethics.**

Story Writing Prompt

In a not-so-distant future, AI has become an integral part of every aspect of human life. It manages daily tasks, enhances communication, and even helps people form connections. However, as people become more dependent on AI, a crisis emerges—AI begins to make decisions that affect human lives in ways that no one could have predicted. Your story should explore how this shift in power affects one individual, their relationships, and their ethical choices.

Consider the following while writing:

- How does the protagonist interact with AI in their daily life?
- What is the main conflict in your story—does AI help or hinder the protagonist's life?
- How do the protagonist's relationships with others change as AI becomes more involved in their life?
- What ethical dilemmas arise due to AI's influence in the story?