

## Competition 7: Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence is a relatively new subject which could prove to provide humanity with a wide variety of benefits, but there are also some negative implications which need to be considered when discussing this topic.

Currently, most common AI systems are very rudimentary but they give us a glimpse into the potential that such systems are capable of, one example of this is neural network text-to-speech which can emulate the voice of anyone with just a few short voice clips, or 'deepfakes' which can be used to replace an individual's face with that of another's, which brings me onto the first downside of artificial intelligence – there are always people who will use it for ill intentions. Already we see AI programs which can generate deepfakes being used to fabricate evidence, create explicit content with the goal of threatening or getting 'revenge' at the person it depicts, or those who express desire to put these systems into military killing machines – which in itself is a topic. Along with this there is also the ethical concern, if we do create an intelligence which can understand, learn, and develop, then who is to say that it is not sentient or that it doesn't deserve the same rights as a human being? After all, humans are just beings of consciousness inhabiting an organic vessel, a highly advanced AI could be interpreted as a conscious being which just inhabits a mechanical vessel.

The ethical viewpoint of Artificial Intelligence helps to link in with the question of how such a system would react if you wanted to unplug it, if the AI is truly sentient then it would very likely be aware of what being unplugged would mean, which for an AI with sentience and emotions could be extremely distressing and could result in a dangerous combination.

However, Artificial Intelligence is not all negatives, as I mentioned earlier it has significant potential in benefitting humanity. For instance, some early Artificial Intelligence systems have been implemented in robots to act as caregivers, providing support to the elderly or others who have difficulty on their own and need regular assistance, or more common systems such as Personal Assistants like Alexa, Cortana, Bixby, etc, who help people with their daily lives, their schedules, controlling devices around the home, the limits with AI seem to be endless.

Furthermore, AI could also be of huge benefit to the scientific community, solving highly advanced problems which require both mathematical thinking but also context of the real-world in a matter of seconds, or by generating new ideas which a human either wouldn't think of or would take a long time to figure out the realities of certain ideas.

Overall, AI shows great promise in a better future, but it is also important to stay aware that there could very well be certain ethical and safety concerns associated with Artificial Intelligence, though it could be too soon to say whether this is the next step or just a pit we're about to fall in to.