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by B B

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Discussion Questions

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Discussion Questions

Japan's Humanoid Robots

The development of Actroid-F, his brother, and their ability to communicate and mimic other people's movement point towards a human race determined to push the limits of their technological inventions. The fact that the first robot developed as a female indicates our skewed thinking as a society. That explains why people kept asking the developers of Actroid-F why they created a female robot without a male one, leading to the development of the male robot. A robot that can communicate and understand the body language and the movement of people will likely take over our lives. One might opt, for instance, not to have a partner with who they can converse and settle for one of the two robots who are even programmed to have cognitive abilities. One cannot ignore some of the benefits of having these human-like robots. For instance, they are used in hospitals to monitor and help patients progress positively with their treatments. In my view, we must be careful with the technologies that mimic human conduct. There is a thin line between what is ethical in these technologies and what is not. Though the robotics industry employs millions, humanity must be careful with some of these inventions threatening to replace crucial aspects of our lives.

Social Change

Question 1

One of the current sources of social change is the global pandemic. Presently, the world is battling the Covid-19 virus that is continuously mutating and claiming millions of victims. One of the changes occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic is that we can no longer interact with friends and loved one because we can knowingly or unknowingly spread the fatal virus. I was used to partaking in activities like sports and a regular visit to the shopping malls. Presently, such

interactions are limited as we have to remain indoors most of the time and where we interact either in school or other places. Another change that I am experiencing is having to wear a face mask whenever I am outside. I was not used to having a piece of cloth covering my mouth and nose. However, I am forced by the pandemic to cover my face because the illness is airborne and spreads rapidly. A second source that is of crucial significance in bringing social change is climate change. I chose it because it is one of the current occurrences that has captured global attention, just like the Covid-19 pandemic. I also chose climate change because it affects the health and well-being of people either directly via the changes in weather patterns that cause flooding and earthquakes or indirectly via the increases of diseases like heat stroke.

Question 2

In my view, Kurt Vonnegut observed that many cabinets have failed to have a Secretary of State for the future because most of these positions are political positions meant to serve the administration's interests in power. Politicians in office do not care about the future. Once one is elected in, they start thinking about their re-election, and they end up doing all they can to ensure they win re-election and guarantee themselves a second term, without thinking about what will happen years from now. The idea of a secretary of state for the future elicits reactions from the masses, but in my view, citizens have not taken it seriously. That explains why Kurt Vonnegut observed that the position has not even been a fully-fledged meme on the internet. The major point in this debate is about leadership. The country and the world, in general, lack visionary leaders who can see twenty, thirty, or fifty years from now. Such a leader can be important in offering visionary leadership that can necessitate creating the position of secretary of state for the future. More importantly, when there lacks a failure in the cabinet, one of the secretaries of state can be innovative and come up with ideas deemed crucial for the countries in the future.

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