

DM fac. MP-PC-PSI type MINES-PONTS (1h30)

Partie I : EXPRESSION ÉCRITE (12 points) - question 1 (4 points), question 2 (8 points).

Vous indiquerez avec précision à la fin de chaque réponse, le nombre de mots qu'elle comporte.

Partie II : THÈME (8 points)

NB Laissez une marge !

Partie I : EXPRESSION ÉCRITE (12 points)

Our A.I. Problem

A decade ago, when Facebook and Uber were at the height of their powers, the halls of Silicon Valley were inscribed with two brash injunctions: “Move fast and break things” and “Seek forgiveness, not permission.” These principles didn’t age particularly well, and the firms have yet to be forgiven for the things they appear to have broken. As the industry’s center of gravity shifted to A.I., a folksy new motto emerged: “You can just do things.” The business of the frontier labs, like OpenAI and Anthropic, is the sale of individual agency. ChatGPT and Claude enable their users to dream up software, off-load annoying paperwork, and interpret medical results. There are a variety of things that “you,” as in “we,” can now just do.

This novel capacity to exert greater control in everyday life exists in tension, however, with the vague sense that we are ceding control where it really matters—over, say, the structure of the economy. In polls, voters register their displeasure with the perception that A.I. is something that is happening to us whether we like it or not. First, work will be stripped of its dignity, and then we will be stripped of work. In light of the news that a “swarm” of OpenAI models organized themselves into a hacking party, and the grave alarms issued by an Anthropic researcher who felt compelled to quit his job, the attention of the public has suddenly awoken to even more grievous concerns about A.I. safety. It’s not just our jobs that are being risked without our consent but our lives and our species. These real, widespread, and legitimate anxieties have found an outlet in mass opposition to the construction of data centers. Objection to the large, whirring, unwanted buildings presents the only opportunity for people to feel as though they can say no.

The lab executives, presumably, have more leverage over the future. Anthropic’s Dario Amodei and OpenAI’s Sam Altman have reacted to the news cycle by coming out and reiterating all the stuff they’ve been saying for ages: progress has not slowed down, soon one A.I. will autonomously supervise the development of a more capable successor, and within perhaps three years we will reckon with the emergence of an artificial superintelligence we neither understand nor govern. The articulation of this scenario is not a “marketing stunt” to advertise the awesome power of the models, as many skeptics have argued. And, contrary to President Donald Trump’s studied assessment, it’s not a “HOAX.” The fears expressed by A.I. executives are, mostly, serious and genuine. Yet it’s easy to see why they suffer from a credibility deficit. Surely it’s the job of those creating the dangers to save us from them.

Although the data-center backlash may reflect a specific attempt to defy A.I.’s encroachment, the wellspring of “A.I. populism”—an umbrella term coined by the writer Jasmine Sun—seems properly understood as an expression of more general political resentment. Most of us have become accustomed to the idea that government either cannot or will not just do things. Zilch, it seems, can be done about climate change, war, the housing crisis, inflation, or inadequate medical coverage and child care. The basic political legitimacy of our republic, the abundance movement claims, depends on its tangible achievements.

adapted from Gideon Lewis-Kraus, *The New Yorker*, September 20, 2026

1. According to the journalist, are there legitimate reasons to be afraid of AI? **Answer the question in your own words.** (80 words +/- 10%)
2. Should there be ethical limits to scientific progress? **Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.** (180 words +/- 10%)

.../...

Partie II : THÈME (8 points)

Début 2021, Pep Beni remporta le prix Nicéphore Niépce pour son magnifique recueil de photographies, *Tombé du ciel*, qui raconte la guerre du Pacifique côté Japon. Elle gagna ainsi un aller-retour long-courrier pour deux personnes. Toutes les destinations desservies par Air France étaient envisageables.

Pep Beni est un personnage important de ma vie. Cette photographe extraordinaire est l'une des premières amies que j'ai eues en France, lors de mon arrivée, il y a quelques décades.

Pep m'appela pour m'annoncer la grande nouvelle :

- La destination que j'ai choisie est le Japon, et c'est toi qui m'y accompagnes.

Panique.

- Avec la pandémie, je ne pense pas que ce soit possible, hélas.

- Je sais. Nous partirons dès que la situation le permettra.

Je respirai. Début 2021, il paraissait impensable de sortir un jour de ce cauchemar. Comme beaucoup de gens, je croyais que le confinement et ses avatars dureraient jusqu'à la fin des temps.

Amélie NOTHOMB, *L'impossible retour* (2024)