Reading : robots, friends or foes ?

1. Before reading

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1........	a robot	a.	an enemy
2........	an algorithm	b.	a computer-controlled machine which can perform jobs without human input. It may have a human-like body
3........	artificial intelligence (AI)	c.	mathematical instructions which help a computer calculate an answer to a problem
4........	a drone	d.	the field of science concerned with producing machines with qualities of the human mind, e.g. the ability to understand language
5........	a foe	e.	independent, with the power to make your own decisions
6........	autonomous	f.	an aircraft without a pilot which is controlled by a human on the ground

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Read the questions and choose the correct expert (A–D). Each expert may be chosen more than once.

1. Which expert has a different view from the others regarding the timescale of AI becoming more autonomous?

   a. A   b. B   c. C   d. D

2. Which expert has a similar view to A about the responsibility humans have for the future of AI?

   a. A   b. B   c. C   d. D

3. Which expert agrees with B that the negative aspects of AI far outweigh the positive aspects?

   a. A   b. B   c. C   d. D

4. Which expert seems to disagree with B about how fast humans can change?

   a. A   b. B   c. C   d. D

5. Which expert gives their opinion about what will happen with the same level of certainty as D?

   a. A   b. B   c. C   d. D

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the verbs with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1........	to develop	a.	to go beyond
2........	to supersede	b.	to start doing something someone else was doing
3........	to take off	c.	to replace something older or less advanced
4........	to take over (from someone)	d.	to suddenly start to be successful
5........	to surpass	e.	to develop gradually (especially for a biological species)
6........	to evolve	f.	to grow or improve, or to make something grow or improve