Essay topic:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has already given us indications of its groundbreaking potential. Should we wholeheartedly endorse it or do we have reasons to be wary of it? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of AI.

WRITE your answer in 300-350 words

It has become commonplace to see with excitement the latest achievements of a fast-changing technology. However, some of these accomplishments may prove to be a double-edged sword. A typical example of this dual nature is Artificial Intelligence. Is AI the precursor of a brighter future or is it the first step down the slippery slop of man's enslavement to the machines?

AI is clearly the answer to an ever-increasing need for big data processing. A maze of information networks need to be synchronised on a daily basis in order to perform global tasks such as air-traffic regulation, stock-market exchanges and global business transactions to name but a few. This synchronisation is multi-faceted. It has to take into account a host of parameters like time differences, changing weather patterns or unexpected obstacles. AI is the tool that transforms our conventional computers into active partners that not only perform quick calculations but also make snap decisions when required.

Unfortunately, this decision-making ability that AI endows our computers with comes with a price. Once you cede the territory of free will to the machines you start losing your grip to a complete control of the developments. AI does not come with a switch off button. If you want to enjoy the convenience of an automatic pilot or a driveless car you need to relinquish your right to steer the wheel whenever you like. You just sit back and enjoy the ride having faith to the machine that it will make the right choices for you. And what if you have a change of heart? What if you sense a danger that is undetectable by the computer sensors? Aren't you just trapped in the tentacles of a 'smart' software?

Personally, I stand in awe and horror before the gates of our digital tomorrow. The potential of AI to provide groundbreaking solutions to long-lasting problems is definitely the force that drives us forward. At the same time the prospect of a future controlled by the machines that may treat our free will choices as mere flaws of their system is horrendous.

The bottom line is that we can not stem the tide of progress but -at least- we should not so easily step out of the driver's seat because our technological fun ride may turn into a horror roller-coaster.

382 words

Model answer analysis.

Introduction: Restate the topic. Introduce the controversiality:

AI blessing or curse?

It has become commonplace to see with excitement the latest achievements of a fast-changing technology. However, some of these accomplishments may prove to be a double-edged sword. A typical example of this dual nature is Artificial Intelligence. **Is AI the precursor of a brighter future or is it the first step down the slippery slop of man's enslavement to the machines?** [Rhetorical question]

Body paragraph one: The pros of AI

AI is clearly the answer to an ever-increasing need for big data processing. A maze of information networks need to be synchronised on a daily basis in order to perform global tasks such as **air-traffic regulation, stock-market exchanges and global business transactions** [specific examples] to name but a few. This synchronisation is multi-faceted. It has to take into account a host of parameters like time differences, changing weather patterns or unexpected obstacles. AI is the tool that transforms our conventional computers into active partners that not only perform quick calculations but also make snap decisions when required.

Body paragraph two: The cons of AI

Unfortunately, this decision-making ability that AI endows our computers with comes with a price. Once you cede the territory of free will to the machines you start losing your grip to a complete control of the developments. AI does not come with a switch off button. If you want to enjoy the convenience of an **automatic pilot or a driveless car** [specific examples] you need to relinquish your right to steer the wheel whenever you like. You just sit back and enjoy the ride having faith to the machine that it will make the right choices for you. **And what if you have a change of heart? What if you sense a danger that is undetectable by the computer sensors? Aren't you just trapped in the tentacles of a 'smart' software?** [rhetorical questions]

Body paragraph three: My personal opinion

Personally, I stand in awe and horror before the gates of our digital tomorrow. The potential of AI to provide groundbreaking solutions to long-lasting problems is definitely the force that drives us forward. At the same time the prospect of a future controlled by the machines that may treat our free will choices as mere flaws of their system is horrendous.

Conclusion: Summary of what we've analysed

The bottom line is that we can not stem the tide of progress but -at least- we should not so easily step out of the driver's seat because our technological fun ride may turn into a horror roller-coaster. [metaphor: we draw a parallel between **AI and driving**]

Target vocabulary

the latest achievements

the slippery slop of

the force that drives us forward

a double-edged sword

dual nature

a host of parameters

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The bottom line is

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fast-changing technology

Homework essay topic:

The advent of **driveless cars** is imminent. Their proponents hail them as the ultimate solution to traffic congestion and road accidents. The opponents see them as a threat to thousand drivers' jobs and as an infringement to people's ability to control their lives. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of driveless cars.

WRITE your answer in 300-350 words.