

TASK 1

The text discusses how automation is transforming the workforce by increasing efficiency, posing challenges and emphasizing the need for reskilling and proactive measures to ensure a balanced and inclusive adaptation.

TASK 2

1. Automation boosts productivity but may displace jobs.
2. AI and robotics are changing the skills needed for work.
3. Tasks are completed faster and more accurately with automation.
4. Machines lower labour costs and raise productivity.
5. Worker safety improves as machines handle risky tasks.
6. Routine jobs are most at risk of being automated.
7. Self-driving tech threatens transport and delivery jobs.
8. Job losses could increase economic inequality.
9. Workers need reskilling to adapt to automation.
10. Cooperation is key to balance progress and social impact.

TAPESCRIPT

Automation is revolutionizing the employment landscape, promising significant productivity gains but also raising concerns about job displacement. Technological advancements, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and machine learning, are automating tasks across industries, reshaping the skills needed and the nature of work itself.

One of the main benefits of automation is increased efficiency. Machines can perform repetitive and labor-intensive tasks more quickly and accurately than humans, reducing costs for businesses and boosting overall productivity. This allows companies to allocate resources to more strategic or innovative areas, potentially spurring economic growth. Automation can also enhance worker safety by taking over dangerous jobs, such as those in construction, manufacturing, or mining, and can provide consistent quality in roles that require precision, like healthcare diagnostics or food processing.

Despite these advantages, the downside of automation cannot be overlooked. Workers in low- and medium-skill occupations are at the highest risk of job displacement, particularly in sectors like manufacturing, transportation, retail, and administrative work. Self-driving technology, for example, threatens jobs in trucking and delivery services, while AI-based software can handle customer service inquiries or basic legal research. The potential job losses raise concerns about economic inequality, as lower-skilled workers may struggle to find alternative employment.

The shift toward automation demands significant adaptation. Governments, businesses, and educational institutions face mounting pressure to help workers transition. Reskilling and upskilling programs are critical to preparing the workforce for new roles that require digital literacy, complex problem-solving, and emotional intelligence—skills that are harder for machines to replicate. Additionally, automation is expected to create new jobs in tech-driven fields, such as AI development, data analysis,

and cybersecurity, as well as roles that involve human creativity and empathy, like healthcare and education.

However, this transition period poses considerable challenges. Not all workers can easily shift to high-tech or service-oriented jobs, especially in regions heavily dependent on traditional industries. The risk of economic polarization grows if proactive measures are not taken to ensure fair opportunities. Policies like universal basic income, job-sharing schemes, or incentives for companies to retrain rather than replace workers are being discussed to mitigate negative effects.

The future of employment in the age of automation will likely be a dynamic mix of job displacement and creation. Historical precedents, such as the Industrial Revolution, suggest that while technology often leads to net job growth, the interim effects can be harsh. Ultimately, balancing technological progress with societal well-being requires strategic foresight, collaboration, and a commitment to inclusivity. Automation's impact will depend on our ability to adapt, ensuring that its benefits are shared broadly while supporting those most vulnerable to change

