

1) The contemporary human - Divergent thinking - persuasive and descriptive writing:



(Picture from : <https://media.licdn.com>)

The idea of divergent thinking was first introduced in the 1950s by renowned psychologist J. P. Guilford, who also created various assessments to gauge this cognitive skill. Therefore, his bigger theory of the different types of intelligences contains the idea of divergent thinking. Guilford equated divergent thinking with creativity and gave it a number of traits: “1. fluency (the ability to produce great number of ideas or problem solutions in a short period of time); 2. flexibility (the ability to simultaneously propose a variety of approaches to a specific problem); 3. originality (the ability to produce new, original ideas); and 4. elaboration (the ability to systematize and organize the details of an idea in one’s head and carry it out).” Convergent thinking, on the other hand, is the opposite, defined by Guilford as “coming up with a single, well-established, correct and often conventional answer to a problem”. In the context of the contemporary human, divergent thinking plays a crucial role in navigating the complex and rapidly changing world we live in today. As our society becomes increasingly interconnected and globalized, individuals face a wide range of challenges that require creative problem-solving and flexibility. Here are a few ways in which divergent thinking is relevant to the contemporary human.

Firstly, is problem-solving as divergent thinking enables individuals to consider multiple solutions to a problem, rather than settling for the most obvious or conventional one. It encourages exploration of unconventional ideas, perspectives, and approaches, which can lead to

innovative solutions. Secondly is the innovation and entrepreneurship as in a world that driven by technological advancements and disruptive change, divergent thinking is essential for fostering innovation and driving entrepreneurship. It allows individuals to envision new possibilities, identify emerging trends, and create unique products, services, or business models. Thirdly, is adaptability and resilience as divergent thinking helps individuals adapt to rapidly changing circumstances and overcome challenges. By considering multiple perspectives and options, people can adjust their thinking and behavior to navigate unexpected situations and find alternative pathways to success. Fourthly, is the collaboration and teamwork between humans as divergent thinking also contributes to effective collaboration and teamwork. When individuals bring diverse perspectives and ideas to the table, they can collectively generate more creative and comprehensive solutions. Embracing different viewpoints and encouraging divergent thinking within a group fosters innovation and enhances problem-solving capabilities. And last is the Personal growth and self-expression as Divergent thinking allows individuals to explore their own interests, passions, and unique perspectives. It encourages self-expression, encourages individuals to think outside the box, and fosters personal growth by challenging established norms and beliefs.

Hence to conclude, divergent thinking is a valuable cognitive ability for the contemporary human. By embracing divergent thinking, individuals can enhance their problem-solving skills, adaptability, and creativity, enabling us to thrive in an ever-evolving world. As Guilford stated "In a world of complexity and uncertainty, divergent thinking is the compass that guides us to new possibilities and unconventional solutions."

References

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2/ Problem solving: Convergent thinking and Expository writing



(Picture: Tokyo After Dark – Edge of humanity Magazine)

The exploration of contemporary humans can give rise to several problems, some of which are firstly, can be seen as Ethical dilemmas. While technology advances and our understanding of human biology, genetics, and behavior deepens, we face ethical dilemmas concerning issues like genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, privacy, and data usage as quoted by Nighthawks (1942) “Our relationship with technology is becoming inseparable, and it has a profound impact on our thoughts, desire and actions”. Hence, as these ethical challenges require careful consideration to ensure that we use our knowledge responsibly and for the greater good. Privacy concerns for an example with the proliferation of digital technologies, there are increased concerns about the invasion of privacy. When personal data is constantly collected, analyzed, and used by various entities, raising questions about how this information is safeguarded and whether individuals have adequate control over their own data. While Inequality and access is a technological advancements and scientific breakthroughs that can exacerbate social and economic inequalities. The benefits of contemporary exploration might not be accessible to everyone, leading to a

digital divide and widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Environmental impact for instance as our exploration of the contemporary human world progresses, there can be negative consequences for the environment as the depletion of natural resources, pollution, and climate change are some of the major issues resulting from human activities as quoted by Charles Bukowski (2012) “there is enough treachery , hatred violence absurdity in the average human being to supply any given army on any given day”. Therefore, health and well-being challenge modern lifestyles, including sedentary behaviors, excessive screen time, and poor dietary habits, can lead to various health problems like obesity, mental health issues, and chronic diseases. Hence, the loss of cultural and social values as the rapid technological advancements and cultural globalization may lead to the erosion of traditional values and practices, potentially causing a loss of cultural diversity and identity. Furthermore, as Information overload and misinformation the abundance of information and rapid dissemination through various media can lead to information overload and make it challenging to discern accurate information from misinformation or disinformation. The dependency on technology, while technological advancements may have improved many aspects of our lives, but they can also create a dependency that can be disruptive if the technology fails or is misused. Therefore, alienation and social disconnection prevalence of social media and digital communication would lead to a sense of alienation and disconnection from real-world interactions, impacting mental well-being and social relationships. Causing loss of jobs and economic shifts with automation and artificial intelligence may lead to job displacement and shifts in the job market, requiring the workforce to adapt and acquire new skills. Hereby, addressing these problems requires a comprehensive and thoughtful approach that balances progress with responsibility, ensuring that contemporary exploration benefits humanity as a whole and does not come at the cost of long-term sustainability and well-being. As quote by Friedrich Nietzsche (1882) “God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives: who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves? What festivals of atonement, what sacred games shall we have to invent? Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it?”

References

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3/ Who am I? Lateral thinking and narrative writing



(Picture from blade runner 2049)

Being a middle-aged individual living in the year 2049, looking at myself as i've experienced significant technological advancements throughout my life. Growing up in the late 20th and early 21st century, I've witnessed the rapid evolution of technology that shaped the world around.

As a child, i've were fascinated by the possibilities that technology could offer. I've spent countless hours tinkering with gadgets, computers, and various electronic devices. My family couldn't keep up with my insatiable curiosity, but they always encouraged the passion, even if they didn't entirely understand it themselves.

In my teenage years, i've embraced the digital revolution, which brought about the age of smartphones, social media, and constant connectivity. This period was both exciting and challenging as i've navigated the balance between using technology for its benefits and avoiding its potential drawbacks on mental health and social interactions.

As i've entered adulthood, the world was already transforming at an unprecedented pace. Artificial intelligence and automation began to revolutionize industries, reshaping the job market

and raising concerns about job security and human relevance. My relationships with others also evolved, as i've noticed how technology impacted the way people interacted and communicated.

At times, i've found myself longing for simpler days when conversations happened face-to-face, and people weren't glued to their screens. However, i've also recognized the convenience and efficiency that technology brought into your life, making it challenging to imagine life without it as Sarte (1945) states it "existence precedes essence".

One significant turning point for me was the emergence of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR). These technologies blurred the lines between the physical and digital worlds, offering new opportunities for entertainment, education, and even socializing. I've found myself engrossed in VR worlds, escaping from the stresses of reality and discovering new ways to connect with others on a deeper level.

However, "Human beings disappear; their histories remain." Bernard Stiegler (131) as the years passed, i've noticed a growing sense of disconnection from the real world. While technology enabled you to interact with people from all over the globe, you often felt isolated from those physically around you. Deep down, i've yearned for genuine, authentic connections with others, ones that went beyond the digital realm.

Despite the concerns, i've recognized that technology has become an integral part of my identity. It has shaped how i've lived, worked, and related to others. It has already opened my doors to experiences and possibilities that i've could never have imagined, but it also raised complex and ethical questions and challenges about privacy, security, and the impact of technology on society.

As I've reflected on the journey with technology, i've realized that the relationship with it has been a paradoxical one. Technology has enriched my life in countless ways, but it has also presented challenges that require careful consideration and balance. Moving forward, i've strived to find harmony between embracing technological advancements and nurturing the human connections that make life meaningful.

In the ever-changing landscape of technology, i've understood that the key lies not in resisting progress but in using it wisely and consciously, ensuring that it enhances human experience rather than eclipsing it. As a human being i've remain hopeful for a future where technology and humanity can coexist harmoniously contributing to each other's growth and well-being as

Shakespeare (1599) like to state it “All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players”.

References

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