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TESTI E QUESITI DI LINGUA INGLESE

Robots could take over 20 million jobs by 2030, a study from Oxford Economics claims

Robots could take over 20 million manufacturing jobs around the world by 2030, economists claimed Wednesday. According to a new study from Oxford Economics, within the next 11 years there could be 14 million robots put to work in China alone.

Economists analyzed long-term trends around the uptake of automation in the workplace, noting that the number of robots in use worldwide increased threefold over the past two decades.

While researchers predicted the rise of robots will bring about *benefits* in terms of productivity and economic growth, they also acknowledged the *drawbacks* that were expected to arise simultaneously.

"As a result of robotization, tens of millions of jobs will be lost, especially in poorer local economies that rely on lower-skilled workers. This will therefore translate to an increase in income inequality," the study's authors said.

Despite the threat of job losses, the report urged lawmakers not to prohibit the rise of automation. "These findings should not lead policy-makers and other stakeholders to seek to frustrate the adoption of robot technology. Instead the challenge should be to distribute the robotics dividend more evenly by helping vulnerable workers prepare for and adapt to the upheaval it will bring," the researchers said. Researchers suggested that governments could incentivize companies and workers with financial benefits for engaging in local programs to *retrain workers*. "Adopt a 'lifetime learning' mindset," researchers said.

Question:

According to this study, despite the risk of job losses, should local governments stop the rise of automation or not?

The surprising history of India's vibrant sari tradition

South Asian women have draped themselves in colorful silks and cottons for eons. The ways they're made and worn are dazzling and diverse.

The word "SARI" means "strip of cloth" in Sanskrit. But for the Indian women—and a few men—who have been wrapping themselves in silk, cotton, or linen for millennia, these swaths of fabric are *more than just simple garments*. They're symbols of *national pride*, ambassadors for traditional (and cutting-edge) *design and craftsmanship*, and a prime example of the rich *differences in India's 29 states*.

"The sari both as symbol and reality has filled the imagination of the subcontinent, with its appeal and its ability to conceal and reveal the personality of the person wearing it," says Delhi-based textile historian Kapur Chishti, author of "Saris of India: Tradition and Beyond".

The first mention of saris is in the Rig Veda, a Hindu book of hymns dating to 3,000 B.C. India remains one of the last great *handicraft cultures*. It's a powerhouse for dyeing, printing, and silk weaving, all represented in at least one of the estimated *30 regional varieties of saris*. In the *Ganges riverfront city of Varanasi*, weavers bend over old-school wooden looms to make silk ones, usually in *bright red*, trimmed with metallic zari thread. In tropical Kerala, predominantly *white saris* reflect styles popular before 19th-century industrialization.

"Every sari has a story about the society and people around it," says Darshan Dudhuria, the chief executive officer of online retailer Indian Silk House Agencies.

Question:

Can we consider Indian Sari a garment or is it something more?

Why mist and mountains make great coffee – Journey high into the Andes to discover the secrets behind Colombian coffee

Clouds typically engulf Colombia's mountainous Caldas province west of Bogotá. The resulting *wet conditions and cold nights* have proven the perfect recipe for producing distinctive *Arabica coffee*, some of the highest grown coffee in the world.

To trace the coffee to its source and learn how Nespresso is helping Caldas farmers build a sustainable, high-quality coffee culture, National Geographic sent award-winning photographer Rena Effendi to Aguadas, or "the land that gives water."

"On the drive to Aguadas, you feel like you are entering the clouds," says Rena, who accompanied Nespresso agronomists on their regular rounds to remote, family-owned coffee farms. The agronomists, part of Nespresso's Sustainable Quality Program, launched in 2003, build long-term relationships with coffee growers.

To consistently produce the *Aguadas-sourced taste*— a sweet and winey coffee with hints of candied apple and red berry notes— Nespresso's AAA agronomists identified the *common factors* that created the preferred flavor:

1. High altitude locations (up to 5,900 feet above sea level) in green mountain valleys with cold overnight temperatures
2. Careful, manual selection of ripe, red, and dense coffee cherries
3. A long fermentation process of over 21 hours to clean up any pulp left around the seeds and prepare them to be dried
4. Naturally drying the coffee in sunlight

Question:

Which are the factors that make Colombian coffee unique?

Country Life Magazine UK: North and South Cotswolds Central England

In these days of flexible working, country-house buyers are more motivated by finding the right house, rather than being locked into a specific location. However, one area where the old adage of 'location, location, location' still holds firm is the Cotswolds. With big-draw destinations and improving access to London, *a significant value gap is opening up within the north and south Cotswolds*, forcing buyers to choose one over the other. Arabella Youens examines the merits of both.

The north Cotswolds is that much closer to London and that access will always make the area a bit more expensive.

The south Cotswolds has long had its own glamour magnet in the polo set that congregate around Cirencester and Beaufort. Today, it's generally accepted that those with a more equestrian leaning, as well as those looking for a primary residence rather than a weekend home, will be drawn south.

The classic Cotswolds cocktail of beautifully preserved villages in warm, honey-coloured sandstone, with views over undulating hills, is more often found to the north. But these charms have not gone unnoticed by the day-trippers somewhat invading the tranquility. Less manicured, the south has a more rugged topography, with deep valleys, harebell-covered fields and steep, wooded hills, and yet still a clutch of pretty market towns. *Verdict: For being far from the madding crowd of tourists, the south.*

Those based in the north can drop down to Oxford with all its theatres, museums, galleries and first-class intellectual minds. Those based in the very south can enjoy the delights of Bath.

Question:

What are the merits of North and of South Cotswolds?

London Life: - The Kimpton Fitzroy Hotel

The Kimpton Fitzroy is a central London hotel full of history that's perfect for an opulent weekend in the Big Smoke. If you've ever strolled across Russell Square, in London's Fitzrovia district and wondered what the magnificent and *exuberant terracotta-coloured building* is, rising loftily out of much of the square's east side, it really is worth taking the trouble to find out.

With its decorative arcaded balconies and magnificent statues of four English queens presiding over the main entrance, here is one of Central London's best kept sleepover secrets: *an architectural gem of the Victorian age*, built with all the confident grandeur bestowed by Empire, which also happens to be that rare thing: *a dog-friendly luxury hotel*.

Its location, just a short hop across the square from the British Museum, sets it apart from the long list of well-known swanky hotels in and around nearby Mayfair. Yet the Kimpton Fitzroy is actually *within easy walking distance of more of the capital's sights*, treasures and entertainments than you could comfortably explore in a year of weekends.

Its architect, Charles Fitzroy Doll made a name for himself in creating hotels and hospitality. Notably, the dining room here was the prototype for one he was to recreate soon after: the First Class dining room for that most splendid of passenger liners, *the Titanic*. Walk up the main steps into the entrance – and you are, indeed, still greeted by a wondrous Aladdin's cave of colourful marble columns and inlays, gilded capitals, classical scenes in bas-relief. And if you happen to want to bring along your special pet, general manager Gareth Walsh suggests, 'Animals are welcome here, as long as they can fit in the lifts!'

Question:

Could you describe this hotel?

Singapore-made COVID-19 swab test robot could reduce healthcare workers' risk of infection

A self-administered robot that automates the taking of *COVID-19 swab tests* has been developed in Singapore, *helping to reduce healthcare workers' risk of exposure to the coronavirus.*

Clinicians from the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), Singapore General Hospital (SGH) and Duke-NUS Medical School have partnered with Biobot Surgical, a firm specialising in medical robotics technology, to develop the SwabBot.

The robot helps address the limitations of manual COVID-19 swab tests by *reducing the need for trained manpower* and providing greater throughput of swab tests as *the robot does not suffer from fatigue*, the three groups said in a press release on Monday (Sep 21).

Even after many swabs, it retains the same gentle touch and precision as surgeons who perform very delicate procedures. If someone is unable to tolerate the process, they can stop it by moving their head away from the robot.

The robotic swabbing process takes about 20 seconds to complete and it minimises risks for healthcare workers. The SwabBot allows healthcare workers to *assist with the swabbing process from a safe distance*, said principal investigator Dr Rena Dharmawan, associate consultant in head and neck surgery from the Division of Surgery and Surgical Oncology. It also helps to optimise resources as *fewer healthcare workers are needed* to do the swab collection, and less Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is utilized.

Question:

Which are the advantages of this COVID-19 swab test robot?

Big promises, but can China be carbon neutral by 2060?

Xi Jinping's shock promise on Tuesday to lead the world into a safer climate future was thin on details, leaving many questions unanswered on how the world's worst polluter will meet a 2060 carbon neutral target.

China is responsible for over a quarter of the *world's greenhouse gas emissions* linked to global warming. But it is also *the biggest global investor in renewable energy* - a country whose energy policy points both ways.

Coal has powered *China's phenomenal economic rise*. Annual coal consumption nearly quadrupled between 1990 and 2015, providing 70 per cent of China's energy over that period. China's leaders have tried to dilute the nation's dependency on coal, and it now makes up less than 60 per cent of the energy mix.

But with China's economy still growing, *the total amount of coal burnt continues to grow*. Approvals for coal energy projects have also accelerated this year as local authorities try to kickstart virus-hit economies. Local governments approved 23 gigawatts worth of new coal power projects in the first half of 2020, more than the previous two years combined, according to Global Energy Monitor, a San Francisco-based environmental NGO.

China is the world's biggest investor in renewable energy, yet non fossil-fuels only account for about 15 per cent of the nation's energy consumption. Investments in new wind and solar installations have also *declined over the past 18 months*. Whether China's leaders have the political will to revolutionise the economy is not yet known. Li Shuo, senior climate and energy officer at Greenpeace China, warns that there is a lot left to be done.

Question:

How is the current energy consumption in China?

The Uniguide UK - Oxford or Cambridge? How to choose

As the two oldest universities in the UK, Oxford and Cambridge are very similar in terms of their prestige, collegiate structure, teaching style and rigorous application process – so what sets them apart from each other? We have tried to highlight *some of the key differences*.

Oxford and Cambridge don't actually offer identical courses. While some courses have a lot in common, there are certain courses that are only available at one of the Universities. *For example*, you can only study PPE (politics, philosophy and economics) at Oxford, while Cambridge is the only one of the two to offer education at an undergraduate level.

There are also big differences when it comes to science courses. At Cambridge, you apply to the *flexible natural sciences degree*, allowing you to combine any of the biological and physical sciences or specialise based on your interests, while Oxford offers single-subject science courses.

With their ancient architecture and world-famous universities, both cities are tourist hotspots – but they offer quite a different student experience: *Cambridge*

- A small city where almost a fifth of the population are students and the centre is dominated by the University; it could be the place for you if you're after a small town feel.
- Cambridge is more laidback than Oxford, with a river flowing through the city centre and countryside surroundings.

Oxford

- If you're after a bustling city, Oxford is livelier and busier than Cambridge;
- The city may appeal to culture fans with its museums and galleries – and it's got more shops, too.

Question:

What are the main differences between these 2 famous UK Universities in terms of courses and of city life?

New York Times: Outdoor Dining in N.Y.C. Will Become Permanent, Even in Winter

Even when the pandemic ends, New Yorkers will not have to give up dining by the curb. As many of New York City's 25,000 restaurants and bars fight to survive, Mayor Bill de Blasio extended a lifeline to them on Friday *by making a popular outdoor dining program permanent.*

The Open Restaurants program has allowed restaurants citywide to offer outdoor dining by setting up tables on sidewalks, in streets and in other public spaces. Indoor dining has been banned since the city was shut down by the pandemic, but is scheduled to restart next week at limited capacity.

City officials said the outdoor dining program would be expanded to allow restaurants to take over adjacent public spaces that are not being used. In addition, restaurants will be allowed to use propane heaters on the sidewalks to keep customers warm.

Even with the expansion of outdoor dining, a recent survey by an industry group, the New York City Hospitality Alliance, found that nearly nine out of every 10 dining establishments had not paid full rent in August and that about a third had not paid any rent. Andrew Rigie, the executive director of the Hospitality Alliance, said *the outdoor dining program was important, but much more needed to be done.* He called for *additional measures* such as federal aid for restaurants to cover their rents, payroll and operating costs.

Question:

Could you describe what is being done and what could be done in New York City to help restaurants recover from the pandemic?

TESTI E QUESITI DI LINGUA FRANCESE

Découvrir la ville de Sète: Un écrin de nature sauvage

Entre mer et garrigue, vignobles, lagune et plages, le paysage méditerranéen omniprésent fait aussi partie de la cité de Sète. L'étang de Thau, les immenses plages de sable et le mont Saint-Clair forment un écrin de nature sauvage.

Cerné par Balaruc-les-Bains et Balaruc-le-Vieux, Loupian, Bouzigues, Mèze, Marseillan, *l'étang de Thau* est une petite mer intérieure, et d'ailleurs l'eau y est salée. Refuge d'une *biodiversité exceptionnelle*, avec plus de 400 espèces végétales et 100 animales, c'est un monde apart où les marins, pêcheurs et ostréiculteurs ont fait de leur métier un art de vivre.

Les couleurs irisées de *la lagune* font le spectacle en toutes saisons. Le quartier de pêcheurs de la Pointe Courte, situé entre le grand canal et l'étang, est l'un des plus attachants de Sète. Célébré par Agnès Varda dans son film éponyme avec Philippe Noiret et Silvia Monfort (1955), c'est un lieu totalement atypique avec ses ruelles et ses apéros improvisés sur les quais. Les anciennes cabanes de pêcheurs se sont peu à peu transformées en pimpantes maisonnettes avec balcons fleuris et veranda.

Naturelles et immenses, *les plages*, long cordon de sable du mont Saint-Clair jusqu'à Agde, restent des espaces de liberté. Quelques restaurants – La Paranthèse, La Ola, Le Cabanon de la Plage – permettent de profiter de la Grande Bleue. Du haut de ses 183 mètres, *le mont Saint-Clair* offre un magnifique panorama sur ces paysages. Loin de la foule, il est un refuge pour les artistes.

Question:

Pourquoi la ville de Sète est-elle considérée un écrin de nature sauvage?

Le Liban est-il menacé de disparition? (Le Figaro)

“Compte tenu du potentiel culturel et artistique du Liban, auquel il faut ajouter la richesse humaine de la population et la qualité de la formation universitaire, la société libanaise a tout pour retrouver un équilibre, mais il faut que soit rapidement mis un terme aux *dérives observées chez la classe dirigeante*” - affirme le journaliste spécialiste du Proche-Orient Xavier Baron.

Un siècle après sa naissance, le Liban connaît une de ses pires épreuves parce que le système politique est bloqué, le pays traverse *une profonde crise sociale, économique et financière et une grande partie de la population a perdu toute confiance dans sa classe dirigeante*. L'État est en pleine déliquescence et la moitié de la population vit aujourd'hui au-dessous du seuil de la pauvreté.

Alors le Liban est-il menacé de disparition face aux maux qui l'assaillent et auxquels les dirigeants ne savent pas ou ne veulent pas répondre? La longue histoire, souvent mouvementée, de ce territoire a montré qu'il sait surmonter les épreuves, mais la situation actuelle met à rude épreuve la solidité du pays. La population qui ne cesse de manifester montre en tous les cas qu'elle tient à son pays et désire le voir renaître plus fort.

Le danger est pourtant grand que si un *traitement énergique* (social, économique et financier notamment) n'est pas appliqué, si *la classe politique* persiste dans son indifférence au sort des habitants, et s'il n'est pas mis rapidement un terme aux graves dérives observées dans la gouvernance du pays (corruption, clientélisme, système bancaire, organisation de la vie quotidienne), le Liban s'enfoncé dans une situation mettant à l'épreuve la cohésion du pays avec les risques que cela comporte pour la paix civile.

Question:

Quelle est la situation actuelle au Liban?

Tunisie : là où les femmes s'éminent en apprenant à faire du vélo

Tous les week-ends, dès 8h30, un drôle de ballet vient animer le Jardin japonais de Tunis. Ce samedi d'automne, dans les allées soignées de ce parc situé dans un quartier moderne de la capitale tunisienne, une dizaine de femmes, casques sur la tête, cheminent en vacillant sur de petits vélos pliables.

Le Jardin japonais est le seul parc de la capitale tunisienne à disposer de chemins goudronnés, plats et interdits aux voitures. Un lieu idéal pour la "vélo-école" pour adultes lancée en février dernier par Vélorution Tunisie, une association qui vise à promouvoir l'usage de la bicyclette en ville. Ici, à raison d'une heure de cours par semaine pendant deux mois, et d'une cotisation de 30 dinars (10 euros) seulement, ceux et celles qui le souhaitent peuvent apprendre le vélo. Celles, surtout, puisque sur les 200 personnes inscrites à ce jour, « 90% sont des femmes », précise Hamza Abderrahim, le président de l'association. Car en Tunisie, ce sont surtout les hommes qui savent faire du vélo.

"Vous savez, la société tunisienne est un peu conservatrice, c'est parfois mal vu qu'une femme se promène seule à bicyclette. Beaucoup n'ont pas eu la chance d'apprendre à en faire. »

Aujourd'hui, l'association dispose de 20 vélos, qu'elle met à disposition des apprentis cyclistes. Un rêve d'enfance pour certaines femmes, mais aussi *un moyen d'être plus autonome, en utilisant un moyen de transport pratique, et peu cher*. "Mes frères ont appris avec leurs copains, en jouant dans le quartier. Mais nous les filles, on n'allait pas dans la rue ! Les parents ne le permettaient pas. Quelle sensation de liberté".

Question :

Pourquoi la bicyclette est-elle importante pour une femme en Tunisie?