

3 Read the following passage.

It is 7:30 a.m., and you are on your way to work in your car. However, you are not 'driving' in the traditional sense of the word. It is a driverless car, and for the whole journey you can work on your PC or even catch up on your sleep. At 4:00 p.m. you activate your driverless car while seated in your office, having it pick up your 7-year-old son at school and drive him to his swimming class. In the 1980's, this kind of vehicle was a mere science-fiction fantasy. Nowadays, however, experts agree that people will start using fully autonomous, or driverless, vehicles within the next couple of decades.

An autonomous vehicle is defined as a vehicle that can guide itself without human operation. Originally born from military research and development, automated driving technology is now considered to be valuable for consumers. Parking assistance, collision avoidance systems, and emergency brakes have already been incorporated into existing vehicles with the aim of reducing human errors.

Vehicles now vary in their level of automation from zero to five according to the definitions given by the Society of Automotive Engineers. For now, commercially available cars, in which drivers must perform the key aspects of driving with the assistance of automated systems, are ranked level two at best. Automakers as well as other start-up companies are racing toward a fully driverless future. Someday, a combination of cameras, sensors, radar devices, cruise control, and data that are all under the control of software algorithms will assist the fully automated operation of vehicles. Yet, it will be a while before driverless, or fully autonomous, vehicles run freely on our streets.

In the meantime, the move to driverless cars remains controversial. Advocates of autonomous vehicle technology envision a driverless society in which people will benefit from safer and more productive journeys. In addition, they believe that driverless vehicles will improve the mobility of citizens who are disabled. On the other hand, critics are less optimistic. They argue that

the improvement of autonomous vehicle technology will deteriorate our driving skills, which could be fatal if the vehicle's autopilot cuts out for some reason. They wonder who should be legally responsible for a driverless car crash. Finally, they fear that hackers might hijack driverless cars. Against such a background, human wisdom may possibly decide whether the upcoming driverless future will be a utopia or a dystopia.

Answer questions A to C **in English**. You may use words and ideas from the text, but you **must not** copy complete sentences.

Question A

Complete the following sentences with reference to the first paragraph.

The author illustrates how a driverless car may make our lives easier. In the morning, it could _____ while you are resting in it. In the afternoon, it could pick up your son at school, taking him to a swimming lesson. Experts agree that this kind of vehicle will no _____ science-fiction fantasy.

Question B

Complete the following sentences with reference to the second and third paragraphs.

An autonomous car can run itself even though a human _____. Today, the key aspects of driving in commercially available cars must _____, often with the assistance of automated systems.

Question C

Would you like to live in a society where driverless cars are commonly used on the streets? Write a 70-100 word paragraph to explain your position, providing at least two reasons to support your opinion.