

# Understanding the purposes and wider meaning of a text



## When do we need to understand the purposes and wider meaning of a text?

- when we examine the author's purpose of writing the text

## How do we understand the purposes and wider meaning of a text?

- identify the text type (e.g. The purpose of a newsletter is to inform or describe while a letter to the editor is to express opinions.)
- refer to the heading and sub-headings, then figure out the subjects being discussed

## Let's look closer!

Paragraph 1 introduces scientists' ongoing work in the field of AI, which is to make AI learn by itself.

Paragraph 2 describes the methods that scientists use to make AI learn by itself.

The government attaches great importance to the development of artificial intelligence (AI). A news article says scientists are working on an algorithm that enables artificial intelligence to learn on its own more efficiently. To achieve this, scientists have to make AI go through self-learning, a process of coping with patterns in data.

Self-learning is the core of artificial intelligence. Scientists try to make AI learn by itself with a vast amount of data and algorithms. For example, they would let AI find patterns in several sets of data so that it can make a comparison. This allows AI to reorganise its existing knowledge structure and continuously improve its performance.

It will take time for AI to evolve to the point that it can learn to do more on its own.

Paragraph 3 states that AI can learn more by itself one day.

### DSE 2021 Part B2 Q58 Multiple choice

e.g. The main purpose of the text is to explain \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. how to make AI learn by itself
- B. how effective AI can learn by itself
- C. how to use AI efficiently
- D. how AI plays its role in solving scientific problems

- A    B    C    D
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### The War on Cars

Note that the two groups in 'the war' have opposing interests.

The market for driverless cars remains stagnant, as car buyers still prefer traditional cars. Can driverless cars win your heart? Let's try this simple test by reading the following out loud:

- Autonomous driving systems
- GPS signals
- Machine learning

If any of these made you frown, you may be one of those people who have doubts about driverless cars. In fact, you may even keep the driverless car market from developing.

Lest you think this is exaggeration, consider this: research shows that only 17% of drivers express their interest in buying driverless cars.

In some ways, it's a strange turn of events. The original intention to develop driverless cars is to lower the number of traffic accidents caused by human mistakes. Today, it is the safety issue that makes us doubt driverless cars. Cases that the autonomous driving system suddenly fail to function properly are common.

Drivers still value the convenience brought by these cars but the risks have made them back down.

### DSE 2021 Part A Q23 Short answer

e.g. Referring to the title, which two groups are fighting 'The War'?

\_\_\_\_\_ sellers of driverless cars and buyers of traditional cars

## Let's practise!

### A BULGE IN THE SALES OF STEM TOYS

#### STEM toys have become a fad

It was a Saturday. Jim and his son went to a STEM toy store. The store was full of customers. 'In my childhood, toys were for fun only. They were limited in styles,' said Jim.

Today, as education is highly valued, parents have turned to high-tech and educational STEM toys that intend to make learning science, engineering and maths fun. The sales of these toys have been soaring because of their multifunctional designs.

However, Jim is still concerned that children are using STEM toys for their own enjoyment rather than for any learning purposes.

### DSE 2020 Part B1 Q40 Multiple choice

1 What does 'a fad' in the title mean?

- A. an advanced product
- B. a concerning concept
- C. a sudden interest
- D. an unusual prop

A      B      C      D  
        

### DSE 2021 Part A Q23 Short answer

2 What does 'a bulge' in the title mean?

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