ROBOTIC WORKFORCE

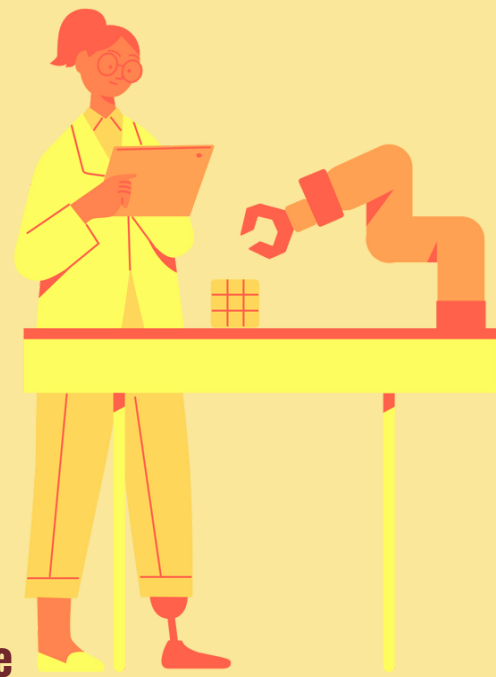## 2022-23 Qualifying Problem

+ TOPIC DESCRIPTOR +

Machines were developed to assist with dangerous and difficult jobs. At present, unskilled human labor is being replaced with robotics more quickly than at any time in history. Advancements of such machines move technology closer and closer to lights-out manufacturing. In countries with robust national safety nets, these changes are viewed as inevitable, and they have begun to explore new human employment concepts. Robotic workers often provide for human safety as in the case of bomb disposal. Laborers are fearful of how these looming employment changes and uncertain of how their work life will proceed.

A robotic workforce's effects go beyond manufacturing as university-trained individuals such as lawyers and accountants are already being impacted by automation. What will the human workforce of the future look like? Will specialized training and education be needed for a combined human and robotic workforce? What will our future work force look like? How will our future economy be impacted by robotics in the workforce?

+ SUGGESTED READINGS +

Theme 1: The Great Debate: Job Loss or Not?

- Yes, robots are coming for your job, but you might like the new one more (if you're still employed)
- Robots: stealing our jobs or solving labour shortages?

Theme 2: Income Inequality

- As technology displaces jobs, construction workers need education and training to compete
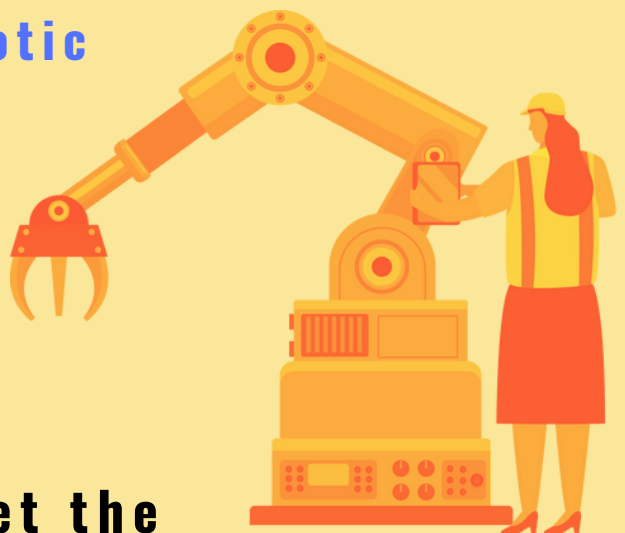- Why robotic process automation (RPA) could be a game-changer in Africa

Theme 3: The Incentives to Add Robots to the Workforce

- Davos 2022 - involve workers for successful automation, says WEF
- How robotics will complement the workplaces of the future – and what future generations will need to work with them

Theme 4: The Future of the Robotic Workforce

- The future of work–automation
- As AI advances, will human workers disappear?

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