

Yes, AI could profoundly disrupt education. But maybe that's not a bad thing

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Illustration: Deena So Oteh/The Guardian

Rose Luckin

Be good at

Humans need to **excel at** things AI can't do – and that means more creativity and critical thinking and less memorisation

Education strikes at the heart of what makes us human. It drives the **intellectual** ^{智力的} capacity and **prosperity** of nations. It has developed the minds that took us to the moon and **eradicated** previously incurable diseases. And the special status of education is why **generative** AI tools such as ChatGPT are likely to **profoundly disrupt this sector**. This isn't a reflection of their intelligence, **but** of our failure to build education systems **that nurture** and value our unique human intelligence. ^{培養}

We are being **duped into** ^{tricked} believing these AI tools are **far more intelligent** than they really are. A **tool like ChatGPT** has no understanding or knowledge. It merely **collates** bits of words together based on statistical probabilities to produce useful texts. It is an incredibly helpful assistant. ^{Collects and combines}

Abstract idea

But it is not knowledgable, or wise. It has no **concept** of how any of the words it produces relate to the real world. The fact that it can pass so many forms of assessment **merely** reflects that those assessments were not designed to test knowledge and understanding but rather to test whether people had collected and memorised information. ^{just}

Of great amount

行政 AI could be a force for **tremendous** good within education. It could release teachers from **administrative** tasks, giving them more opportunities to spend time with students.

badly However, we are **woefully** equipped to benefit from the AI that is flooding the market. It does not have to be like this. There is still time to prepare, but we must act quickly and wisely.

分析 AI has been used in education for more than a decade. AI-powered systems, such as Carnegie Learning or Aleks, can **analyse** student responses to questions and adapt learning materials to meet their individual needs. AI tools such as TeachFX and Edthena can also enhance teacher training and support. To **reap** the benefits of these **獲得** technologies, we must design effective ways to roll out AI across the education system, and regulate this properly.

Staying ahead of AI will mean **radically** **根本地** rethinking what education is for, and what success means. Human intelligence is far more impressive than any AI system we see today. We possess a rich and diverse intelligence, much of which is unrecognised by our current education system.

僵硬的 We are capable of **sophisticated**, **knowledgable** high-level thinking, yet the school **curriculum**, **範圍** particularly in England, takes a **rigid** approach to learning, prioritising the memorising of facts, rather than creative thinking. Students are rewarded for rote learning rather than critical thought. Take the English syllabus, for instance, which requires students to learn quotations and the rules of grammar. This time-consuming work encourages students to **marshal** facts, rather than **interpret** texts or think critically about language.

assemble and arrange Our education system should recognise the unique aspects of human intelligence. At school, this would mean a focus on teaching high-level thinking capabilities and designing a system to supercharge our intelligence. Literacy and numeracy remain **fundamental**, but **基本** now we must add AI literacy. Traditional subject areas, such as history, science and geography, should become the context through which critical thinking, increased creativity and knowledge mastery are taught. Rather than teaching students only how to collate and memorise information, we should prize their ability to interpret facts and weigh up the evidence to make an original argument.

Failure to change isn't an option. Now these technologies are here, we need humans to excel at what AI *cannot* do, so any workplace automation **complements** and enriches our lives and our intelligence. **Makes perfect**

緊逼的事 This should be an amazing opportunity to use AI to become much smarter, but we must ensure that AI serves us, not the other way round. This will mean **confronting** the profit- **面對** driven **imperatives** of big tech companies and the **illusionist** tricks played by Silicon Valley. **幻術師** It will also mean carefully considering what types of tasks we're willing to **offload** to AI.

變魔術 Some aspects of our intellectual activity may be **dispensable**, **可有可無的** but many are not. While Silicon Valley **conjures up** its next magic trick, we must prepare ourselves to protect what we hold dear – for ourselves and for future generations. **give**

Rose Luckin is professor of learner-centred design at the UCL Knowledge Lab in London
