Scientific Development

Task: Driverless Cars

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about driverless cars. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Can you imagine getting in your car, closing the door and just relaxing without ever having to drive, and yet still get to where you want to get to. It may all seem a bit far-fetched, but actually this technology already exists. What do you think, would you like to use a driverless car?

So, what sort of benefits does having a driverless car bring? First and foremost, it would just take the stress away from driving altogether. A person certainly wouldn't have to worry if they were driving too close to another driver or not. Furthermore, this would allow time to do other things, like be able to read, browse the internet or even take a nap. This would absolutely help find time to do something that you may otherwise not have time for. One of the best things that could happen is that accidents that humans have caused would be totally eliminated with driverless cars. Another benefit would be that travelling would become faster and more calculated in travel times. In addition, traffic jams would become a thing of the past and would disappear. By no longer having traffic jams, everybody would be on time to where they need to go and that would banish a lot of anxiety and pressure from people that would otherwise need to get it off their chest.

Turning to what this may mean for the future. With having a driverless car there are certain things that are bound to change. For instance, even though traffic lights and road signs are useful in today's world, where we don't have to drive our own cars, we might find that we no longer need them and they may disappear altogether. Another thing that could happen is that the different vehicles might be able to totally coordinate their routes, which would eliminate a lot of confusion and stress since this would most likely eliminate congestion all together. An alternative possibility that could happen is that cities may grow with more houses and population. Since the driving system will greatly improve the form of moving through the cities, not so many lanes may be needed. Not only could that be true, but it would also mean that new buildings could occupy land that used to be reserved for vehicles. There is one thing that is rather disturbing, and that is the potential for hacking a driverless car and implanting malware in it. This is worrisome because if somebody does this, they could do great harm to those in the vehicle and surrounding vehicles and pedestrians. It seems to be something that needs to be worked out before free reign is given to driverless cars. So, even though this sort of technology would be awesome to be able to use in our daily lives, don't you think it might be a good idea to figure out solutions against

the attacks of hackers before it actually happens and they are caught red-handed in manipulating driverless cars?

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the positive aspects and potential changes in the future.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the positive aspects and potential changes in the future. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	● may sound far-fetched but technology exists
Positive aspects of driverless cars	● Do away with the stress of driving ● Able to read / browse the internet / take a nap ● Eliminate accidents that humans can cause ● Faster and more calculated travel time ● Traffic jams would disappear
Potential changes by having driverless cars	● Traffic lights and road signs may not be needed anymore ● Vehicles able to coordinate their routes ● Cities may grow with more houses and population ● Potential for hacking a malware

Marks: +_ / +10