DOCUMENT A

Mrs. Weston waited patiently for two minutes, then impatiently for two more, and finally broke the silence.

'George!'

5 'Hmpph?'

'George, I say! Will you put down that paper and look at me?'

The paper rustled to the floor and Weston turned a weary face toward his wife, 'What is it, dear?'

'You know what it is, George. It's Gloria and that terrible machine.'

10 'What terrible machine?'

'Now don't pretend you don't know what I'm talking about. It's that robot Gloria calls Robbie. He doesn't leave her for a moment.'

'Well, why should he? He's not supposed to. And he certainly isn't a terrible machine. He's the best darn robot money can buy and I'm damned sure he set me back half a year's

15 income. He's worth it, though – darn right cleverer than half my office staff.'

He made a move to pick up the paper again, but his wife was quicker and snatched it away.

'You listen to me, George. I won't have my daughter entrusted to a machine – and I don't care how clever it is. It has no soul, and no one knows what it may be thinking. A child just

20 isn't made to be guarded by a thing of metal.'

Weston frowned, 'When did you decide this? He's been with Gloria two years now and I haven't seen you worry till now.'

'It was different at first. It was a novelty; it took a load off me, and – and it was a fashionable thing to do. But now I don't know. The neighbors—'

25 'Well, what have the neighbors to do with it? Now, look. A robot is infinitely more to be trusted than a human nursemaid. Robbie was constructed for only one purpose really – to be the companion of a little child. His entire "mentality" has been created for the purpose. He just can't help being faithful and loving and kind. He's a machine – made so. That's more than you can say for humans.[...] We had a long discussion at the time we bought

30 Robbie about the First Law of Robotics. You know that it is impossible for a robot to harm a human being; that long before enough can go wrong to alter that First Law, a robot would be completely inoperable. It's a mathematical impossibility.'

Isaac Asimov, 'Robbie', *I, Robot*, 1950

DOCUMENT B

Robots have power to "significantly influence" children, study reveals
Researchers say it raises concerns about the negative influence machines might have on vulnerable youngsters

5 Children are far more susceptible than adults to being influenced by robots, according to a study.
Researchers at the University of Plymouth used a technique developed in the 1950s to determine how much influence robots can have on people's opinions. The Asch paradigm was originally used to describe how people will usually follow the opinions of others, even if they are clearly wrong.

10 "People often follow the opinions of others and we've known for a long time that it is hard to resist taking over views and opinions of people around us," said robotics professor Tony Belpaeme. "We know this as conformity. But as robots will soon be found in the home and the workplace, we were wondering if people would conform to robots. What our results show is that adults do not conform to what the robots are saying. But when we did the

15 experiment with children, they did."
The study, published in the journal Science Robotics, showed that children scored higher on a test when alone in a room compared to a room with robots.
Professor Belpaeme said the study's results show children have more of an affinity with robots than adults, suggesting they may be more susceptible to robot-based advertising.

20 This phenomenon could be used positively in society, for example social robots could be used to help diabetic children accept the nature of their condition. Similar robots could also be used to help children learn a second language.
The researchers warned that the study also raises concerns about the negative influence robots might have on vulnerable children.

www.independent.co.uk, 15 August 2018

Compréhension de l'écrit

Answer the following questions in English, using your own words:

a. Present document A: nature of document, who the characters are (present and mentioned) , where and when the action takes place, the atmosphere, the issue at stake.
b. What common **themes** do these two documents share?
c. How do both documents illustrate the same ambiguities and risks of the man/robot relationship?
d. Would you say that both documents present the advantages and drawbacks of technology in the same light or differently? What can be said about both author's point of view?

Compréhension de l'écrit: Robots and influence

	Identification du contexte et de la situation d'énonciation	Identification des réseaux de sens	Identification des stratégies de communication
C2 30	A>Future imagined in 1950 (still reading newspaper, working in an office and having a nursemaid) B>reference to Asch paradigm (experiment with people who follow the majority)// A> at first it was fashionable (Mrs W also wanted a robot to follow the trend)	Doc B : study in 1950 on robots influence shows how important robots already were at that time (dangers of science : nuclear bomb, invention of the computers, Turing's research on computing machinery…)	Very theatrical scene (robbie) well portrayed (marital scene from the 1950) : a caricature. The article is very repetitive. The journalist seemed to have add 2 lines on positive points to balance but obviously against robots.
C1 20	Doc B « resist taking over views and opinions of people around us" and Mrs W who is afraid of what the neighbors will say	Mr W's argument that it's impossible for a robot to harm a child because it is written as a law> **makes it ambiguous (only reason ?)** and dangerous (what if he is unprogrammed ? What if he turns against the child's parents?)	Asimov uses humour, satire to mock the couple. The article doesn't use humour, very factual but also a bit dramatic "significantly influence" + negative influence +warn+ concerns"
B2 10	- In America (neigb**ors**) - B> « as robots will soon be found in the home and the workplace, " // what was imagined by Asimov has happened.	**Risks** : doc A> mrs W is the only one who thinks robots could be a risk) but **ambiguity**> MrW refuses to see it (<u>arguments: expensive so perfect</u>) + <u>helpful and kind</u> **Risks** : doc B><u> advertising</u> **Ambiguity:** positively (examples)	Intention asimov : warning for conformity / influenced by robots Intention journalist : ends with negative point+ title> negative side :
B1 5	The atmosphere is a bit tense (Mrs Weston is worried and George W is weary/ tired of his wife's complaining) doc B : experiment with children (better results without robots)	**Both views** on robots show a **problem « negative »** (doc B l.1) voc of danger « terrible machine » (doc A) **Both children** : Gloria / vulnerable youngsters (B)	« robbie » // short story from I robot (includes short stories) Mr W : in favor of robots Mrs W : used to be but starts to worry Scientists : warn that robots could be a bad influence/ but also positive
A2 3	Mr and Mrs Weston (married and present), Gloria and Robbie (mentioned) living room, near future,	Doc A : Mrs W is afraid Robbie is **influencing** Gloria too much+ is afraid he could harm her. Doc B : a study shows robots **influence** more children who trust them than adults	Novel extract / article
A1 1	Weston, Robbie, Gloria	*Amorce de compréhension*	*Peut relever titre et dates*