

Assessment

<u>February 5th</u>	1-hour written test – translation (French to English) + Comprehension question	20%
<u>April 2nd</u>	1-hour written test – short essay OR creative writing	20%
<u>May 21st</u>	Final test – translation (French to English) + Comprehension question + short essay OR creative writing	40%

<u>Jan 29</u> <u>March 12</u> <u>March 26</u>	Oral interaction In groups of 3 – 6 to 9 minutes long	20%
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A - "How Science-Fiction Can Help Predict the Future," by
Riey Tzezana, *TedEd*, 2016

Connection(s) science-fiction - reality:
SF authors **have often predicted (=forecast / anticipated / foretold)** what would happen in the next century – esp. 20th-century authors
SF works as a **precursor of reality** > what was science-fiction becomes reality
SF can be a source of inspiration for engineers > create openings, open possibilities, broaden our horizons – allowing us to think outside the box

Example(s):

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley predicted the use of antidepressants when he wrote in 1932
2001: A Space Odyssey, Arthur C Clarke predicted smartphones (like a flat screen to read information)
Fahrenheit 451, predicted the invention of earbuds

1984 > a representation of how technology can be used by authoritarian governments
Beyond objects and technologies, these books also predicted events sometimes

B - "Sci-Fi Movies Are Helping Us Gain a Critical Outlook on Society," *France 24*

Connection(s) science-fiction - reality:
Predicting unforeseeable events
Inspiring scientists and engineers
SF can offer an outlook about the worst case scenario = Dystopia > critical perspective allowing us to ponder the potentially negative impact and ethical dilemmas raised by new tech.

Art = reflection of the time

Example(s):

A book and a movie predicted worldscale pandemics
AI and humans in an HBO series (*Westworld*)
Star Trek = source of inspiration for smartphones and vocal assistants

Let's recap

Why does our world need science fiction?

- Science needs to be bound by **ethical / moral limits** > SF allows us to think of the limits we should impose on technology, for instance with dystopias
- SF can broaden our imagination and thus allow scientists to innovate
- It can be a source of inspiration (even careerwise)
- SF offers a critical outlook on the reality we live in
- When we are scared about the future, it can be a source of hope

How to express a hypothesis

/haɪ'paθəsɪs/

Modal verbs

> In English you can use modal verbs to phrase hypotheses and you must choose it to reflect your degree of certainty.

Might > lower level of possibility, even uncertainty or speculation.

May > a possibility that is likely, though not guaranteed.

Could > slightly more likely, hypothetical or potential.

Would > depends on certain conditions being met. (*If cars drove themselves, then roads would be safer.*)

Can > an ability or potential based on what is possible.

How to express a hypothesis

/haɪ'paθəsɪs/

Modal verbs

/!\ Never followed by a conjugated verb.

*Ex: In the future, AI **might** become superintelligent.*

*It **could** have been imagined by a sci-fi writer.*

~~Will can~~ -> will be able to

Translate the following sentences in English

1. L'I.A. pourra accomplir de nombreuses tâches ingrates à l'avenir si on la programme.

> AI will be able to accomplish // fulfil many low-level // thankless tasks in the future if it's programmed to.

2. Cette équipe de scientifiques pourrait annoncer le résultat de leurs recherches le mois prochain, mais il faudra faire plus d'essais.

> This team of scientists may announce // could share the result of their research next month, but more trials must be conducted // performed.

3. Si l'homme pouvait vivre éternellement, il coloniserait d'autres planètes.

> If men // humans // humanity // humankind could live forever // eternally , they would colonize other planets.