

Ri Off the Shelf Masterclass: Artificial Intelligence

Worksheet 3 – Ethics of AI

Sometimes when working with AI, there are tricky situations and ethical dilemmas that occur, due to the AI making decisions based on its previous training. For each of the following scenarios, consider the ethical issues of using AI.

1. The Homework Grader

A school uses AI to grade student work, but the AI can only read neat handwriting. It gives lower scores to students with messy handwriting.

- Is this fair?
- Should teachers trust AI to grade student work?

2. The Music Recommender

An AI has been created to recommend music based on what a person listens to. It only suggests songs by the same singers and bands that the person has listened to before.

- Is this helpful to music listeners?
- How could the AI learn to suggest different types of music?
- What role does the listener have in shaping the AI's decisions?

3. The Passport Scanner

An airport uses AI to check people's passports using facial recognition, but it does not always recognise people with glasses.

- Should the airport still use this system?
- How could they improve the system?

4. The Robot Doctor

A hospital has an AI that decides who gets an appointment first. It mostly picks younger, healthier people because they recover faster.

- Is this fair?
- How could AI make better decisions on who should be seen first?

5. The Self-Driving Bus

An AI that drives a bus has been trained to put the safety of its passengers first and avoid crashing into anything living. It now has a decision to make: a squirrel has run into the middle of the road, but if the bus swerves to miss the squirrel, it will hit and damage a parked car.

- What would the AI do?
- Would it make the same choice if it were a human driver?

Extension:

Pick one of the scenarios above, and decide how you would improve the AI in the scenario to make it fairer. What new data should the AI be trained with? How could it learn to make better decisions?
