

LISTEN TO THE RECORDING TWICE AND ANSWER EXERCISES 01 and 02.

01. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS. (0.4 per correct answer, total 3.2)

- 1.1. What are the two best known art forms that Persian artists have practiced?
- 1.2. What did Cyrus the Great believe?
- 1.3. By which two cultures was the Achaemenid Empire Art mainly influenced?
- 1.4. What does Persepolis mean?
- 1.5. Which king ordered the construction of Persepolis?
- 1.6. What was the purpose of the Apadana palace?
- 1.7. What does a lion biting a bull represent in Persian culture?
- 1.8. Where is the Gold Chariot today?

02. LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS. (0.2 per correct answer, total 0.8)

- 2.1. Persia has one of the richest art _____.
- 2.2. Zoroastrians are one of the earliest _____ religions.
- 2.3. The artists of Persepolis created _____ stone reliefs, gates, columns...
- 2.4. In the 1870s a group of _____ made a stunning discovery while rummaging through the ruins.

03. READING COMPREHENSION AND USE OF ENGLISH.

At an AI research lab on the edges of Abu Dhabi last year, an international team of 25 computer scientists were putting the finishing touches on a deep learning algorithm before sending it to be trained on 4,000 powerful computer chips. The AI system, which cost several million dollars to train, was funded by an arm of the Abu Dhabi government called the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC). (P1)

Despite the government's substantial investment, ATRC secretary general Faisal Al Bannai decided to release the finished model online for free. If it was as good as the team believed, the boost to the United Arab Emirates' reputation would be all the return the government needed on its investment, he reasoned. The plan worked. When the AI, named Falcon after the UAE's national bird, was publicly released last September, it became a sensation. By some measures it was the best open-source large language model (LLM) available in the world at that point, outperforming top offerings from Meta and Google. Before Falcon's release, "we were not on the map," says Al Bannai. But "with 25 people, we did that. And it really created a surprise." (P2)

Around the world, computer scientists took notice. "The UAE was not well known, before, for training models," says Philipp Schmid, an AI researcher at the machine-learning platform Hugging Face based in Germany. "But then, by more or less the next day, we knew that they can train models, they open-source their models, they publish research around it, which benefits all." (P3)

Falcon seemed to be the first sign of the UAE's rapid rise in the world of AI. In this realm, the U.S. and China are the world's undisputed heavyweights. But, sandwiched between the two superpowers, the United Arab Emirates is beginning to punch above its weight. The tiny Gulf nation of some 10 million, which appointed the world's first AI minister in 2017, is betting big on the technology as an engine for diversifying its economy away from oil, and for projecting geopolitical influence beyond its borders. In recent months, some of Silicon Valley's most powerful CEOs have visited the UAE, from Microsoft's Satya Nadella to Nvidia's Jensen Huang. (P4)

But while solidifying the Emirati government's belief that it has what it takes to become an AI power, Falcon also made a larger point: if this powerful new technology is indeed to usher in a new world, it will be shaped by those with the greatest wealth and power in the one that currently exists. (P5)

Emirati officials point to their advantages: Huge cash reserves to pay for top-tier "compute," or computing hardware. Enough electricity—powered by oil, natural gas, and solar—not only to power that hardware, but also to make building new data centers more attractive than in Europe and other parts of Asia, where grids are battling

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energy bottlenecks. And though most of the 88% of the foreigners who populate the UAE toil at low-wage jobs, officials express confidence that year-round sun and the absence of income tax can attract the world's top AI researchers, who are in high demand. (P6)

If they come, it would be to join an effort unhindered by internal critics, or other essentials of democracy. The Emirati state has spent the past two decades digitizing government services, and authorities here have a more permissive attitude than those in many Western countries to using citizens' anonymized data for training AI. In fact, the UAE casts its autocratic, state-capitalist government as a plus—giving it the ability to quickly marshal its significant resources to achieve what it sees as an epochal project. “What we have in the UAE that’s going to give us an advantage is the decision-making power to make it happen,” says Al Bannai, the official in charge of the ATRC. “Yes, you need some checks and balances. But in many places it is overdone.” (P7)

Abu Dhabi's ruling family controls several of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, worth a combined total of some \$1.5 trillion. Those funds have historically been used as vehicles to diversify the UAE's oil wealth into growth industries, making them a perfect match for leaders of AI companies seeking the capital necessary to participate in the AI race. The country is also emerging as a player to watch in the world of difficult-to-produce computer chips used to train powerful AI systems. In February, Open AI CEO Sam Altman met with investors seeking up to \$7 trillion to build an AI chipmaker that could compete with market leader Nvidia, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. Prospective investors included Sheik Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who controls Abu Dhabi's main sovereign wealth fund and is a brother of the UAE President. (P8)

If successful, the efforts could catapult the UAE to a position of outsize influence in the world of AI. (The country will have competition. Saudi Arabia, its larger neighbor, is earmarking \$40 billion for a push into AI, a sum that would make it one of the largest investors in the space, the New York Times reported on March 19, citing unnamed sources.) The UAE has already found itself caught in geopolitical crosswinds, especially as tensions rise between the U.S. and China over advanced semiconductors, the chips Washington is trying to keep from Beijing. “It's the transfer of technology, information, and intelligence to China that the U.S. is really concerned about,” says Neil Quilliam, an expert on Gulf geopolitics based at the London international-affairs think tank Chatham House. “The U.S. has basically been saying to the UAE: Don't go down that path. That's going to cross the line with us.” (P9)

The Times

3.1 Explain the underlined terms/expressions in the context of the article. (0.2 per correct answer, total 1.2)

3.1.1. `In this realm, the U.S. and China are the world's undisputed heavy weights` (0.2) (Par. 4)

3.1.2. `to usher in a new world` (0.2) (Par. 5)

3.1.3. `Huge cash reserves to pay for top-tier “compute”` (0.2) (Par. 6)

3.1.4. `it would be to join an effort unhindered by internal critics` (0.2) (Par. 7)

3.1.5. `It sees as an epochal project` (0.2) (Par.7)

3.1.6. `Don't go down that path` (0.2) (Par.9)

3.2. “WORD FORMATION PROCESS/LINGUISTIC DEVICE” Find an example in the text for each of the following “Word formation process/linguistic device”. Write the example and give a definition for each word formation process/linguistic device. Write the paragraph number where you found it. (0.3 per correct answer, total 1.2)

	Example	Definition	Paragraph
Anaphora 0.3			
Derivation 0.3			
Compounding 0.3			
Abbreviation 0.3			

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3.3. Read the text and answer the following questions. (0.2 per correct answer, total 0.6)

3.3.1 Why did Falcon create such a surprise?

3.3.2 Why is the Emirati government betting so much on this technology?

3.3.3 Why does the UAE have a head start on Western countries? Mention two reasons.

3.4. REPHRASING. Write a sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original using the word/s given in capital letters. You cannot alter the given words in any way. (0.2 per correct answer, total: 1)

3.4.1 Despite the government's substantial investment, ATRC secretary general Faisal Al Bannai decided to release the finished model online for free. (paragraph 1) **SPITE**

3.4.2 And it really created a surprise. (paragraph 2) **CAME**

3.4.3 If this powerful new technology is indeed to usher in a new world, it will be shaped by those with the greatest wealth and power in the one that currently exists. (paragraph 5) **BRING ABOUT**

3.4.4 If they come, it would be to join an effort unhindered by internal critics, or other essentials of democracy. (paragraph 7) **SHOULD**

3.4.5 If successful, the efforts could catapult the UAE to a position of outsize influence in the world of AI. (paragraph 9) **SUCCEED**

3.5. Look at these relative sentences from the text. Write which type of relative sentences they are and if you can use a different relative pronoun or not for each of them. If so, say which pronoun. (0.2 per correct answer, total 0.4)

- The tiny Gulf nation of some 10 million, which appointed the world's first AI minister in 2017, is betting big on the technology (...).

- In February, Open AI CEO Sam Altman met with investors seeking up to \$7 trillion to build an AI chipmaker that could compete with market leader Nvidia.

3.6. What is this type of sentence using "it" called in English? (Par 9) What is it used for? (0.2 per correct answer, total 0.4)

"It's the transfer of technology, information, and intelligence to China that the U.S. is really concerned about".

3.7. Which two of these four words have the same vowel sound? Match the two pairs together. (0.1 per correct pair, total 0.2)

Wealth – Worked – Return - Realm

4. Read this paragraph and answer the questions.

THE CEFR Levels. Some of the instruments produced within the Council of Europe have played a decisive role in the teaching of so-called "foreign" languages by promoting methodological innovations and new approaches to designing teaching programmes, notably the development of a communicative approach.

1. What does CEFR stand for? (0.2)

2. How does the CEFR organise language proficiency? (0.2)

3. How did the publication of the CEFR influence/affect the teaching of languages? Mention three facts. (0.6)