

# Minds and Machines

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## Assignment 1: 4 pages

Due Wednesday, January 28th

Remember:

- You must do one of the first 3 assignments.
- No late papers
- Use your own words—no quotations or paraphrases

Answer **all** of the questions **in order**. Make it clear which question you are addressing. Allocate space to your responses in proportion to what you find interesting. You can give very short answers to some questions and answer others at length. Many of these questions require answers that would go far beyond what you can write in a fraction of 4 pages. The idea of this exercise is to check whether you are clued into the considerations that have been raised in class and in the readings.

1. The title of the article is “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”. Is the Turing Test a test of intelligence in the sense which IQ tests purport to measure?
2. In a few sentences, give your opinion of the Turing Test as a practical way of assessing whether a machine can think.
3. Suppose that the 21st Century brings genuinely intelligent machines. Suppose that a judge who is also an expert on intelligent machines can discriminate between a genuinely intelligent machine and a human on the basis of her knowledge of how the currently available machines are programmed. Does Turing make any commitment regarding such a possibility? What should he say given his other commitments?
4. We could replace the Turing Test with a very hard behavioral task, e.g. discriminating people from machines. If a machine does so reliably, that might be said to logically entail that it thinks, so a relative of the Turing Test might be said to work as a conceptually or logically sufficient condition of thought. Would there be a problem with replacing the Turing Test with this very hard test?
5. An intelligent machine might believe that were it to pass the Turing Test, people would take it apart to see how it worked. So it might intentionally fail. Is this a problem for the Turing Test?
6. An intelligent cave-person might be hopeless at telling men from machines because of lack of familiarity with technology. With such a judge, unintelligent machines--even simple CD players--may consistently pass the Turing Test. Is this a problem for the Turing Test?