

What are the 21st century skills? (Essay)

The 21st century is the first century of the 3rd millennium. It began on January 1, 2001, and ends on December 31, 2100. It is the first century of the 3rd millennium. The beginning of the 21st century has been marked by the rise of a global economy, consumerism, global warming and rising sea levels. Since 2003, telecommunications are much more advanced and universal than they were in the late 20th century. Only a few per cent of the world's population were Internet users, now 55% of the world's population is online and an estimated 67% own a cell phone. But, what does technological development entail in our lives? What kind of change? Do we need new skills? Which ones? 21st-century skills are learning skills, literacy skills and life skills. Learning skills are communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity. The skill of communication consists in sharing thoughts, questions, ideas and solutions. It improves team building: when staff consult with each other, consider other opinions and discuss their progress, they will be more enthused to collaborate. Communication helps solve employee morale issues by making all team members feel useful within the workplace. This lack of secrecy not only boosts team spirit but it also has a positive effect on staff attitudes. The skill of collaboration consists in working together to reach a goal. Putting talent, expertise, and smarts to work. According to Harvard Business Review, if you want to improve everyone's wellness, then create a values-based culture driven by collaboration and professionalism. When you treat employees as people instead of cogs in a machine, you can say goodbye to those deadly levels of stress that lead to toxic health conditions. The skill of critical thinking consists in looking at the problems in a new way and linking learning across subjects and disciplines. Critical Thinking is more than just a concept, it is a real-life model upon which you can build successful and efficient problem-solving skills, skills that prove highly valuable in the workplace and beyond. Rather than relying on a standard, uniform problem-solving method, you can learn how to identify other approaches, increasing your success. Critical Thinking enables you to see beyond, not judge, and learn how to understand other factors that can influence decision-making. This empathy and understanding are crucial to effective teamwork and leadership. The skill of creativity consists in trying new approaches to get things done equals innovation and invention. An integral part of the human condition involves learning who we are and recognizing how that fits into the rest of the world. Creativity allows self-discovery, as well as the opportunity to share a hidden side of ourselves. From technical details of writing, drawing, or composing to the challenge of creating, problem-solving is a required component of the creative process. Creativity reduces stress and anxiety, allows you to enter your happy zone and have fun. Art is important because it fosters a sense of connection and understanding of what it means to be human. A creative focus can help you find your community and feel less alone in the world. Subsequently there are literacy skills, which are information, media and technology. Information literacy involves traditional skills such as reading, researching, and writing. Students must take on the role of the editor, checking and cross-checking information. Students need to understand that what they write can do great good or great harm in the real world and that how they write determines how powerful their words are. Students need to take on the role of professional writers, learning to be effective and ethical producers of information. Media

literacy involves understanding the many ways that information is produced and distributed. It is no longer enough to teach students how books, periodicals, and TV shows work. Students need to learn how to critically analyze and evaluate messages coming to them through any medium. Technology is used to understand how to evaluate this new information and how to use these new tools to create effective well-grounded communication, students can harness the power of new technology and be inspired to learn. Then there are life skills, which are flexibility, leadership, initiative, productivity and social skills. Flexibility in the workplace allows employers and employees to make arrangements about working conditions that suit them. This helps employees maintain a work/life balance and can help employers improve the productivity and efficiency of their business. Leadership skills are highly sought after by employers as they involve dealing with people in such a way as to motivate, enthuse and build respect. Leadership skills also include the abilities people have to steer employees toward the achievement of the business goals, inspire them, drive change, and deliver results. Productivity is a measure of the efficiency of a person completing a task. We often assume that productivity means getting more things done each day. Wrong. Productivity is getting important things done consistently. And no matter what you are working on, there are only a few truly important things. Being productive is about maintaining a steady, average speed on a few things, not maximum speed on everything. Social skills are the skills we use to communicate and interact with each other, both verbally and non-verbally, through gestures, body language and our appearance. Developing social skills permits us healthier interactions, displaying good manners, communicating effectively with others, being considerate of the feelings of others and expressing personal needs are all important components of solid social skills. But what about English and Maths? Why are they so important in workplace and life? English is important because anything you do that involves other people is done through the medium of language. If you have a poor grasp of your own language this will affect the standard of everything else you do. You can have fantastic ideas, but language is what brings them to life. If you cannot put your concepts into words, no one will ever know about them. Maths is also used in everyday life. It is important because it allows people to take complex processes and make them more manageable, by applying structure, patterns and rules. This is a skill that transfers to many situations in both professional and personal contexts. Studying maths is a way to develop the appropriate mental tools for dealing with the complex realities of life. With English and maths skills, you can access higher education, gain rewarding employment, earn more and potentially live a longer life.