

WEEK 6 ASSIGNMENT

Write a 1-2 page response to your readings. You may choose some questions from the list below, but you are encouraged to raise your own questions. Please spell-check and proof-read your paper before submission.

1. What were the origins of the main premise of artificial intelligence (AI) – the separation of the notion of the mind from the notion of the brain – the “disembodiment” of the mind? What were the origins of the idea of “man-computer symbiosis”? What was the role of practical computing in shaping these ideas?
2. What is the goal of artificial intelligence? Was its main premise a step forward or a step backward with regard to that goal?
3. What is the connection between information-processing psychological theory and the military need to integrate humans and machines in weapons systems? Who was guiding whom here – the military or the artificial intelligence specialists?
4. Do you agree with Newell and Simon’s definition of scientific theory? Can the computer serve as a tool for constructing theories? Is the General Problem Solver a valid psychological theory? Do Newell and Simon provide adequate procedures for testing their theory?
5. Do you agree with Frijda’s suggestions for resolving the relationship between a computer program and a theory?
6. Discuss the strengths and the weaknesses of Weizenbaum’s critique.
7. Give examples of the relationship between computer programs and theories in other fields.