Read the article below. Five sentences have been removed from it. For each question, choose the correct answer. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Are Computers Making Us Dumber?

Where would we be without our computers? The Internet has the answers to everything you have ever wanted to know – and more! Choose any topic you like. **1** In fact, information is so easy to access online that people don't need to remember anything any more. And that's a problem – or not, depending on how you look at it.
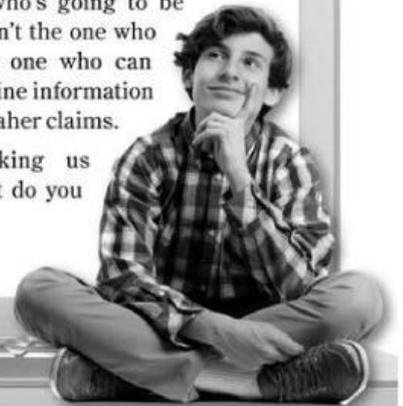
People used to memorise all sorts of things: train timetables, spelling rules, historical events. **2** What's the point? It is all available on the Internet. Not so long ago, any schoolchild could easily convert miles to kilometres. How many adults (let alone children) can do that today? **3** You simply type in "x miles to kilometres" and the search engine will give you the answer instantly.

Let's be realistic: computers aren't really making us cleverer. They may even be making us dumber in the traditional sense. But could it be that we've gained more than we've lost? **4** Steve Maher, a teacher in New Jersey, USA, is one of them. Maher believes that computers have changed our relationship with information. "People today don't need to remember a lot of facts," he explains. "In the digital age, it's not what you know that's important; it's the ability to access and evaluate information that's important."

Maher admits that there is still a certain basic level of knowledge that students need in order to be educated human beings. But beyond this basic level of knowledge, children need to be taught skills. **5** "According to the US Department of Education, seven of the top 10 jobs in 2010 didn't even exist in 2004. That's one of the reasons I talk about the difference between learning content and learning skills," Maher says. He believes there is a much greater need to teach skills, because if students are taught skills, they can adapt to new situations. "The person who's going to be successful in the future isn't the one who knows the most. It's the one who can access, evaluate and combine information from different sources," Maher claims.

So, are computers making us cleverer or dumber? What do you think?

A And why should they when the computer can do it faster?

B He showed me a book about the Internet that a student had written a few years earlier.

C Just type in a few keywords and lots of information on the topic will magically appear before your eyes.

D Some people think so.

E Today, most of us have given up even trying to remember these types of things.

F "We need to understand that the world is changing," Maher explains.

Over to you

Maher doesn't say what basic knowledge students need to learn in order to be "educated human beings". What do you think he means?

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