

Computing machinery and intelligence (Alan Turing)
Reading Questions

Due: Wednesday, September 26

Submit computer-formatted, spell-checked answers to the following (one or two paragraphs per question).

1. In your opinion, is the Turing test (or “imitation game”) a good way to answer the question “Can Machines Think?”? Why or why not? What weaknesses do you think it has (if any)?
2. Give three questions you would ask if you were a judge in a Turing test.
3. Why do you think it has been so easy for current-day chat boxes to fool judges at the Loebner Prize competitions?
4. In class we discussed “Captchas” (“Computer Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart”) and how the current ones used on Yahoo and elsewhere may in danger of being solved soon by computer programs. Can you suggest a Captcha that might be more robust, but still easy and quick to generate?
5. Summarize (in one or two sentences each) the eight “contrary views” given by Turing in the article. Which one do you think is the strongest objection, and why?