

How much government regulation is needed?

- 50 [8] Given its power and expected ubiquity, some argue that the use of AI should be tightly regulated. But there's little consensus on how that should be done and who should make the rules. Thus far, companies that develop or use AI systems largely self-police, relying on existing laws and market forces, like negative reactions from consumers and shareholders as well as the demands of the highly-prized AI technical talents to keep them in line.
- [9] "There's no businessperson on the planet at an enterprise of any size who isn't concerned about this and trying to reflect on what's going to be politically, legally, regulatorily, or ethically acceptable," said Fuller. "Firms already consider their own potential liability from misuse before a product launch, but it's not realistic to expect companies to anticipate and prevent every possible unintended consequence of their products," he said.
- 55 [10] Jason Furman, professor of the practice of economic policy, agrees that government regulators need "a much better technical understanding of artificial intelligence to do that job well," but says they could do it. "Existing transportation regulations could handle potential AI issues in autonomous vehicles rather than setting up another AI group in the existing government system," he said. Enforcing AI regulation within industries by industry-specific panels who are more knowledgeable about the overarching technology could make oversight of AI more thorough. "I think governments should've started this long ago, but better late than never," said Furman, who
- 60 thinks there needs to be a 'greater sense of urgency' to make governments act.
- [11] "Business leaders can't have it both ways, refusing responsibility for AI's harmful consequences while also fighting government oversight," Sandel maintains. "The current situation is these big tech companies are neither self-regulating, nor subject to adequate government regulation. I think there needs to be more of both," he said,
- 65 later adding: "We can't assume that market forces by themselves will sort it out. That's a mistake, as we've seen with Facebook and other tech giants."
- [12] "Companies have to think seriously about the ethical dimensions of what they're doing and we, as US citizens, have to educate ourselves about tech and its social and ethical implications – not only to decide what the regulations should be, but also to decide what role we want big tech and social media to play in our lives," said
- 70 Sandel. Doing that will require a major educational intervention in higher education. He said, "we have to enable all students to learn enough about tech and about the ethical implications of new technologies so that when they are running companies or when they are acting as citizens, they will be able to ensure that technology serves human purposes rather than undermines a decent civic life."

END OF READING PASSAGE

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *HKDSE Question Papers* booklet published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.