



Lecture 10-2

Work and Wealth

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Participation Quiz

10. You get on a ski lift at the bottom of the mountain and take it all the way up to the top. What fraction of the lift's chairs do you pass?

How many chairs do you pass?



By Ratko Bozovic

A

Half of them

B

Two-thirds of them

C

All of them

D

Three-quarters of them

Increase in Productivity

- Working long hours
 - North Americans (particularly Americans) work longer hours than other cultures and other times in history
- Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
 - A famous explanation of this restless work ethic
 - Linked it to Calvinist theology of predestination
- We have exchanged leisure time for possessions
 - *Do you think this exchange is worth it? Would you exchange a much lower standard of living for much more free time?*

Are Robots on the Rise?

- It seems every year there's a high-profile AI success
 - self-driving cars
 - competing in Jeopardy
 - playing Go
- Ethical questions:
 - *Is it wrong to create machines capable of making human labor obsolete? Will humans become demoralized by the presence of vastly more intelligent robots?*
 - *How can we ensure that intelligent robots will not be put to an evil purpose by a malevolent human? How can we ensure they do not adopt malevolent purposes themselves?*
 - *Is it morally acceptable to create “personal” (self-conscious) AI?*



Work and Wealth

“The government should attempt to slow or stop the spread of automation technologies that are likely to eliminate large numbers of jobs.”

