Pope Leo XIV warns on AI in Paris

LEVEL C1


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I. WARM-UP

1. What worries you most about AI in daily life?
2. How visible is religion in public life where you live?
3. What crowd events has your city handled well or badly?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

pontiff
The Pope; the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

artificial intelligence
Computer systems that do tasks requiring human-like thinking.

caution
To warn someone to be careful about a danger or risk.

exploitation
Using people unfairly for advantage or profit.

secularism
The principle that government is separate from religion.

ceremonial
Related to formal public rituals or displays.

beatification
In Catholicism, declaring someone blessed before sainthood.

sanctuary
A holy place used for worship and pilgrimage.

III. READING

Arriving in Paris for a four-day visit, Pope Leo XIV warned about artificial intelligence, cautioning against "losing our humanity amid a paradise of machines".

The pontiff, who earlier urged that AI be "disarmed", linked today's risks to past exploitation, arguing that societies can normalise harm if they are not vigilant. After talks at the Élysée with President Emmanuel Macron, he addressed Church and state figures.

Although Macron called the visit an honour, he will avoid the Pope's Masses in line with France's strict secularism. Brigitte Macron and Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu will attend a giant Mass on the Place de la Concorde, where over half a million are expected and areas near the Champs-Élysées are being sealed off.

Crowds lined the route to Notre-Dame for a popemobile ride, and 80,000 young people are due at the Stade de France. For Sunday's Mass at the sanctuary of Lourdes, 150,000 have registered. On Monday in Metz, Leo will honour Robert Schuman, an EU founding father, who is a candidate for beatification.

Reports of tensions over a more ceremonial programme were dismissed. A proposed meeting with Notre-Dame artisans was declined due to a tight schedule.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Pope warns against 'losing humanity' to AI...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What danger from AI did Pope Leo XIV highlight in Paris?
2. Why will President Macron skip the Pope's Masses?
3. Where is the large Paris Mass planned to take place?
4. How many young people are expected at the Stade de France?
5. Whom will the Pope honour in Metz on Monday?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Should leaders set ethical limits on AI now, or wait?
2. How can secularism protect both faith and the state in practice?
3. Do giant religious events help cities more than they disrupt them?
4. Is a tight schedule a fair reason to decline meetings on a visit?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Formal multiword connectors

Formal multiword connectors are fixed phrases that link ideas (e.g. cause, purpose, result). Use the whole phrase, not part of it: in view of, with a view to, as a result of.

> *"A proposed meeting with Notre-Dame artisans was declined* **due to** *a tight schedule."*
>
> *"Events were scaled back* **in view of** *security concerns."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Macron will avoid Masses (in line with / in line of) secular rules. _____
2. Areas were sealed off (as result of / as a result of) security concerns. _____
3. Questions (with regard to / with regard of) AI remain open. _____
4. Ceremonies were postponed (with view to / with a view to) reducing numbers. _____
5. He warned of risks (in light / in light of) past exploitation. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 15 minutes reading, 12–15 minutes comprehension, 10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach culture items (Élysée Palace, Notre-Dame, Lourdes, beatification) and clarify secularism vs secularity; briefly elicit examples from students' countries.
- Run a jigsaw read: half the class tracks the AI and ethics angle; the other half tracks visit logistics and politics. Then compare notes before tackling comprehension. Sensitivity: this lesson touches on religion and exploitation; preview the text, start discussion in pairs, allow students to speak about the news rather than personal beliefs, and let anyone opt out.
- Differentiate by task: stronger students draft a two-sentence ethical principle on AI a leader could endorse; others list concrete ways a city can manage very large crowds.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Take a quick show of hands, then pair students with the opposite view to find two risks and two safeguards, using details from the text.
2. Board brief definitions first, then ask for one example from France and one from home countries; keep focus on public rules, not beliefs.
3. Brainstorm benefits and costs on the board (tourism, policing, transport); require one benefit and one challenge with reasons.
4. Set a mini-debate: one side argues it helps neutrality, the other says it wastes a platform; swap roles after two minutes.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: Write an 80-word Élysée statement explaining why the president will not attend the Masses.

Debate: In teams, prepare and debate for 6 minutes: major cities should cap event crowds during papal visits.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Formal multiword connectors

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What danger from AI did Pope Leo XIV highlight in Paris?
   That people could lose their humanity amid a "paradise of machines".
2. Why will President Macron skip the Pope's Masses?
   To respect France's strict separation of state and religion.
3. Where is the large Paris Mass planned to take place?
   On the Place de la Concorde in Paris.
4. How many young people are expected at the Stade de France?
   About 80,000 young people.
5. Whom will the Pope honour in Metz on Monday?
   Robert Schuman, an EU founding father and candidate for beatification.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Formal multiword connectors are fixed phrases that link ideas (e.g. cause, purpose, result). Use the whole phrase, not part of it: in view of, with a view to, as a result of. (Example 2 constructed.)

> *"A proposed meeting with Notre-Dame artisans was declined* **due to** *a tight schedule."*
>
> *"Events were scaled back* **in view of** *security concerns."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Macron will avoid Masses (in line with / in line of) secular rules. **in line with**
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3. Questions (with regard to / with regard of) AI remain open. **with regard to**
4. Ceremonies were postponed (with view to / with a view to) reducing numbers. **with a view to**
5. He warned of risks (in light / in light of) past exploitation. **in light of**