The notion of progress (L’idée de progrès)

**PROGRESS**
- forward movement + advance + development
- gradual betterment especially the progressive development of humankind

**Brainstorming**
Here is a list of questions you can ask yourself about the notion. Read them carefully:

- **a. What type of progress?** technical, scientific, social?
- **b. Who are the people concerned by progress?** individuals, scientific laboratories, scientists, private agencies, companies, governments,...
- **c. Where is the action set in (imaginary) society or (real) town, country, continent, place?**
- **d. Which period of time is concerned?** (past, present, future)?
- **e. What is the state in the document (medical problems, physical performance, domination, dehumanization, innovations, inequalities, etc.) in sciences, technical, scientific, development, globalization,...?**
- **f. What are the advantages and drawbacks?**
  - Is it profitable / beneficial or is it a potential danger for human beings?
  - What are the dangers associated with technical progress?
  - What is the impact (positive/negative) for whom?
- **g. What are the author’s intentions?**
  - positive opinion (joke, joke)
  - negative opinion, negative en cause
  - ambivalent does the author have mixed feelings?
- **h. Shape or dystopia?**

Focus on the following definitions:
- **Utopia**: an idealized perfect place especially in its social, political and moral aspect
- **Dystopia**: an imaginary place or state in which living conditions are appalling (depopulation, oppression, terror,...)
- Does the author describe an idealized and a perfect world? (Utopia)
- Is the author set in a repulsive and controlled society? (Dystopia)
- Is technology evolved too rapidly? (Dystopia)

**Build up your vocabulary**
Using a separate sheet of paper, complete this grid during the year with words referring to the notion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Drawbacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>greater efficiency</td>
<td>scientific progress</td>
<td>create boundaries = ethical problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reduces stress</td>
<td>social progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enables us to do all</td>
<td>technical progress</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>