Men and women across the globe will not receive equal salaries until 2133 based on current trends, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Gender Gap report. Almost 250 million more women are in the global workforce today than 10 years ago, says the report, yet they are currently paid what their male counterparts earned in 2006. And while many countries have observed more women entering higher education - in several countries more so than men- this trend has not necessarily been reflected in the number of women occupying skilled roles or leadership positions.

The report compared the status of men and women in each nation regarding health, education, economic participation and political empowerment. Iceland, Norway and Finland were ranked the top three countries in terms of gender parity in declining order. The worst country was Yemen, followed by Pakistan and then Syria.

“Unless we start changing the culture around the division of labor at home there’s always going to be that extra burden on women,” said the report’s lead author, Saadia Zahidi. “That means we’re not going to be able to maintain those high levels of women joining the workforce all the way through to middle management and senior positions.”

QUESTIONS

1. Translate the following paragraph into Spanish (4 points).

“Unless we start changing the culture around the division of labor at home there’s always going to be that extra burden on women,” said the report’s lead author, Saadia Zahidi. “That means we’re not going to be able to maintain those high levels of women joining the workforce all the way through to middle management and senior positions.”

2. Read the text and answer the questions. Use your own words. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 1 (2 points as a whole).

   a) When will the gender gap be closed?
   b) How much are women paid nowadays compared to men?

3. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 0.5 each (4 points as a whole).

Ten years of data from the Global Gender Gap Report -first _______________ (1. publish) in 2006- ________________ (2. reveal) the pattern ________________ (3.) change around the world relative ________________ (4.) the 109 continuously covered countries’ own past performance and ________________ (5.) relation to each other. The region with the largest absolute improvement is Latin America, followed ________________ (6.) Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa and North America. When compared ________________ (7.) their own starting points nearly a decade ago, however, the order of relative change is ________________ (8. slight) different, with Middle East and North Africa at the third position, Sub-Saharan Africa at the fourth and Europe and Central Asia at the fifth.
AMAZON REVEALS ROBOT ARMY IN ITS WAREHOUSES

Amazon opened the doors of one of its latest-generation warehouses in Tracy, California, on Sunday, revealing their army of bustling robots bringing goods out of storage and taking them to employees. The robots, which weigh 320 lbs and come in at just 16 inches tall, are being used to allow Amazon to increase the speed at which it processes customers’ orders.

Amazon bought the automated sorting system called Kiva in early 2012 for $775 million, a start-up which focused on creating robots to work in large warehouses to help complete online orders. Amazon began using the robots in July this year, and now there are 15,000 of them, spread across 10 of the company’s warehouses.

According to Amazon’s vice president of worldwide operations Dave Clark, using robots gives Amazon two major advantages. Firstly, because they no longer need aisles between the shelving units for humans to walk down, the items can be stored more closely together meaning the company can hold more stock. Secondly, using robots to pick up the items saves time, meaning that orders can be processed more efficiently. “Kiva’s doing the part that’s not that complicated. It’s just moving inventory around,” Clark says. “The person is doing the complicated work.”

QUESTIONS

1. Translate the following paragraph into Spanish (4 points).

Amazon opened the doors of one of its latest-generation warehouses in Tracy, California on Sunday, revealing their army of bustling robots bringing goods out of storage and taking them to employees. The robots, which weigh 320 lbs and come in at just 16 inches tall, are being used to allow Amazon to increase the speed at which it processes customers’ orders.

2. Read the text and answer the questions. Use your own words. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 1 (2 points as a whole).

a) According to the text, which are the advantages of using robots?
b) Now that Amazon is using robots, why do they need human workers?

3. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 0.5 each (4 points as a whole).

Clark says that robots are “not about ________ (1. eliminate) jobs”, insisting that the increase in productivity will result ________ (2.) more growth, and with growth ________ come more jobs. He ________ (3. insist) that ________ (4.) the 4,000 workers ________ (5. employ) at the warehouse, 2,500 ________ (6.) hired to deal with the extra Christmas orders. This year, ‘Cyber Monday’, reportedly Amazon’s ________ (7. busy) day of the year, falls on the first day of the Christmas month, and is also the first day of a boycott organised ________ (8.) Amazon Anonymous over criticisms about the company’s business practices.