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<b>Examen : BTS Management des Unités Commerciales</b> <b>Épreuve orale de langue vivante étrangère : ANGLAIS (LV1)</b>	

## **Amazon looks to create 3,000 cashless stores**

The American retail industry was bracing itself yesterday for a new onslaught\* by Amazon, amid reports that the ecommerce giant could open as many as 3,000 high-tech inner-city grocery shops by 2021.

5 The \$940 billion company, whose main businesses are online retailing and cloud computing, was said to be considering a wider expansion of Amazon Go, a grocery shop concept that has no cashiers and uses an artificially intelligent motion-tracking system to record what shoppers buy.

10 Amazon has poured considerable resources into its grocery business in the past 15 months, not least buying Whole Foods, the upmarket organic grocer, for \$13.7 billion last summer.

15 To enter an Amazon Go shop, customers swipe a barcode on a smartphone app across a scanner on an automatic gate. Then they are tracked by cameras and motion sensors. The system is capable of determining when customers put items into their baskets and when they return products to shelves. When they have finished shopping, customers walk out and minutes later receive a receipt on the app and their Amazon account is charged for their purchases.

20 In broad terms, Amazon Go's technology combines the same computer vision, sensory and artificial intelligence systems that are used in self-driving cars, but the company is not saying precisely how it works. The technology in Amazon's first Go shop is thought to have cost about \$1 million.

Jeff Bezos, founder and chief executive of Amazon, believes that people should not do work that can be done by software, robots and other technology.

Adapted from *Times.com*, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

\* onslaught: a strong or violent attack