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## Part One: Reading Comprehension  (Score: 12/20)

*Read the selection below about using online education during the COVID-19 pandemic. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.*

### Online Education

1    The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the largest educational changes over history, negatively affecting around 1.6 billion students in more than 190 countries. It has also affected teachers around the world from pre-school to university level. Eventually, closing the schools during the pandemic has impacted 94 per cent of the world's student population in poor countries. It was the responsibility of governments worldwide to make sure that learning continues during the time of closed school. So, now many of <u>them</u> ask schools to use technology and **require** teachers to move to online teaching.

2    Within a couple of years only, the concept of traditional education has totally changed. Being physically present in a classroom is no more the only way for learning. This is due to the increased use of the internet and new technologies. Nowadays, you have access to education whenever and wherever you want, as long as you have a computer.

3    Because online education enables students to study from anywhere in the world, there's no need to **commute** from home to school or follow a fixed schedule. It also allows students to travel because online classrooms are found wherever there's an internet connection. Thus, while you are on a trip, you don't need to stop working or studying in order to **explore** beautiful, new places or countries.

4    Furthermore, since online classes can be taken from home, there are less chances of students missing out on lessons. Online lectures or lessons can be recorded, saved, and shared for future use. This allows students to **access** the learning material at a time of <u>their</u> comfort. Besides, today's students have access to resources and materials that may be found anywhere in the world. A teacher can collect a lot of resources and other materials related to the course topic for students to use for research or deep analysis of content material.

5    On top of all, online education saves not only time but also money which can be spent on other activities. Online education is much cheaper compared to physical learning in a classroom because <u>it</u> reduces financial costs. This is true because online learning can **eliminate** the money paid for transportation, student meals and school building. Besides, all the study materials are there online, and this makes the learning environment paperless, which is helpful to the environment.

6    Online education currently uses new learning models. Students are given various ways to finish their education with something that suits them. While traditional education will never go away, the future of online learning seems exciting enough to open education for a big number of learners.

### Questions

**A  Answer the following questions in complete sentences using your own words.**
   1.  Based on paragraph 1, who has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?  **(Score: 01)**
   2.  Why does the writer in paragraph 2 believe that being physically present in a classroom is not the only way for learning?  **(Score: 0.5)**
   3.  According to the writer in paragraph 5, why is online education cheaper than learning in a classroom?  **(Score: 01)**
   4.  Based on paragraph 6, how would you describe the writer's attitude towards online education? Justify your answer.  **(Score: 01)**

**B  Based on the selection, what does each of the underlined words refer to?**  **(Score: 1.5)**
   1-them (Paragraph 1)        2- their (Paragraph 4)        3- it (Paragraph 5)

**C**  **Refer to the selection and then complete each of the following sentences.**   **(Score: 01)**
1. Online education allows students to travel because online classrooms…………
2. Online lectures or lessons can be used in the future because students can……..

**D**  **Use contextual clues to figure out the meaning of each word in the box below. Then**   **(Score: 02)**
**fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete the following sentences.**

> **require** (Paragraph 1)   **commute** (Paragraph 3)   **explore** (Paragraph 3)
> **access** (Paragraph 4)  **eliminate** (Paragraph 5)

1. Because we do not have enough money, we have to ………… chocolate and chips from our shopping list.
2. Robert can't ……….. on foot, so he needs a car to go from home to his office.
3. Every summer, tourists visit Lebanon to ……….. its amazing mountains and villages.
4. During online classes, some teachers ……..….students to send their homework by email.

**E**  **In each of the following sentences, there is <u>ONE </u>grammatical error. Identify the**   **(Score: 02)**
**error and then correct it.**
1. Both Chris and Betty always watches action movies on TV.
2. They have already left before we arrived to the restaurant last Saturday.
3. The man whose his car was stolen yesterday informed the police.
4. Either the teacher or her students plans to go by bus.

**F**  **Rewrite the following sentences, starting each as indicated, without changing the meaning.**   **(Score: 02)**
1. He could not join the meeting due to his sickness.
   Because he ………………………………………………….……
2. I do not have a car now, and I won't go home.
   If ………………………………….………………………….……………

**Part Two: Writing**   **(Score: 08/20)**
**Choose ONE of the following prompts.**
**Prompt A   Read the following statement about learning at home.**

> *One way to make learning easy is to study in a comfortable environment, like your home. Accordingly, using online programs can be helpful in many ways. However, students may face challenges that can negatively affect their academic achievement.*

Provide a suitable title, make an **outline**, and then write a well-organized essay in which you explain the challenges students face while learning at home such as concentrating, using tools and materials, using internet and laptops, etc.

In your essay, provide a thesis statement in the introduction, a topic sentence in each body paragraph and support the main idea with relevant and adequate details. Give examples drawn from your reading or experience. Your essay should be between 150-200 words. Revise and proofread your essay.

**Prompt B   Read the following statement about the importance of education.**

> *A good education is the basis for a better future.*

Based on the statement above, narrate a success story of someone who lived in poor and difficult conditions, but he/she was able to work hard to finish his/ her education and achieve his/her goals in life. Copy and fill in the chart below, and then write the essay. As you develop your essay, provide sufficient details about the challenges this person had to face , people involved, and the hard work done in order to achieve his/her goals. Your essay should be between (150-200 words). Revise and proofread your essay.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Title** | |
| **Setting** | |
| **Characters** | |
| **Events** | |
| **Goals Achieved** | |

**Your essay will be evaluated based on ideas and organization (Score: 2.5), language and style (Score: 2.5), outline/chart and title (Score: 02) tidiness and legible handwriting (Score: 01)**