Question: Via Burlington English (Free Book that came after registering for IELTS), Test 1: Writing Task 2

Essay Response:

In the post-COVID-19 world, online learning has been a widely-debated topic, for its benefits and limitations as a mode of educating students. There are various points that have been raised both in favour of and against such modes of distance education. In my opinion, my views are better-aligned with the first view provided, albeit only to a certain extent. In reaching this opinion, there were multiple things to consider.

Firstly, offline learning provides a better ‘feel’ for the subjects taught, and educators can more easily gauge how well the class has understood the topic. However, on online modes, there is no way for the instructor to look at all of the students’ faces to get a general understanding of what they have grasped. If students feel lost, teachers could more easily identify and clarify those doubts in the classroom, which is devoid of audio and internet connection issues. If professors need to demonstrate certain concepts using experimental means, being in a lab with the students would be much more effective than if this were to be broadcasted online.

In my experiences during and after the pandemic of 2020, I have found that face-to-face interactions with professors have, on average, led to better results for the class in their exams. Moreover, students are more likely to participate and be involved in classroom activities, and are not distracted by their phones. Additionally, cheating and plagiarism was highly prevalent in online examinations, and many students were academically dishonest. Such behaviours were significantly reduced with the return to the classroom.

In conclusion, for the reasons explained above, I believe the former view in the prompt is more reasonable than the latter. Ultimately, online learning could be used as a tool for extra help or resources, but would not be an effective replacement for classrooms.