Academic English L3 (Модуль 2. Английский язык для академических целей L3) (1 semester)

Unit 1.3. Types of learning

I. Discuss with a partner:

1. What it the best way to learn for you personally and why:
   - In an offline class with a teacher
   - In an online teacher-led class
   - Independently from home
2. What are the advantages of the types of learning you did not choose?
3. What can be the drawbacks and challenges of each type of learning?
4. Are there any differences between distance and online learning, or are they similar?

II. Skim the article and check your answers to question 4.

Are Online Degree Programs Better than Distance Education?

by Nandini Parmeshwar

Feb 18, 2021

'Distance education' and 'Online education' are often underlined since both are delivered remotely. However, there is a significant difference between the two concerning certain essential aspects.

While distance education has existed long before the advent of the internet, online education ultimately owes its existence to advanced internet technology. Both forms of learning are designed to lend flexibility to the students. But distance learning provides a much lesser scope of active student participation and responsibility than an online one.

Further pushed by the COVID-19 scenario, the government authorities are encouraging greater digitization of education. Online education is expected to grow as the digital gap reduces, and internet penetration rises across the country. Given below is an overview of the prominent differences between distance education and online education.

Course Content and Delivery Mode

In distance learning courses students can get the study material either by post or electronic correspondence. Students are not bound to attend any scheduled classes in distance education.

They can go through the course material at their own pace and convenience. However, they may participate in a few contact sessions conducted at study centers. Besides, they may also communicate with the teacher using digital medium.

On the other hand, students receive the educational content of online courses entirely in electronic format. Popular recruiters and hiring managers usually support to develop the curriculum of online classes.

A high degree of flexibility in the learning curve allows students to choose their personalized learning tracks as per their professional goals.

The course material is available as video lectures, presentations, eBooks, website articles, etc. Students have to attend live sessions choosing their preferred time.

Further, the digital content is cost-efficient and easy to update, making it more reliable than the printed hard copy material.

Learner Engagement

There is a marked difference in the level of student support offered by distance education and online education. In distance education, it is wholly upon the student to monitor and track his/her learning progress throughout the course. Due to the absence of standardized channels for student-student and student-teacher interactions, learners tend to feel isolated.

On the contrary, online courses include a wide range of methods to encourage and maintain student engagement. Apart from living classes, teachers can hold quizzes, discussion forums, question-answer rounds, and doubts sessions using online tools.

The virtual model of education comes with opportunities to personalize teaching techniques according to students' learning styles. Nowadays, online workshops allow learners to connect with industry experts, experienced professionals, and peers from different parts of the world.

This two-way communication of online education makes it much more feedback-oriented than distance education.

Quality of Education and Learning

Even though the course material in distance education meets the quality standards set by regulatory authorities, it may not fulfill the application-based industry requirements. This is mainly because the aim of distance learning programs is to provide a degree or qualification for students.

In online courses the leading faculty in alliance with the industry leaders devises the program curriculum. Both the course syllabus and teaching methodology promote the development of practical abilities and proficiencies in the students.

So, whether you want to prepare for a government job, study abroad or start a business you can customize your learning path accordingly.

Hence, online education's curricular structure is better placed in preparing students for their future than distance education.

Career Prospects

Although distance learning courses provide necessary qualifications to pursue a career in the relevant field, they generally lack job-seeking support and placement assistance. Besides, if a student wishes to work in a reputed organisation, he/she will probably have to take up a skill-based course after obtaining a distance education degree.

Are online degree programs better than distance education? upGrad blog. (2021, August 6). Retrieved August 2, 2022, from https://www.upgrad.com/blog/are-online-degree-programs-better-than-distance-education/

III. Scan the article and decide whether the following <u>statements are true (T) or false (F) or not given (NG).</u>
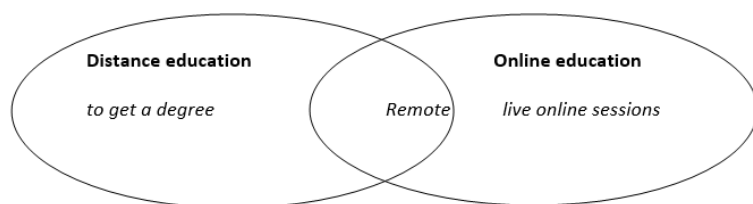
IV. Discuss in pairs:

What criteria does the quality of distance / online education depend upon? (e.g. course content, delivery, teachers, instructors, and evaluations)

V. Work with a partner. Summarize the main features of online and distance education.

	Distance education	*Online education*
1. Class attendance		
2. Scheduling		
3. Pace		
4. Responsibility for studies		
5. Materials for studies		
6. Methods of teaching		
7. Effectiveness		

VI. Create the Venn diagram to demonstrate the similar and different features of distance and online education using the key words. Some examples are shown in the diagram.

<u>More information about the Venn diagrams</u>.

VII. a) Find the main advantages of online learning in the previous exercise. Listen to the first part of the audio to compare your ideas. Add the new ideas to your list.
Before listening the audio check the glossary.

<u>Glossary to the audio.</u>

to align (with smth) – to match smth
to tailor - to change something so that it is suitable
to ensure - to make sure that something happens
immediate - happening or done without delay

в) Match the verbs (1-5) with the words (a-e) to make up phrases, write them down. Then, listen again to check your answers.

1. to have	a. the needs
2. to access	b. assignments
3. to meet	c. an internet connection
4. to manage	d. time
5. to complete	e. information

c) Discuss with a partner

What are possible drawbacks of online learning? Think of at least five.

VIII. Listen to the second part of the audio to compare your ideas.

Before listening check the glossary.

<u>Glossary to the audio.</u>

impersonal - being unfriendly towards people
to fall behind – not to do something fast enough or on time
to monitor progress – to observe and check progress continuously
to get across - to make clear to understand
to go through the material - to study the material
to accomplish a goal – to reach the aim
pros and cons – advantages and disadvantages

Grammar: Comparative and superlative adjectives

IX. Consult [the rules](#) if necessary ahn do [the ex.](#)

X. [Look at the bar chart and complete it with the adjectives in the appropriate degree of comparison.](#)

XI. Work in pairs. Compare online and offline learning based on different criteria. Use a variety of comparative and superlative forms to support your arguments. Be ready to present them to class.

Example topics:

- Which format is better for exam preparation?
- Which one is more cost-effective in the long run?
- Which provides a better sense of community?

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Задать вопрос

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