

ONLINE EDUCATION

Task 1

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one that best fits each space (1-6). There are two choices you do not need to use.

ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE LEARNING

1. _____: From traditional four-year universities to completely online career colleges, higher education today offers an array of options for students. This means that no matter what students study, from nursing to neuroscience, they can find the courses or programs they need online. Students can also earn every academic degree online, from a career certificate to a doctorate.
2. _____: Online programs prove a more affordable option than traditional colleges. Though not all online degrees offer less expensive net tuition prices than traditional colleges, associated expenses almost always cost less. For example, there are no commuting costs, and sometimes required course materials, such as textbooks, are available online at no cost.
3. _____: Commercials that feature online students studying in their pajamas only skims the surface of one of the benefits of online education: no physical class sessions. Students listen to lectures and complete assignments sent to them electronically, with no need to fight traffic, leave work early for class, or miss important family time.
4. _____: Online courses give students the opportunity to plan study time around the rest of their day, instead of the other way around. Students can study and work at their convenience. Course material is always accessible online, making special library trips unnecessary. All of these benefits help students balance work and family commitments with their education.
5. _____: Online courses offer shy or more reticent students the opportunity to participate in class discussions more easily than face-to-face class sessions. Some students even report better concentration in online classes due to the lack of classroom activity.
6. _____: Students can take online courses and even complete entire degrees while working, while in-between jobs, or while taking time to raise a family. This academic work will explain any discontinuity or gaps in a resume as well.

A Avoid commuting

B Lower total costs

C More comfortable learning environment

D Variety of programs and courses

E Convenience and flexibility

F More interaction and greater ability to concentrate

G Continue in your profession

H Career advancement

Task 2

Read the text below. For questions (1-8) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

ONLINE CLASSES

The current challenges facing traditional colleges and universities — (1) _____ higher tuition, budget cuts, and course shortages — cause many students (2) _____ for alternatives. With nearly (3) _____ students currently enrolled in fully online programs and (4) _____ taking at least one online course as part of their degree, online education (5) _____ one of the most popular higher education alternatives. The (6) _____ improving reputation of online learning helped fuel its expansion, as initial skepticism faltered in the face of evidence showing that online learning can be just as (7) _____ as face-to-face education. All of this (8) _____ that students, from working professionals to recent high school graduates, find many reasons to take all or some of their courses online.

	A	B	C	D
1	included	including	was included	includes
2	search	searching	to search	searches
3	three million	three millions	three millionth	three millions'
4	six millionth	six million's	six's million	six million
5	clearly became	has clearly become	had clearly become	clearly becoming
6	continue	continually	continual	continued
7	effective	effectively	effects	more effective
8	mean	meant	means	meaning