

Bagrut Practice

A Read the report.

REMOTE LEARNING

I Remote learning is a form of education where the students are not in a physical classroom with a teacher. This type of education is not new. During the 1800s, travel was hard and slow. So, universities would send class material to students by mail, or broadcast classes on the radio, and students studied independently from home. Today, remote learning is more developed and has become more common for students of all ages. However, educators¹ are still debating whether acquiring an education in this manner is as effective as classroom learning.

II Remote learning became especially popular in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic². Social distancing quickly became the new 'normal', changing every aspect of our lives, including the way students were educated. Schools worldwide closed to prevent the virus from spreading. Classes were "moved" online and conducted via video calls. For some students, this was a positive experience. Ella, a teenager from Haifa said, "I've always challenged the traditional educational system. For me, this was a more efficient way of learning. There were fewer distractions³." Tom, a high school student from Be'er Sheva, explained, "I like creating my own schedule and being responsible for my own learning. I feel more independent." Aside from these benefits, students also said this type of learning allowed them to get more sleep – a huge benefit.

III Online learning provided a solution during COVID-19, but also challenged students and teachers. Many students claimed it was hard to concentrate and learn new ideas when studying from home. Others mentioned the fact that the technology needed for online learning was difficult to use. This problem was a barrier for many, and some simply couldn't cope with it. As a result, students experienced increased levels of pressure. But the issue they complained about the most was the feeling that they lacked social interaction.

IV Improvements are still needed to make distance learning work better for everyone. Dr. Christine Greenhow, a professor of educational technology, shares what has now become a popular belief: "Online learning can be as good as classroom learning ... but it has to be done right." She believes remote learning can be effective if students can work at their own pace and interact with each other online. The question is: Was remote learning just a temporary change, or will it become a permanent learning alternative? In 2020, everyone worked hard to adapt to this new approach. Therefore, educational systems now share a common goal – to keep on improving remote learning methods.

¹educator אָדָבָרִן / גְּמַנְּסָרִן

²pandemic אַפְּגָנִים / גְּגַנְּסָמִים

³distraction אַפְּלִי / גְּמַנְּסָרִן

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B Answer the questions about the report.

1. What do we learn from paragraph I?
 - (i) Why remote learning is more popular than classroom learning.
 - (ii) How people learned from home in the past.
 - (iii) What type of remote learning is the most common.
 - (iv) Why remote learning is not very effective.
2. Which of the following is a suitable title for paragraph II?
 - (i) COVID-19 and Remote Learning
 - (ii) The Best Way to Learn from Home
 - (iii) How to Be an Independent Learner
 - (iv) The Disadvantages of Remote Learning
3. What does "this type of learning" (line 15) refer to?

ANSWER: _____

4. In paragraph II, the benefits of remote learning are described.
Give ONE example.
ANSWER: _____
5. What is presented in paragraph III?
COMPLETE THE ANSWER.
The reasons why _____.
6. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.
From lines 21-22, we learn that most students missed _____.
7. According to Dr. Christine Greenhow, remote learning can be successful if students (–). (paragraph IV)
 - (i) are very organized
 - (ii) can adapt to the new technology
 - (iii) can interact with each other
 - (iv) can choose their own classes
8. What do Dr. Greenhow and Ella have in common? Base your answer on paragraphs II and IV.
COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.
They both _____.