

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Online classes began to be popularized just a few decades ago. They are advertised as a way for adults to finish their education and students to learn the material at their own pace—it is far more compatible for people with busy schedules.

But after being enrolled in an online course last fall semester, I came to realize online classes were merely a means to fulfil course requirements.

First of all, students lack the desire to learn, and they simply complete their assignments to receive credit for a passing grade rather than genuinely engage with the course material.

As online courses tend to have more than 100 students, most of the assignments are short and simple. They are not designed for students to interact with the material in depth but designed to be graded easily to accommodate such a large number of students.

Perhaps the biggest disadvantage of taking an online class is the absence of face-to-face interaction between the teacher and their students. Live sessions are infrequent and are often scheduled during the middle of the day when students have to attend other classes or work. The office hours of the professor may also be during inconvenient times for many students as well. Most interaction with the professor has to be through email which is often impersonal. It is nearly impossible for students to build a relationship with their professor.

There is also little interaction amongst students. It can be harder for students to create study groups and form relationships with their peers.

Online classes also require either a computer or laptop and a reliable internet connection. Not all students have access to these types of resources, whether it is for financial or other reasons, and some students can be put at a disadvantage.

Offering online classes certainly helps students who would otherwise not be able to attend classroom sessions. However, they fail to provide a genuine education with an emphasis on convenience rather than critical thinking. We need restructured online classes in which students can have a learning experience that will actually provide quality education.

46. What does the author say about students enrolled in online classes?

- A) They can access course materials easily.
- B) They are unmotivated to learn.
- C) They can learn at their own pace.
- D) They rarely fulfil the course requirements.

47. What does the author think of online course assignments?
- A) They are made convenient to mark.
 - B) They are meant to facilitate interaction.
 - C) They are based on easily accessible material.
 - D) They are given to accommodate students' needs.
48. What does the author say is one disadvantage of online classes?
- A) They are frequently scheduled at irregular times.
 - B) They make professors' offices much less accessible.
 - C) They tend to increase professors' burden of responding to students' emails.
 - D) They provide little chance for students to build relationships with each other
49. What problem may arise if classes go online?
- A) More students may find it easy to be absent from them.
 - B) Teachers will worry about poor internet connections.
 - C) Some students may have difficulty attending them.
 - D) Schools with limited resources will be at a disadvantage.
50. What does the author think constitutes a key part of genuine education?
- A) Acquisition of useful knowledge.
 - B) Training of real-life skills on campus.
 - C) Development of students' personalities.
 - D) Cultivation of analytical thinking ability.