

1 The defining feature of distance learning is that you do not need to attend the awarding university institution in person. This style of study is not new. The University of London established its external programme in 1858 to make the degree accessible to students who, for one reason or another, could not come to London to study, and it now offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications to almost 24,500 students in over 157 countries around the world. Now, a growing number of other UK institutions are developing distance learning programmes to offer students the chance of studying without leaving home. Distance learning suits people for many different reasons. For Petrakis, "Family and financial circumstances prevent me from studying abroad for extended periods, but I could manage a couple of short visits." For Teresa, "I now have two small children, it is impossible for me to attend University. I would, therefore, like to study at home."



2 Finding the finance to study may be difficult, "Due to financial constraints, I could not further my education in any conventional way; and so I joined the bank, my present employer. My ambition is to improve my career prospects by obtaining a university degree," said George Morgan.

3 For some people whose job requires regular travel or irregular working hours, distance learning may be the only way to improve their qualifications and seek promotion. In most cases, students have the choice of when to study and how quickly they progress through the programme.

4 Academic support given to a distance learning student varies from programme to programme and from institution to institution; however, the focus is on self-study. Students may receive basic academic guidance through specially written study guides. Many programmes provide an extensive range of materials including videos, computer disks and audio tapes. Some institutions have introduced programmes of study which can be delivered to a student's home by Internet.

5 Academic support is not the only support required. Without the support of family, colleagues and friends, studying for a qualification as an external student would be a great deal harder. John Chetcuti says, "my wife's support throughout all these years has been precious. Had it not been for her support when I was down in the dumps I probably would not have persevered to the end."



**I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)**

**{Base all your answers on the text}**

**A Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)**

- 1 The University of London started developing distance learning programmes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. ....  
.....
- 2 The Internet is used to mail distance learning materials to students. ....  
.....
- 3 Distant learners need only the academic support. ....  
.....

**B Answer these questions. (4 pts)**

- 1 Why was it more convenient for Teresa to take a distance learning programme? .....  
.....
- 2 Why does Morgan wish to get a university diploma? .....  
.....
- 3 What type of teaching materials do distance learning programmes prepare for their students? .....  
.....
- 4 Whose help was crucial to John Chetcuti? .....  
.....

**C Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as the following. (4 pts)**

- 1 degrees or diplomas (paragraph 1) .....
- 2 demands (paragraph 3) .....
- 3 assistance (paragraph 5) .....
- 4 of great value (paragraph 5) .....

**D Pick out from the text sentences or expressions which show that (2 pts)**

- 1 Petrakis is unable to go to university abroad. ....
- 2 Programmes of distance learning give a variety of learning materials. ....

**E What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)**

- 1 it (paragraph 1) .....
- 2 they (paragraph 3) .....

**II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)**

**A Rewrite these sentences as suggested. (4 pts)**

- 1 She was always late to work. Consequently, she was dismissed.  
If .....
- 2 They must finish the work before they get paid.  
The work .....
- 3 It's a pity I didn't apologize for my faults.  
I wish .....
- 4 Although she is extremely beautiful, nobody has asked her for marriage.  
In spite of .....

**B Fill in each blank with the correct phrasal verb from the list. (2 pts)**

*look after      look up      fill in      let out*

- 1 I ..... a loud cry as I was badly hurt.
- 2 You need to ..... this word in a good dictionary.
- 3 The company will certainly ask you to ..... a form before they give you the job.
- 4 In most families women ..... the children while the men go to work.

**C Fill in each gap with the appropriate word from the list below. (4 pts)**

*cultural      sustainable      tool      autonomous      co-exist      tolerant*

- 1 America is a homogeneous society where different minority groups .....
- 2 ..... difference is not the problem. the problem is whether we are willing to be ..... towards other cultures.
- 3 The Internet is an amazing ..... of learning.

**D Put the words between brackets in the correct form. (3 pts)**

- 1 Environmental activists fight nuclear and (industry) ..... waste.
- 2 Her school results are (satisfy) ..... That's why her father is proud of her.
- 3 (Developed) ..... countries usually have problems with education.

**E Match the sentences on the left with the functions on the right. (2 pts)**

Sentences		Functions	
1	You had better memorize irregular verbs before it is too late.	a	Opinion
2	To my mind, the mock exam is a crucial preparation for the national exam.	b	Uncertainty
		c	Advice

- 1 .....
- 2 .....

