

ベーシックセンター

英 語

800 words

次の文章を読み、下の問いの ~ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①~④のうちから一つずつ選べ。

- (1) My uncle Peter has been working as an assistant manager at a department store for a number of years. He entered university after high school and completed his first year, but had to drop out for financial reasons. Peter has done well in his job but he needs a higher academic qualification in order to be promoted. He wanted to go back to university as a full-time student, but for many years this was not possible because he never had quite enough savings to be able to quit his job.
- (2) Recently, however, Peter met by chance one of the department store's suppliers who was busily typing at his computer in a coffee shop. He asked curiously, "Are you finishing up work?" To Peter's surprise, the supplier replied, "No. I'm completing a term paper for my marketing class." The supplier went on to explain that he was a student enrolled at an "online university." That was when my uncle realized that it is now possible to obtain a university education on the Internet.
- (3) After checking various university websites, he discovered that Central University offered a college degree program in management that could be completed online. The program perfectly suited his needs and he decided to apply. Like students entering traditional universities, he submitted his test scores and high school grades as well as an essay, in which he discussed his experiences and his goals. Once his application was completed and he was accepted, Peter, like other online students, had to pay his tuition by credit card. He then received a password which allowed him to log in to the university site as a student. He was also required to attach a video camera to his computer, which would allow instructors to see him and check his identity.
- (4) Normally, a college degree program is completed in four years. However, because my uncle has a regular job, he can only take two or three courses a semester, which means that he will

need more than four years to complete the degree. Online universities generally allow for longer periods of study — typically up to ten years. My uncle planned to complete his degree in seven years. In the first semester, he enrolled in three courses: Introduction to Economics, Business Management, and Consumer Psychology.

- (5) For each course he received the same textbooks as on-campus students. Once he was logged in to the website for each course, he could access the course syllabus, which set out the weekly timetable, due dates for assignments, and examination schedules. The professors' lectures were posted both in written and video form on a weekly basis. The lectures were followed by questions related to the topics covered and readings assigned. Students were expected to post their own responses on the site during the week. With this arrangement, my uncle became a more active participant in discussions than he had been when he first attended university; he had more time to think about the questions and his responses than would have been the case in a traditional university class.
- (6) In the course on business management, the professor encouraged students to contribute their thoughts and experiences to an online forum that could be read by other students. For this task, my uncle was able to draw on his own experience in the department store; his postings described some of the problems that managers face when marketing products and dealing with customers. His online classmates who also worked in business often gave him feedback, and told him that they were learning a lot from the cases he described. For his part, Peter felt that the ideas he picked up from the online exchanges helped him become more effective on the job.
- (7) Now that he has finished his first semester, my uncle is generally satisfied with the program, but he also feels that there are some problems with online learning. As he sometimes points out, there is neither actual face-to-face interaction with other students in a classroom nor any socializing off campus, both of which are sometimes regarded as indispensable features of traditional student life. Another problem faces those who live in remote rural areas. Some of my uncle's online classmates live far from a proper library, and they may have difficulty finding specialized journals or books that are needed in advanced courses.
- (8) Despite these drawbacks, it seems certain that online education will continue to attract people who cannot enroll in traditional university programs. For those who have to work full time but seek promotions or better opportunities, this type of education is practically the only way in which they can obtain higher qualifications and more advanced skills. In fact, my uncle's experience during the past semester has already made a difference. Based on what he has learned at his online university, he has made a number of suggestions to his boss, and sales in his

department have been steadily increasing.

問1 The author's uncle decided to apply to an online university program because he .

- ① had become accustomed to using the Internet
- ② wanted to enjoy the social life offered by the university
- ③ was interested in obtaining a better position
- ④ was worried about losing his present job

問2 One similarity between online students and on-campus students is that both groups .

- ① are required to take courses in management
- ② have already received a college degree
- ③ need a credit card in order to be accepted
- ④ submit the same application materials

問3 The author's uncle decided to take only three courses in the first semester because he .

- ① had an extremely busy social life as a college student
- ② had to become accustomed to university course work
- ③ needed to divide his time between work and study
- ④ was responsible for job training courses at work

問4 Paragraph (5) implies that online learning is suited to someone who enjoys .

- ① having a close relationship to the instructor
- ② quick and clever exchanges in the classroom
- ③ reflecting on questions at greater length
- ④ the pressure of answering questions on the spot

問5 Paragraph (6) implies that .

- ① department store managers should spend less time on the Internet
- ② having a job can be an advantage for an online student
- ③ one should avoid discussing information obtained at work
- ④ online exchanges can be the basis of a new business

問6 One limitation of online learning mentioned is that .

- ① online courses tend to deal with slightly more advanced and specialized materials
- ② online students are not permitted to use on-campus university libraries
- ③ online students do not generally meet in person for activities outside the classroom
- ④ online students who also work at jobs have difficulty completing courses

問7 Considering the text as a whole, we would conclude that with the introduction of online learning .

- ① a wider range of the population can receive a university education today than in the past
- ② graduates from traditional universities are having more difficulty finding a job
- ③ more business people will give up their jobs in order to study at university
- ④ traditional universities are experiencing a loss of students and suffering a decline in revenues