Reading Passage

Questions #1-10

Online Learning

1 Learning new things is an exciting part of life. Learning can happen anywhere. There are kids who learn at a school, kids who learn at home and some kids who learn online. Students who learn this way use their computers and the Internet to connect to online classrooms. They use a camera connected to their home computer to let the teacher and other students see them. They can see their teacher and classmates on their screens because their classmates and teacher use a camera, too.

2 Before the Internet, children in remote places sometimes had classes over the radio or used the mail to get lessons and return them. For example, in the past, children who lived in distant parts of Australia were taught using the radio. Every day at a certain time, they tuned in to a special radio station. All the children could hear their teacher at the same time, but they were hundreds of miles apart. They got their lessons in the mail, did their homework, and mailed it back to the teacher.

3 Today, students who live far away from their teacher have classes on the Internet. In some online classrooms, a classroom full of kids can use a special computer program at the same time as the teacher. The students can live in one country, and the teacher can be located in a different country. Still, it’s just like a classroom at your school. The teacher can teach the kids. The kids can ask questions. Everyone can see and hear everything that’s being said as it happens.

4 It is also possible for students to live in different places and be a part of an online class together. Each person goes to a website for the class they are taking. Thousands of people can watch and listen to this class at the same time. When they want to speak, they can use a microphone to ask and answer questions. When the lesson is completed and all good-byes have been said, the students and teacher in the online class log out. The connection over the Internet is broken, and the online classroom disappears.

5 Online classes can be held whenever is best for the teacher and students. Sometimes, they don’t have to have a class where everyone is together all at once. There are classes where all the materials are posted on the website and students can use them whenever they need to. They can write questions and turn in their assignments. They can check back later to see if the teacher has left answers or
comments on their work. No one ever actually “meets” anyone face-to-face, even if it’s just with a web-camera. Many college classes are taught this way.

Internet classes can fit thousands of people, or just one person. It is a powerful way to let students everywhere learn. A student in Alaska and a student in China can go to the same class. That class can be taught by a teacher in Russia. You don’t need a building, desks, lights or enough chairs to fit everyone. Students who live far apart, students who can’t leave home, students who want to take a class they can’t take nearby—all they need is a computer and an Internet connection and they’re good to go!
With which two sentences would the author agree?

- Learning is exciting no matter how you do it.
- All students should go to school on the Internet.
- Thousands of students in the same class are too many.
- Online classrooms are a good alternative to regular ones.
- Students in the same class should live close to each other.

**Option A:** This answer is correct. The author says, “Learning new things is an exciting part of life.”

**Option B:** This answer is incorrect. The author lists examples of students who benefit from online classrooms, but there is nothing to suggest that the author thinks all students should learn this way.

**Option C:** This answer is incorrect. The author mentions that thousands of students can take a class online. However, the author does not say anything to indicate that this class size is too large.

**Option D:** This answer is correct. The author provides details that show the benefits of online learning. These details show that the author thinks online classes are a good alternative to regular classes.

**Option E:** This answer is incorrect. The author says that some students in online classes live far apart from one another. However, the author does not suggest that they should live close to each other.
Question #2
Grade 3

What is the relationship between paragraphs 2 and 3 in the passage?

- comparison
- introduction
- cause and effect
- question and answer

Option A: This answer is correct. The author compares learning in the past and present in paragraphs 2 and 3.

Option B: This answer is incorrect. These paragraphs come early in the passage, but the author does not use them to introduce the topic.

Option C: This answer is incorrect. The author discusses how learning without the Internet affected the way in which people in remote places learned. However, the author does not set up a cause and effect relationship with paragraphs 2 and 3.

Option D: This answer is incorrect. Although the Internet does offer a solution to a problem faced by people living in distant areas, this does not describe the relationship between paragraphs 2 and 3.
Question #3

Grade 3

What is the main idea of paragraph 4?
Type your answer in the space provided.

People in distant places can become an online class.

Other Possible Correct Responses:

- People who live far away take classes online.
- People living in different places can join an online school.
- Students who live far apart can be part of the same class.
Question #4
Grade 3

Select two sentences that show how online classrooms and regular classrooms are alike.

3. Today, students who live far away from their teacher have classes on the Internet. In some online classrooms, a classroom full of kids can use a special computer program at the same time as the teacher. The students can live in one country, and the teacher can be located in a different country. Still, it’s just like a classroom at your school. The teacher can teach the kids. The kids can ask questions. Everyone can see and hear everything that’s being said as it happens.

Other Correct Responses:

- “The teacher can teach the kids.”
Question #5
Grade 3

Part A
How has learning from distant places changed over time?

- Students can ask questions and get answers faster.
- Students can hear their teacher during the same class time.
- Students use the mail to receive and send work.
- Students live far apart from their classmates.

Part B
Select one sentence that supports the answer in part A.

A  “The students can live in one country, and the teacher can be located in a different country.”

B  “All the children could hear their teacher at the same time, but they were hundreds of miles apart.”

C  “They got their lessons in the mail, did their homework, and mailed it back to the teacher.”

D  “Everyone can see and hear everything that’s being said as it happens.”

E  “Sometimes, they don’t have to have a class where everyone is together all at once.”

Part A

Option A: This answer is correct. The passage shows how today’s online learning allows students to learn in real time. Students can interact with teachers and students in ways that they could not in past.

Option B: This answer is incorrect. Students might choose this answer because online learning today allows students to hear their teacher during the same class time. However, this was also true of older distance learning methods, such as classes taken via radio.
**Option C:** This answer is incorrect. Students might choose this answer because the passage mentions correspondence courses. However, with online learning today, students are no longer likely to use regular mail to send and receive work.

**Option D:** This answer is incorrect. Students might choose this answer because the author explains that students often live far from their classmates. However, this was also true for older forms of distance learning.

**Part B**

**Option A:** This answer is incorrect. Students who select option D in part A might be drawn to this response; however, this does not support the correct answer in part A.

**Option B:** This answer is incorrect. Students might think this sentence supports the correct answer from part A since it shows how teachers and students can interact in real-time. However, the author uses this detail in paragraph 2 to explain how kids in the past learned over a special radio.

**Option C:** This answer is incorrect. Students may choose this sentence because it supports option C in part A—distance learning via mail. This choice is not support for the correct answer in part A.

**Option D:** **This answer is correct.** This sentence implies instant interaction, which supports the answer in Part A.

**Option E:** This answer is incorrect. Students may choose this sentence because it connects to option D in part A and the idea of class participants living far from each other; however, this is not support for the correct answer in part A.
Question #6
Grade 3

Place the tools used for online learning in the box.

- camera
- computer
- radio
- mail
Select the two correct meanings of the phrase good to go as it is used in the sentence.

“Students who live far apart, students who can’t leave home, students who want to take a class they can’t take nearby—all they need is a computer and an Internet connection and they’re good to go!” (paragraph 6)

☐ okay to leave
☐ able to learn quickly
☑ able to begin
☐ prepared to travel
☑ ready to start to learn

**Option A:** This answer is incorrect. While the literal meaning is the same as “good to go,” this is not its meaning as it is used in the sentence.

**Option B:** This answer is incorrect. Although this phrase suggests that students will be ready to learn, it does not mean that they will learn the subject matter quickly.

**Option C:** This answer is correct. The phrase means that students have what they need in order to participate for the class. They are ready to begin.

**Option D:** This answer is incorrect. Although “go” implies actual movement, the passage does not suggest that students will be ready to travel. Rather, the passage illustrates students do not have to travel to learn.

**Option E:** This answer is correct. The phrase means that the students have all that they need to begin learning the new subject matter.
Select a sentence that shows that students can ask their teacher for help or more information.

Online classes can be held whenever is best for the teacher and students. Sometimes, they don’t have to have a class where everyone is together all at once. There are classes where all the materials are posted on the website and students can use them whenever they need to. They can write questions and turn in their assignments. They can check back later to see if the teacher has left answers or comments on their work. No one ever actually “meets” anyone face-to-face, even if it’s just with a web-camera. Many college classes are taught this way.
Question #9
Grade 3

Part A
How does the author support the idea that students who live far from each other can learn together?

A) She tells about why students should learn online.

B) She shares details about the way students learn online.

C) She gives examples of how online learning helps students.

D) She explains that the online classroom is only for a short time.

Part B
Select two sentences that support the answer in part A.

4 It is also possible for students to live in different places and be a part of an online class together. Each person goes to a website for the class they are taking. Thousands of people can watch and listen to this class at the same time. When they want to speak, they can use a microphone to ask and answer questions. When the lesson is completed and all good-byes have been said, the students and teacher in the online class log out. The connection over the Internet is broken, and the online classroom disappears.

Part A
Option A: This answer is incorrect. Students might choose this option because the author focuses on online learning. While the author might feel online learning is beneficial, she does not provide details about why student should learn this way.

Option B: This answer is correct. The author details the features of online classes and supports the idea that students who live far from each other can learn together.

Option C: This answer is incorrect. Students might choose this option because the author mentions examples of how online learning helps students. Details, such as reaching students who cannot leave home, might tempt students to select this answer. However, these details do not support the idea that students who live far from each other can learn together.
Option D: This answer is incorrect. Students might choose this option because the author says that online classes can be held at a time that is best for teachers and students and that students log out when the lessons are complete. However, the time classes are held does not support the idea that students who live far from each other can learn together.

Part B
Selection of BOTH of the following sentences:

- “Thousands of people can watch and listen to this class at the same time.”
- “When they want to speak, they can use a microphone to ask and answer questions.”
Option A: This answer is incorrect. Although students might make a connection between the ideas of borders and location, this definition is not supported by the context of the article.

Option B: This answer is correct. The teacher lives, or can be found, in a different country.

Option C: This answer is incorrect. Students might focus on the idea that the teacher and students are in different countries and incorrectly conclude that the teacher moved. The article, however, does not provide context to suggest the teacher has moved.

Option D: This answer is incorrect. Although this is one definition of located, this meaning is not supported by the context of the article.
Editing Task

Questions #11-13

11 - 13

There are five highlights in the passage to show which word or phrase may be incorrect. For each highlight, click the word or phrase that is correct.

Koalas are animals that live in Australia. They looked look a little bit like small bears, but they are not bears. They are brown or gray, with round, fluffy ears, and they have no tails. You have probably seen pictures of koalas. They are very popular because they are so cute.

Koalas are herbivores, which means they eat plants. They live in trees and love to climb. Koalas are known to sleep up to 20 hours a day.

Many people around the world visit zoos to see koalas. They can live 13 to 18 years in the wild, but the oldest zoo koala on record lived to be 23 years old.
Question #11
Grade 3

Koalas are animals that live in Australia. They look a little bit like small bears, but they are not bears. They are brown or gray, with round, fluffy ears, and they have no tails. You have probably seen pictures of koalas. They are very popular because they are so cute.
Koalas are herbivores, which means they eat plants. They live in trees and love to climb. Koalas are known to sleep up to 20 ours a day.
Question #13
Grade 3

Many people around the world visit zoos to see koalas. They can live 13 to 18 years in the wild, but the oldest zoo koala on record lived to be 23 years old.
My family celebrates Diwali every fall. It is a holiday that comes at the end of the harvest season in India. Diwali is about doing good deeds, learning, and telling old stories. For five days we light special lamps, so sometimes Diwali is called the “festival of lights.” In my family, we have a feast with all my relatives, and give each other gifts. Sometimes we even have fireworks. I like Diwali very much.
Question #14
Grade 3

According to the student, what is another name for Diwali?

- the festival of gifts
- the festival of lights
- the festival of family
- the festival of fireworks

**Option A:** This answer is incorrect. Some students may choose this answer because the speaker mentions that presents are exchanged during Diwali, but the speaker says that Diwali is also called the festival of lights.

**Option B:** This answer is correct. The speaker says, “For five days we light special lamps, so sometimes Diwali is called the ‘festival of lights.’”

**Option C:** This answer is incorrect. Students may choose this answer because the speaker says that families get together during Diwali, but the speaker says that Diwali is also called the festival of lights.

**Option D:** This answer is incorrect. Some students may choose this answer because the speaker mentions that sometimes fireworks are used during Diwali celebrations, but the speaker says that Diwali is also called the festival of lights.
Question #15
Grade 4

When does the student say that Diwali occurs?

- after harvest
- in the winter
- after planting
- in the summer

**Option A:** This answer is correct. Students should choose this option because the student says that Diwali happens “at the end of the harvest season in India.”

**Option B:** This answer is incorrect. The student says Diwali is also called a "festival of lights," and students may incorrectly generalize that the holiday occurs during the winter. However, the student says that Diwali is in the fall.

**Option C:** This answer is incorrect. Some students may connect planting to harvesting and choose this answer, but "after harvest" is different from "after planting."

**Option D:** This answer is incorrect. Some students may choose this answer because the student says that Diwali occurs after harvest, but the student also says that Diwali is in the fall.