

ANSWERS Technology and Education Gap Fill Essay

Writing Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In the past lectures were the traditional method of teaching large numbers of students. Nowadays new technology is increasingly being used to teach students.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this new approach?

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Part One - Gap Fill

Fill in the gaps in the essay below with the answer in the box.

Another area of flexibility	As we have seen	means that part-time courses
traditional forms of education	One major problem is that	a variety of benefits to
This is balanced, however, by the fact	Perhaps the greatest bonus	
This is a serious issue as		

As we move into the twenty-first century, technology is affecting many different areas of life and education is no exception. Indeed, in some institutions **traditional forms of education** have been revolutionised by new technology to the extent that the lecture is no longer the main method of delivery. While there are **a variety of benefits to** this new approach, there are also significant drawbacks.

Perhaps the greatest bonus of the introduction of technology is the flexibility it offers. This is evident in two different ways. Firstly, it is now no longer essential for students to be present in the lecture theatre for their courses. This **means that part-time courses** for adults who are in employment and distance learning courses for people in other countries are now much more practical. **Another area of flexibility** is of course that the lecturer and tutor are able to use Moodles, interactive whiteboards and other tools to deliver their courses in a more stimulating way to large numbers of students.

Not everything, however, about the introduction of this new technology into education is positive. **One major problem is that** not all students are comfortable with using technology, even if they are part of the digital native generation. **This is a serious issue as** they may suffer from their lack of technological skills. Another related issue is that education is a human activity and it works best with as much human interaction as possible. Impersonal technology cannot replace the human contact found in traditional face-to-face tutorials and seminars.

As we have seen, there are major benefits to the introduction of technology into education, not least because it enables modern forms of education such as distance learning courses. **This is balanced, however, by the fact** that it can be too impersonal for some and disadvantages others for their lack of technological skills.

(305 words)

[Additional Model Answers](#)

Part Two - Vocabulary

Impersonal technology cannot replace the human contact **found in** traditional face-to-face tutorials and seminars.

found in = that we find in; that is found in; contained in.

Part Three - The Writing Process

- You as the writer totally understand yourself and what you have written BECAUSE you have extra information in your mind. However, if you don't include that extra information in your writing, the reader / Examiner won't be able to understand you and your writing.
 - So, put all of your ideas and opinions into your writing so that it's totally clear to the reader / Examiner.
 - Thinking about the question, thinking about your ideas, and planning your answer will help you do that.
 - Also, reviewing your writing will help you do that too.
 - This process of writing this way is kind of like meditation. You want to get clear on your ideas and opinions and then you want to write them down EXACTLY as you thought them. Don't change them as you are writing them down. Do this and I promise you that your writing will be better, more accurate, clearer and faster.
1. Read and understand the question.
 2. Plan your writing.
 3. Write your thoughts down EXACTLY as you think them.
 4. When you're finished, review and improve.
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Part Four - Practice Writing

Write your own answer to the above question. Use vocabulary and expressions from the answer above, from the Additional Model Answers below, and from [IELTS Academic Writing Task 2 Vocabulary, Phrases and Expressions](#).

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Part Five - Additional Model Answers

Model Answer B

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(306 words)

Model Answer C

The mode of teaching has undergone serious changes over the years. Unlike the traditional lecture halls, in which a large number of students were given instructions, virtual classrooms have emerged. As a coin has two sides, this trend too has both advantages and disadvantages.

The most tangible advantage is that it saves invaluable time, both for the students and for the teachers. For example, in the case of a student, he can save travel time by referring to a vast amount of physical books. In the case of the teachers, if they prepare a particular presentation in a perfect manner, they can just present it to multiple classes, with periodic upgrades. The second advantage for this new pattern is that it can reach out to a diverse student population at the same time, no matter where their geographical locations are with the most sophisticated technological excellence.

Turning to the flip side, the physical presence of a teacher seems to be an essential factor of an effective learning process. To be precise, when there is less involvement of a teacher in the knowledge acquisition process, students tend to get diverted, and this would delay the active learning. Teachers, when they are not directly involved in the teaching process, would find it difficult to understand their attitude towards the subject, and make changes appropriately. For

example, it is seen that the performance of most online students and distant stream students is mostly below par when compared to regular students in a classroom.

To conclude, it is true that changes which are made in the field of education have brought many positive changes. However, it has darker sides too.

(276 words)

Model Answer D

In recent times, technological advancements have crept in all sectors and education is no exception. While some educational establishments have adopted modernized techniques, others still follow orthodox ways and are missing out on the perks of computerization. In my opinion, I believe there are more positives to lectures delivered using modern-day technology when compared to the conventional mode of teaching.

To begin with the negatives of online education, an important one is that this kind of class tends to be less interactive. This is because the vast majority of the web-based courses are recorded upfront, with occasionally a few interactions in the form of comments. Furthermore, tutors delivering lectures through the internet cannot provide instant feedback and support unlike in classrooms. In contrast, with the latest ways, students can attend class at their comfortable time and can always schedule a one-on-one session with teachers through video conferencing and other means. As a result, unconventional mode of teaching is usually convenient compared to traditional teaching.

However one of the significant advantages of employing technology to teach is flexibility which saves a lot of time. The reason is pupils can schedule the class as per their free time, which is very ideal for working people. In addition, people can work full time whilst studying. On the contrary, traditional methods have strict timings and are usually during day time, it is also noteworthy that the schooling fees are way up northwards and are very difficult to afford. Thus flexibility and cost are more important and they come as an added feature with online school or courses.

In conclusion, the advantages of flexibility and cost of education are outweighed by the disadvantages of collaboration, compared to conventional teaching. The collaborative concerns can also be offset in this day and age by video conferencing at regular intervals.

(302 words)

Model Answer E

We have moved into a technology-driven era where technology is affecting many different aspects of our life, and education is no exception. So, in some schools, traditional methods of education have been revolutionised by new technology to the extent that the lecture is no longer the main method of teaching students. While this new approach has some advantages, it also has many significant shortcomings. This essay outlines both the advantages and disadvantages of this novel approach.

Perceivably the biggest advantage of the use of the latest technology in education is the flexibility it offers. This is evident in two different ways- firstly, it is now no longer essential for students to be present in the classroom for their courses. Covid-19 pandemic has specifically taught us how this flexibility could be a lifesaver. Moreover, the distance learning facility enables employed professionals, housewives and people from different countries to enrol and successfully finish useful courses offered by numerous institutes. Another area of flexibility is of course that the lecturers can use interactive tools like "Moodles", for example, and other tools to deliver their courses in a more stimulating way to large numbers of students.

Not everything, however, about the introduction of this new technology into education is useful. To start, not all students are comfortable with using technology, even if they are part of the digital native generation. This is a grave issue as they may suffer from their lack of technological skills and interests. For instance, an overwhelming number of students, almost 75%, despite their enthusiasm about smartphones and computers, reported that they do not like online classes. Another related issue is that education is a human activity, and it works best with as much human interaction as possible. Impersonal technology cannot replace the human

contact found in traditional face-to-face tutorials and seminars. Thus a piece of technology or tool can never be an alternative to expert tutors who know their students individually and act and teach them accordingly.

To conclude, technology in education brings some important benefits and enables distance learning. It also becomes the only way of learning and teaching during pandemics and disasters. However, by the fact that it can be too impersonal for some and discourages others for their lack of technological skills or passion, it is still not the best method to teach and learn.

(389 words = MUCH longer than necessary!)
