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III

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IV

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問 3

Online education is becoming more and more popular among students around the world, as more institutions, including some prestigious universities, offer a variety of online courses. But, what are some of the advantages and disadvantages of online education?

One of the greatest advantages is its flexibility. Online students can study when, how and where they want as long as they are online. This flexibility is especially appreciated by mature students who have to work in or outside of their homes. Another advantage is its affordability. Conventional face-to-face education generally requires not only higher tuition fees but also travel expenses. Meanwhile, all you need for online courses is your computer and an internet connection.

At the same time, there are several disadvantages that discourage people from online education. The greatest being that it is regarded as inferior. Candidates with online degrees tend to be less valued in the job market, although a recent study conducted by an international institution has shown that the average student who studies online performs better than those who attend conventional colleges. Also, a lack of social interaction can be a serious drawback for younger students. Education is not only about acquiring academic knowledge. Social interaction is also a very important part of it. Furthermore, there are subjects and courses, including medicine, that require hands-on experience and therefore cannot be taught online using current technology.

Online education is still in the infancy of its development. At present, the disadvantages may slightly outweigh the benefits, especially in university education, but the situation may change as online education becomes more commonplace.