

Online learning and lessons to continue in 2021

2nd January, 2021



The year 2020 has been a tumultuous one for educators. Hundreds of thousands of teachers across the globe had to get to grips with online platforms to deliver their lessons. Millions of students were stuck at home doing their lessons

via websites like Zoom. This has created an unprecedented transformation in education as technology has taken centre stage. The quality of education differed around the world according to the quality of Internet connections, the level of preparedness of teachers and their competence in engaging with the technology. It also depended on what kind of devices students had at home. Many students were deprived of lessons because they had no computer, tablet or smartphone.

The Education Ministry in Malaysia has rolled out a new initiative to help underprivileged children. Around 150,000 eligible pupils from 500 schools will receive a device to enable them to participate in online lessons. The Education Minister hopes to build on the success of this initial rollout to expand the programme. He said: "Apart from assisting pupils and schools in need, this pilot project is to find the best implementation method before it is proposed for expansion." The plans include enhancing educational television programming for students with no Internet access, and employing sign language interpreters to help the hard of hearing. A teacher said she was happy her government was prioritizing students' needs.

Sources:

theborneoposy.com / theedgemarkets.com / malaymail.com

Writing

Face-to-face learning is always better than online learning. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tumultuous / globe / online platforms / transformation / education / devices / tablet / initiative / device / success / pilot / project / method / expansion / sign language

True / False

- a) The article says millions of teachers got to grips with online platforms. T / F
- b) The article says online lessons have transformed education. T / F
- c) The article says the level of teacher competence in technology differs. T / F
- d) Many students could not learn online because they had no computer. T / F
- e) Malaysia will help up to 150,000 students to learn online. T / F
- f) Malaysia said it wants to help students become pilots. T / F
- g) Malaysia will use sign language interpreters online. T / F
- h) A teacher said Malaysia was not considering the needs of students. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. tumultuous | a. trial |
| 2. get to grips with | b. change |
| 3. transformation | c. unveiled |
| 4. competence | d. improving |
| 5. deprived | e. roller-coaster |
| 6. rolled out | f. entitled |
| 7. eligible | g. disadvantaged |
| 8. pilot | h. focusing on |
| 9. enhancing | i. understand |
| 10. prioritizing | j. ability |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of online learning?
- b) Would you prefer face-to-face or online learning?
- c) What are the advantages of online learning?
- d) What experiences do you have of online learning?
- e) Why might teachers like teaching online?
- f) What is the best platform for online learning?
- g) Who is online learning good for?
- h) Should all students be learning online in the future?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. The year 2020 has been a tumultuous | a. their lessons |
| 2. get to grips | b. programming |
| 3. stuck at home doing | c. technology |
| 4. created an unprecedented transformation | d. with online platforms |
| 5. their competence in engaging with the | e. interpreters |
| 6. rolled out a new | f. in education |
| 7. build on the success | g. students' needs |
| 8. enhancing educational television | h. one for educators |
| 9. employing sign language | i. of this initial rollout |
| 10. her government was prioritizing | j. initiative |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What subjects are good and bad to learn online?
- Will we need teachers in the future?
- Why might teachers hate teaching online?
- Would robots be better at teaching English than people?
- What are the pros and cons for learning English online?
- Is online learning best for the hard of hearing?
- What questions would you like to ask online teachers?

Spelling

- 2020 has been a tutumulso one
- created an uedenecpdr transformation
- cicndgaro to the quality of Internet
- the level of eaeprrdsnep
- teachers and their poeemtnc
- Many students were deipevrd of lessons
- rolled out a new tinveitai
- Around 150,000 lbegeili pupils
- the success of this tiaini rollout
- before it is proposed for penaosixn
- employing sign language tesrreitrp
- oniriigtzrpi students' needs

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. b	4. j	5. g
6. c	7. f	8. a	9. d	10. h

Role Play

Role A – English

You think English is the best subject to learn online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to learn online (and why): yoga, chemistry or art.

Role B – Yoga

You think yoga is the best subject to learn online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to learn online (and why): English, chemistry or art.

Role C – Chemistry

You think chemistry is the best subject to learn online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to learn online (and why): yoga, English or art.

Role D – Art

You think art is the best subject to learn online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to learn online (and why): yoga, chemistry or English.

Speaking – Subjects

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to learn online at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| • Tennis | • English |
| • Art | • Yoga |
| • Karate | • Coding |
| • Origami | • Chemistry |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.