

The text:

Virtual school helps struggling students

BY BILL KACZOR
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FLORIDA -

As a seventh-grader, Kelsey-Anne Hizer, 13, was getting mostly D's and F's and felt teachers at her Ocala Middle Regular School weren't giving her the help she needed. She was ready to give up. But after switching from that very school, Kelsey-Anne is receiving more individual attention, making A's and B's and enthusiastic about learning - even though she has never been in the same room as her teachers.

Kelsey-Anne transferred to the Orlando-based Florida Virtual School, one of the nation's oldest and largest online schools. About 2,700 full-time and 51,400 part-time Florida students in grades six through 12 get lessons over the Internet from teachers scattered across the state and nation.

They, along with about 1,000 students around the world who pay tuition and an indeterminate number served through contracts with 35 other states, communicate with their teachers and each other through chat rooms, e-mail, telephone and instant messaging.

"It's more one-on-one than regular school," Kelsey-Anne said. "It's more they're there; they're listening."

Virtual learning is becoming omnipresent at colleges and universities but remains in its infancy at the elementary and secondary level, where skeptics have questioned such factors as its cost and effect on children's socialization.

Virtual schools are growing fast, though, at an annual rate of about 25 percent. There are 25 statewide or state-led programs and more than 170 virtual charter schools across the nation, according to the North American Council for Online Learning.

Estimates of elementary and secondary students taking virtual classes range from 500,000 to 1 million nationally compared to total public school enrollment of about 50 million.

Florida Virtual, part of the state's public education system, is the leader in innovation, depth of courses, rigor and enrollment, said Bill Tucker, chief operating officer at Education Sector, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

Founded 10 years ago, it offers more than 90 courses ranging from such basics as English and math to specialties that include keyboarding, computer programming, Web design, Chinese, marine science, Earth-space science, macroeconomics and microeconomics.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/html>

Alhojje Sec.School
Teacher: Ridha Gaddour
Name-----

Full tem Test 1

Duration: 120'
December 2013
4th year Sc

Reading Comprehension: (12 marks)

1-Fill in this chart with information from the text. (4mks)

Student's name	class	Previous school	New school
-----	-----	-----	-----

2- Pick out details showing that the following statements are true. (2mks)

a/ There are various ways to contact the teachers and the other students.

b/ There are foreign students enrolled in this virtual school in addition to the American ones.

3- Why did Kelsey-Anne change from a regular school to a virtual school? (1mk)

4-If you were Kelsey-Anne, would you leave a regular school to enrol in a virtual one? Why? Why not? (1mk)

5- What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2mks)

They : -----

It : -----

6- Pick out words having the same meaning as: (2mks)

a/ Moving, changing (first paragraph) :-----

b/ Established (last paragraph) :-----

Language (6 marks)

7- Supply the right form or tense of the words in parentheses and choose the correct alternative (3mks)

(On/In/At) September 18, 2006, Anousheh Ansari captured headlines around the world as the first female private space *explorer*. She (**either / also / too**) earned a place in history as the fourth private explorer to visit space and the first astronaut of Iranian descent. She blasted off for an eight-day expedition aboard the International Space Station. This was the accomplishment of a lifelong dream for (**she**) -----

While in space, Anousheh (**write**) ----- a blog that invited readers to share her experience. She described the Russian Soyuz capsule during liftoff, talked about the sights and smells of the space station, and explained the intricacies of everyday activities such as (**eat**) ----- and washing up in zero gravity . The blog captured international attention. Her (**person**) ----- website and her blog site garnered more than 50 million hits from readers around the world.

8- Fill in the blanks with words from the list below (3mks)

For nearly 40 years, The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has ----- free school lunches as an incentive ----- the children of poor families to go to school. In 2006, the agency's school feeding programme helped 20,2 million children in 71 countries. Better ----- meals help make brighter children. Researches show that feeding can increase school -----by 100% and ----- children's performance in the classroom. Pass rates at schools ----- provide free food, invariably go up. More crucially, however, better nutrition helps brains grow and develop. Like any other organ in the body, the brain needs nutrition and exercise.

boosts – for – provided – unless - attendance – which – nutritious - exciting

Writing (12 marks)

1-Use the following ideas to write a short biography about **Isaac Newton**. (4mks)

- * Born 25 December 1642 Colsterworth, London.
- * 1665 / awarded with the Bachelor.
- * 1666-1668 worked at home dealing with mathematics, optics, physics and astronomy
- * Famous for theories of optics and for the law of gravity.
- * 1679: death of the mother caused Isaac nervous breakdown.
- * March 20, 1727 died in Kensington. Buried in Westminster Abbey.

The text:

A journey to a star... A dream comes true

1) Lucy Stuck, 83, felt like a teenager and could hardly sleep the night before the Jerry Lee Lewis concert. Wanting to look her best, she recruited family members to help her get ready. One daughter applied her make-up and fixed her hair, and a son made a trip to the drugstore to buy a camera. During the snowy drive to French Lick, Lucy was filled with joy and excitement, anticipating which songs would Jerry Lee Lewis sing and every move he would make. As Lucy's vision is blocked due to age, she took binoculars*, hoping they would help. She was led into the foyer of the French Lick Resort Casino, and on to the newly-remodelled Windsor Ballroom, where she stood in front of the stage where her favourite star would soon appear. "He would be in this building right now," she said. "I'm in the same building with him!" There wasn't a lot of planning involved, just a lifetime of dreams that brought Lucy to the concert. She first fell for the singer and rock-and-roll legend, J.L.Lewis, when she saw him on the Steve Allen Show in 1957, singing Great Balls of Fire. She was immediately attracted by his good looks, strong voice, lively piano playing, and irreverent personality. But seeing him in person was out of the question for the mother of eight children. Instead, she followed his career ups and downs through the years, playing her favourite record, Another Place, Another Time, over and over again. She daydreamed about someday seeing him in person.

2) Lucy made plans to go to a concert a couple of years ago, but was hospitalized with pneumonia a few days before the date. So on February 17, when Lucy took her seat in the sixth row in the Windsor Ballroom anticipating the great Jerry Lee Lewis, she couldn't believe her dream was finally coming true. She chatted to those around her, filling them in on Jerry Lee. When he finally took the stage, she tried her binoculars, but the energetic young fans blocked her sight. Some of the audience found an empty seat with a better view and guided Lucy to it. She listened attentively, mouthing the words to the songs and wiping tears from her eyes as he sang with a strong voice and played with nimble fingers flying over the piano keys. When the crowd sprang to their feet to rock with the song, Great Balls of Fire, Lucy was up there with them, dancing and singing along. With help, she made her way to the front of the stage, where Jerry stood singing and pounding the piano keys just a few feet away, but security hustled everyone back to their seats. After the show, Lucy relived every minute. "It was the best night of my life," she said.

- **binoculars:** an instrument with lenses for both eyes, making objects seem nearer.

Comprehension questions (12mks)

1) Choose the correct option (1mk)

- This text is : a/ descriptive
b/ informative
c/ narrative

2) Correct these false sentences with information from the text (2mks)

a/ Lucy is a middle-aged woman

b/ This is the second time Lucy attends Jerry Lee Lewis' concert.

3) Complete this paragraph with words from the text (3mks)

Lucy's ----- has always been to attend Jerry Lee Lewis' concert and to see him in ----- . When she finally had the chance to go to his concert, she had to take binoculars that would enable her to see the singer well. But they weren't of a great help. Some people helped her move to another seat since her----- was blocked.

4) Complete the following table with information from the text (2mks)

cause	result
1- Lucy was so excited about attending Jerry's concert the next day	that she----- -----
2-As she couldn't attend his concert when she was younger	she----- -----

5) Choose the correct meaning of the underlined idiomatic expressions in the text(2mks)

- a/ filling them in on Jerry lee: * giving more information about Jerry Lee
* repeating Jerry Lee's songs with them
* asking them information about Jerry Lee

- b/ mouthing the words to the songs: * correcting
* repeating
* writing

6) Pick out a sentence showing that Lucy enjoyed the concert very much

7) Why do you think Lucy is extremely moved by Jerry Lee Lewis?(1mk)

The text

"I go to collect water four times a day, in a 20-litre clay jar. It's hard work! ... I've never been to school as I have to help my mother with her washing work so we can earn enough money ... If I could alter my life, I would really like to go to school and have more clothes." —Elma Kassa, a 13-year old girl from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Education is central to development. It empowers people, strengthens nations, and is a key to attaining the Goals. Getting an education is one of the best things you, as a young person, can do for yourself to ensure you lead a better, more fulfilling and prosperous life. Education can significantly improve people's lives. It benefits people, society, and the world as a whole.

115 million children around the world aren't in school. Poor kids often can't go to school because they need to work to help their families survive. Two-thirds of the kids who don't go to school are girls. More than 70% of the out-of-school children are in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Of those who go to school, one-third drop out before they learn to read, write and count. Over 15% of children in developing countries don't complete a course of primary education. In Sub-Saharan Africa, less than 60% of children complete a course of primary education. Nearly 1 billion adults in the world are illiterate. Women account for 2/3 of all illiterate adults.

At the World Education Forum in 2000, world leaders and 180 countries agreed that by 2015 all boys and girls should be enrolled in school and be able to complete primary education. This international commitment to give every boy and girl in developing countries a good, free and compulsory primary school education is called Education for All (EFA). To help all countries accomplish the EFA goals, donors partnered up with the countries most in need to help *them* develop good education plans and help all kids complete their schooling. This global partnership called the Education for All was launched in 2002. Donors provide financial and technical support while countries work to develop sound national education plans. The partners include all major education donors, which is more than 30 bilateral, regional and international agencies and development banks. As of June 2005, these countries are receiving support: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Mauritania, Moldova, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Vietnam, and Yemen. The World Bank is the biggest funder of education in the world. *It* works closely with governments, United Nations, donors, civil society organizations, and other partners to help developing countries enroll all children, especially girls and disadvantaged children, in school and enable them to complete a primary education.

First, in whatever way you can, keep learning. Go to school, read books, learn a new craft, and talk to people who are different from you. Lifelong learning can enrich your life and the lives of those in your community socially and financially. Education helps you to strengthen your skills, learn your rights and find your voice.

<http://youthink.worldbank.org/issues/education/>

Comprehension questions (12mks)

1- Circle the correct answer(1)

- This text is:
- a- argumentative
 - b- narrative
 - c- informative

2- What's the effect of education on countries? (1)

3- When did the Education For All programme begin? (1)

4- What do the following figures represent? (2)

- a- 1,000,000,000: -----
- b- 60% : -----

5- Pick out details showing that the following statements are true. (2)

- c- Elma Kassa is illiterate. (Paragraph1)
 - d- The world leaders agreed that primary school education will be obligatory. (Paragraph 4)
-

6- What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2)

- a- Them (Paragraph4) : -----
- b- It (Paragraph 4) : -----

7- Pick out words having the same meaning as: (2)

- a- Registered (Paragraph 4) : -----
- b- Stop going to school (Paragraph3): -----

8- Express the following utterance differently using your own words: (1)

“Education helps you to strengthen your skills, learn your rights and find your voice.”

Language (6mks)

1) Fill in the blanks with words from the list (3mks)

On / frighten / online / embarrassing / consequently / bullying / unless / at

Parry Jackson heads an organization that teaches kids how to deal with cyber-bullies. She has found that 55% of kids aged 9 to 14 have experienced some form of online----- “It is a way of using interactive technology to humiliate, ----- or target another child,” she says. Bullies send hateful e-mails and instant messages. They create websites With mean words and ----- pictures. They steal passwords and spread rumors. Cyber-bullying may not cause physical pain, but it causes emotional hurt. Jessica, 13, felt that she couldn’t escape. “I was in tears every day when I went to the computer,” says Jessica “I wouldn’t log on----- one of my family is nearby”. A girl who had been picking ----- her at school started attacking her----- . Jessica is not alone. Many kids are feeling the pain of online teasing. The problem is beyond the playground and cafeteria. It is now in cyberspace, the world of computer.

2) Circle the correct option (3mks)

The UN World Food Programme hopes to improve the situation of the poorest countries such as Niger and Mali, where only a third of children go to school. The programme consists (**about/ of / in**) making free school meals more widely available in the areas of (**greater/ greatest/great**) poverty. The idea is that not only parents will find it more attractive to send their children to school, (**but/ however/ yet**) also the kids themselves will be brighter, more alert and more receptive to learning if they are well (**fed/ feeding/ feed**). They will therefore achieve better academic results. This was a point made by one official at the opening ceremony. He called for “a crusade against hunger and (**malnourished/ malnourishment/ malnourishing**)” in schools. The WFP said its existing school meals programme in West Africa showed that the introduction of school feeding programmes (**had doubled / doubled/ have doubled**) within a year and had produced a 40 % improvement in academic results.

Writing (12mks)

1) Use the notes below to develop a 4-line paragraph about virtual schools (4mks)

- The virtual school: modern approach/ internet/ learning on line
- Benefits: comfortable/ good option/ handicapped/ bullied children
- Side effects: no exercise/ limited social life
