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Индивидуальный конкурс эссе

“Единство в различии”

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

«Насколько эффективно дистанционное образование? В чем его преимущества перед очным форматом? На примере успешных онлайн-программ одного американского и одного российского вуза»

«Does distance learning really work and why? Please, compare one Russian and one American university with highly efficient online programs»



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Theses

1. The outbreak of coronavirus as an impulse to distance learning.
2. What is a distance learning? Its scope of application.
3. The comparison of offline and online learning formats.
4. The efficiency of distance learning.
5. The review of American successful online platform 'Coursera'. Its advantages and peculiarities.
6. The reasons to choose the Russian online learning website 'Lektorium'. Its pros and conditions.

Distance education had to gain popularity 3 years ago due to the COVID-19 epidemic. To begin with, people were overtaken by the first wave of coronavirus in January 2020. In China, the virus began to spread with great speed. A huge number of people have contracted this disease, and most of them died. Cities began to be isolated, it was forbidden to leave the home. So, students and teachers were forced to adapt to distance learning. The pandemic has brought a new approach: reforming educational models and strategies. For example, it was necessary to create a new learning plan, to convert all the materials into an online format. The distance format came to kindergarten, educational institutions and work. The scale of the crisis affected such areas as: schools, universities, theaters, museums, libraries, archives, factories, firms, banks and so on.

Distance learning in schools is the interaction of students and teachers with each other at a distance, in which online tools are used, for example, gadgets: a computer, a phone, a laptop, and tablet. Also, the remote format is manifested at work, in adults. That is, employees perform their duties not at work, but at home, using the Internet. Thanks to the Internet, almost all spheres of life can be used through a remote format.

Many people think that it is easier to work and study online, from home, but others disagree. The question is asked "Why is this happening?". Well, let's start with the fact that we need to consider some of the pros and cons of full-time and part-time learning formats. I think it's definitely convenient to study or work in person being an extrovert, that is, people who need live communication. And the correspondence format is more suitable for introverts, such people are laconic and like to be alone. They can also understand technology well, so it will be much more convenient for them to study from home. That is, in general, it depends on the type of people or a person's character.

Here are a few pros and cons about these learning formats. The advantages of the face-to-face format include: live communication, it is easier to assimilate the material obtained on the spot. And to the cons refer the waste of free time for the road and for other needs; it also causes problems with combining study with work, and sometimes this format of training causes psychological trauma. I studied both full-time and in absentia. And I can say that it is more convenient for me to study by correspondence. Since I save my time and can spend it on something more useful than, for example, if I spend it on the road, on unnecessary conversations with people, and so on. I believe that the distance learning format is very convenient because you can study from anywhere in the world, but the main thing is to have self-discipline, since very often there may be a desire to postpone work until better times and this is one of the disadvantages. By the way, I have many friends who are also comfortable with this format of training, it is easier for them

to perceive information sitting at home, alone, than in a huge company of people, where there may be unnecessary noise.

According to the Almendingen K, Morseth MS, Gjølstad E, Brevik A, Tørris C study, ‘the sudden shift to digital teaching was challenging for students, but it appears that they adapted quickly to the new situation’. It was difficult at first because of the lockdown and isolation, but people quickly got used to it and they began to like the remote format. Teachers and students have accepted the correct organization and management of the online broadcast of live education and the fact that the training format has many advantages and an impressive role in improving the quality of teaching. However, teachers and students agree that, after all, they are more comfortable and familiar with the full-time learning format, and also that the distance learning method is inferior to the traditional method, therefore, it is considered better to teach traditional offline courses or a combination of online and offline modes. **Look at application 1.** Teachers tried harder for online training before classes began, and also used the convenience of the Internet as much as possible to conduct a huge number of checks, which improved the quality of teaching, but from feedback after classes, including the adaptability of teachers and enthusiasm in lessons, excellent student answers to questions, the level of usability of equipment in the classroom, the frequency of teacher interaction both the student and the overall satisfaction with the learning effect, the teachers' assessment of online courses was lower than that of traditional offline courses. **Look at application 2.** The teacher and the students gave a good assessment of the system and management of this online lesson in the live broadcast, scoring 10 points out of 10, a moderate teacher score of 9.8, as well as an average student score of 9. **Look at application 3.**

Experts, after conducting the study, note that there is no difference between online and offline learning formats as such.

That is, students of both formats took the test almost the same way. It is believed that a high-quality online course is not inferior to the traditional format. But at the same time, online learning is still preferred to offline format, because from anywhere in the world you can get the right material for study or work. For example, an African student can study at an American university while being at home. At the same time, the student does not lose anything: neither time nor money, deadlines are adjusted to him/her; there is also a flexible schedule. Another advantage of the remote format is accessibility, that is, having only the Internet, a computer or another gadget convenient for you, as well as if you have self-discipline, the desire to increase the level of knowledge can be very easy and simple to learn. Distance learning in universities is always cheaper, unlike full-time. There are various, accessible and voluminous materials, as well as resources.

American online university - <https://www.coursera.org/> one of the most successful online educational platforms in the world based on such universities, as Princeton University, University of Michigan, Stanford University. What is this university for? Now I will try to cover the question asked. Coursera is part of the field in online education. This is a project on which the main universities of the world. There is quite a large selection of free training courses on completely different topics. These topics include: art, business, personal development, health, language learning, and so on.

Now let's talk about the advantages of Coursera. Let's start with the fact that these courses differ in that almost all of them are in English, which, by the way, can well raise the level of English knowledge. Coursera is taught by teachers with distinctive qualifications, we can say that they are the best in their field. I would like to give an example of a teacher who was remembered by one of the Coursera students the most, he studied at a business course. Professor Barbara Kann is remembered as the most interesting teacher who is a professional in her field. This is a woman who created her own course in marketing, and then led it, is the director of a well-known consulting company. But this is not all the advantage of this American university. Firstly, this is what we talked about at the very beginning, you can study when it's convenient for you and most importantly, where it's convenient for you. Let's give an example. Do you want to take a course on the road? No problem: Coursera has mobile apps, so you can easily listen to the course and get new material wherever you are. Secondly, you can get a certificate from the university where you took the course, but it will cost \$ 40. Of course, the question arises "Why is it needed?" Let's look into this issue. This certificate is necessary for others, as it will be proof that you have completed the course and learned something new. Also, of course, it will be useful abroad when applying for a job. For the students themselves, the best proof will be their remaining knowledge after the studied course. The only downside is that here you will need to overcome your laziness and be organized, as this is required most of all. A huge number of people who decided to engage in self-development, self-education started together with this American university. And none of the students regretted it, because in 2 months people achieved more than in 4 years of study at ordinary universities or colleges.

I would like to back up the above with a review by a former Coursera student:

"I first heard about the site about five years ago and was amazed by the genius of the idea - being anywhere in the world, you can study with professors from the best universities in the USA and Europe. The atmosphere in which some courses take place is very captivating - the authors talk about their university and the city in which it is located, and you really feel like a student, for example, at the University of Michigan.

Over the past couple of years, I have taken courses at universities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Stanford and several Russian ones. Ours, against the background of the Americans, look weak. I study in areas related to personnel management, negotiations, marketing, psychology. Recently, specializations have appeared on the portal - after taking 3-6 courses on one topic, you can study it in all details and get a certificate of completion of a large curriculum. Many courses are held in an interactive format - you complete a lecturer's assignment, which is then evaluated by your classmates, and you - their assignments. Among other things, you can remotely get an MBA on the portal, of course, for absolutely fabulous money.

Since the creation of Coursera, a huge number of online universities have appeared on the Internet, but all of them are an order of magnitude below the level. Moreover, since its inception, Coursera has also not stood still in its development, creating new products and connecting new partners." (student's photo application 4)

I believe that this review confirmed the above by me. But besides that, I would also like to say that I myself have friends who use the platform for professional development, the site gives the opportunity to study with lecturers from the best universities of the American university. Of course, these people are scarier than me.

I would also like to tell you which course interested me. Personally, the course "English for Media Literature" seemed to me. You may ask why? And I will answer you. Because, since early childhood, I have been studying foreign languages, I believe that all the material is well absorbed by me and it is easy for me to perceive information on this topic. If we talk in more detail about the course itself, then this course is intended for those who are not native English speakers, for those who are interested in learning more about media literacy in the United States. In this course, I will be given the opportunity to study various types of media, such as newspapers, magazines, television and social networks. It also gives me the opportunity to develop a broader understanding of the role of the media in our lives, while simultaneously expanding my vocabulary and acquiring language skills.

Now let's compare an American university with a Russian one, below I will tell you more about our university.

For a Russian university, I chose this one: <https://www.lektorium.tv/> - This project combines a platform for publishing open online courses and a video archive of lectures from leading universities (about 4,000 lessons in total). Here you can improve your knowledge of school subjects, master new disciplines or take advanced training programs. You can study freely or according to a schedule, with

or without certification. The direction is divided into tasks that are revealed exactly according to the schedule. Tasks, therefore, are recommended to be carried out in a timely manner. The lesson consists directly of a video tutorial, as well as a self-test. In some cases, auxiliary materials used are added in the form of links to other tools, notes, demonstrations. At the end of any task, an exercise should be performed, for which an assessment is given. At the end of each lesson, you need to pass an exam. It is always possible to look at your own achievements in the "Progress" menu and also talk in the forum together with classmates and a teacher.

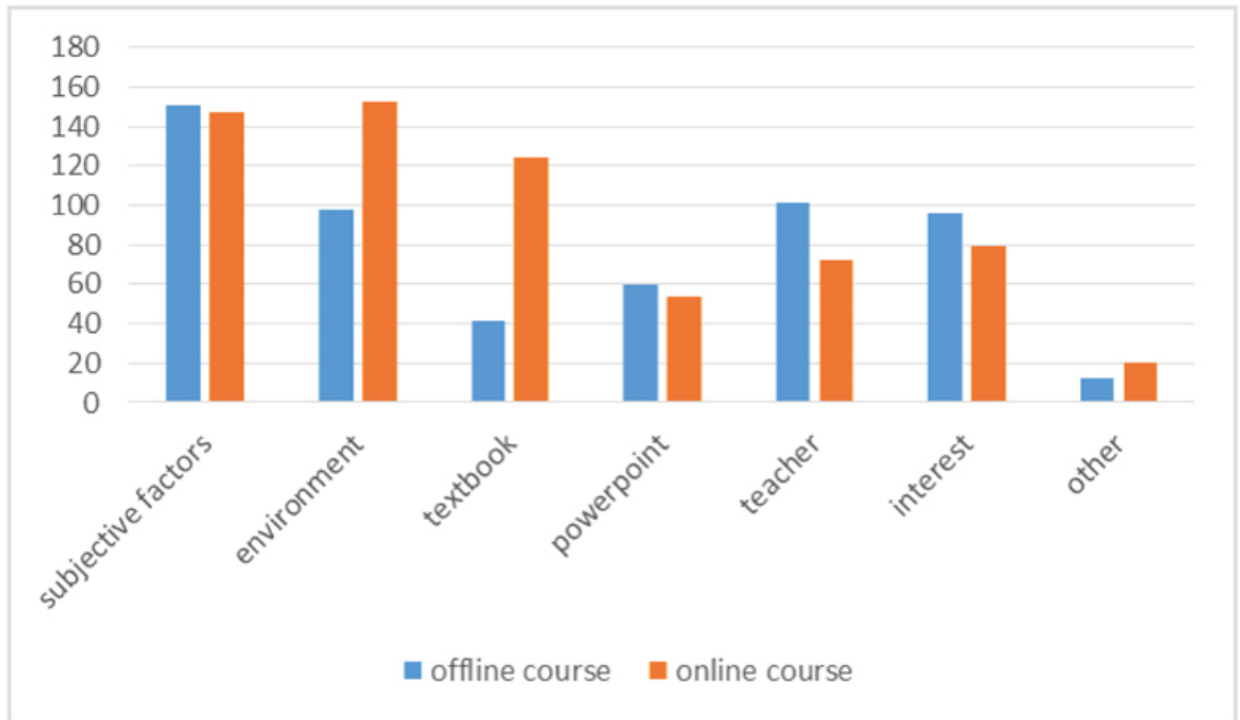
There are courses for schoolchildren as well. And after conducting research, I also decided to take the course "Mnemonics: how to develop memory". Since I have memory problems, I decided that this course is right for me. After all, in this course I will be able to quickly learn to memorize a large amount of information. They will tell me about techniques and techniques that have effectively helped people. I will have a free schedule, 38 lessons, a chat with the author, that's convenient, if I can ask questions that concern me, and also after graduation I will be given a certificate, which is also not bad.

Well, I would like to conclude my statements by saying that, after all, the remote format is effective nowadays and is considered more convenient for the majority of the population, unlike the traditional format. Here are the positive and negative sides. The positive ones include: saving time, you can receive and also give information from anywhere in the world, thanks to the Internet and online tools, flexible schedule. The negative ones include: a huge amount of time for gadgets, which is harmful to vision, some people learn the material better in face-to-face format, so for them the remote format is not so effective. I think it's easier and more convenient to study in absentia, but I still like having free time in stock.

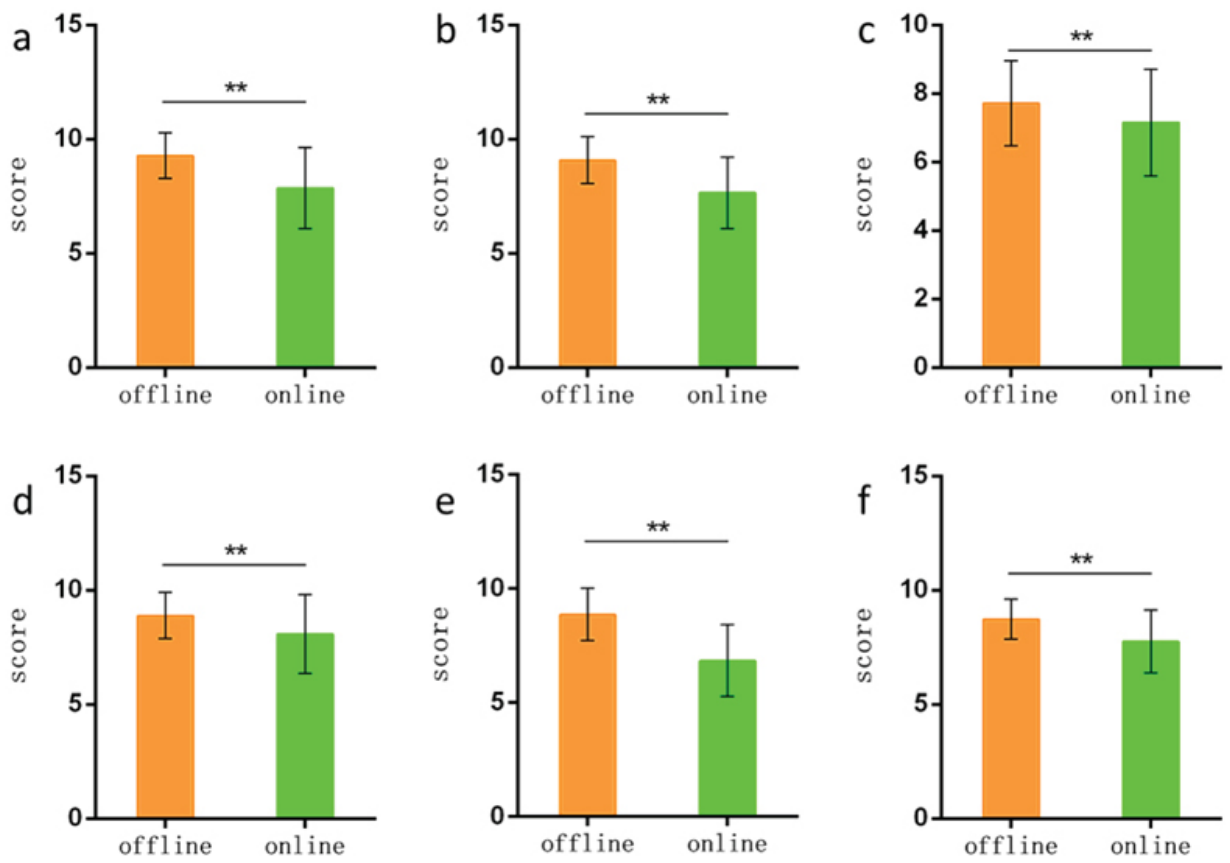
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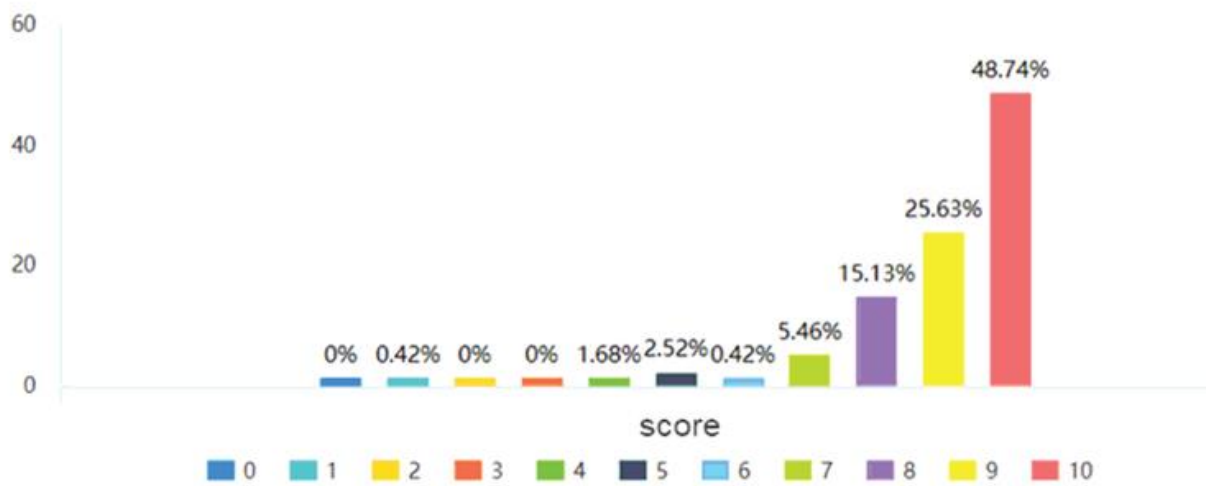
Appendix



Application 1. Analysis of the factors influencing learning effect.



Application 2. Teachers' evaluation results.



Application 3. Survey on students' satisfaction.



Application 4. Coursera's student's photo.