Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge Professional Development

Online teaching and learning transcript

What for you is the biggest challenge about planning lessons to take place online?

Lisa Herron 0:10-0:47

The biggest challenge about planning online lessons has been making sure that the assignment is not too overwhelming for the students. Not too time consuming because I'm not sure exactly what is going on at home. They may be sharing computers with their siblings or with their parents. It may be that a family member is sick, the internet connection is not working. Plus they also have to consider all of their other classes that they have to do as well. So one of my biggest challenges is making sure that I covered the lessons that I need to cover without making it too overwhelming for the students.

Dominick Goggins 0:48-1:08

The biggest problem with online learning now is looking at the students positionality. We don't know whether their parents could be laid off, they could be sick. Parents could be working from home, they might only have one computer, limited internet. So when planning lessons we have to look at it from the students point of view.

Deepti Chandiramani 1:09-1:44

Lesson planning is very important for a good learning session. The biggest challenge in preparing my virtual class lesson plan, is that it should not be boring and not become a lecture based session. The plan has to be designed to make sure that it is interesting and engaging for students. I would like to add more videos, PowerPoint presentations and some activities to make my online plan more attractive and interesting for students. I have also changed the timeline of the course to be covered in my online classes, as it differs from the face to face classes in school.

Hira Parveen 1:44-2:16

Inclusion. At times not all learners are able to attend online sessions due to unavailability of resources or connectivity issues. Then how to engage every learner in every lesson, that is the biggest challenge. So my learners, they usually keep their videos off, so I can't really ensure that they are there unless they participate in the class discussion. So I need to plan my lessons such that it ensures maximum class participation.

Jennifer Johnson 2:16-2:34

Also, the tasks that are going to be designed, the platforms that are going to be used - are they actually going to motivate and engage the students intellectually, or will they be able to, you know, sort of, just show up and not actually be present?

What advantages have you seen when working with students online?

Lisa Herron 2:39-3:00

Although my students have been working online, I have found that my students seem to be much more relaxed, much more rested because thay have been sleeping later and they have been scheduling their

activities and their assignments and organising themselves much better than they would during the normal school year.

Mazen Nasr 3:01-4:00

Working with the students online has many advantages and in my opinion online learning creates more opportunities for interaction between teachers and students. It has the benefit of allowing instructors to individually interact with their students. Also, the online space or the online learning experience allowed teachers and instructors to use and include many innovative technologies like games, video conferencing and animations in their teaching. Students and teachers were able to be creative and were able to benefit from this learning experience. Moreover, working online allowed us as teachers to use new ways in assessing students, and now formative and summative assessments are automated, and this allowed us to create new ways in assessment and bring about meaningful interactions.

Dominick Goggins 4:01-4:46

Students are more likely to ask questions now, it's not just limited to class time. They'll ask questions at random hours of the night. Currently, with Ramadan, most of my students are active at around 8 till 3 o'clock in the morning. So that's one advantage of online learning. They can access the lessons at any time that suits them, and students are free to do their homework and other tasks when they feel ready to, which I think is a great advantage because when they sit down to do something they are in the mood to. They produce a lot better work, their mind is focused and students are in control of how much or how little they do.

Ava Khalfaoui 4:47-5:38

There have been some really good advantages from switching to a fully online learning platform. There's no time wasted between lessons moving from classroom to classroom, you have all of your resources electronically, so no more paper, it can all be stored online so it can't be lost. It's been great to experiment with some new resources and have some planning and CPD time. But ultimately there have been some fantastic free resources given online, so companies have been giving extended free membership or full one year membership to help support the learning community which we can take advantage of.

Martin Mak 5:38-6:28

So I know that a lot of people prefer face to face teaching, which I do, but online learning has indeed brought about some advantages which we hadn't seen before. So the first one is the flexibility to do team teaching as we don't have the physical space constraints anymore, we can combine two classes with almost 50 people in one virtual classroom, and two teachers can be team teaching together. And the second advantage is that all the students work has been more organised and easier to access. Now all the past assignments have been organised under different topics in Google Classroom, so if students want to look at the essays I've marked last week, they can find it on Google Classroom easily, so it is really, really convenient.

Jennifer Johnson 6:28-7:25

The advantages of online interaction with students are many, especially the shy learners in the classroom are very, very prominent in the virtual lessons. The second benefit of the virtual lessons will be that our students are mostly typers rather than writers so they prefer typing compared to writing. So I feel that because the assignments were of a different nature, they didn't have to hand write the assignments anymore, they were very keen on it. The advantage in terms of temperament, I feel that volunteer spirit and how technology connects all of us so that distance doesn't matter, and the connection between teachers and students that, regardless of what the current situation is, that the teacher is going to be there for the student, is something that has been a huge advantage in these online lessons.