

THE VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

Neal Sumner

1 March 2006

Part 1

1. What does the lecturer mean by the 'collapse of time'?
2. What does the lecturer mean by the 'death of distance'?

Part 2

3. What is the third area the lecturer says he will discuss?
4. Why do people have to carry on learning and developing skills throughout their life, unlike in the past?
5. What is the advantage of digitisation?
6. What does he say about the cost of higher education?

Part 3

7. What is the challenge to traditional universities?
8. What might the disadvantage be?
9. What does he want students to think about during the lecture?
10. What are the similarities between traditional university education in the past and present?

Part 4

11. What impact did the Industrial Revolution have on education?
12. How did 'distance education' develop?
13. What is 'Any time, any place, any pace' learning?

Part 5

14. The lecturer mentions two reasons why traditional universities are being challenged. What are they?
15. Where is the centre of university education going to be?

16. In what way is education in schools a completely different way of learning from the past?
17. What factor does the lecturer mention is having a huge impact on the content and delivery of education?

Part 6

18. What are the advantages of an e-learning environment?

Part 7

19. What was the result of National Student Satisfaction survey carried out last year?
20. What does the lecturer mean by the term 'knowledge nomads'?
21. What does the lecturer say about the issue of intellectual property?

Part 8

22. What kind of collaboration is taking place between universities?
23. What might be lost if the traditional university model disappears?

Part 9

24. He mentions the fact it is cheaper. What issue does he ask his audience to think about?
25. What trend does he mention China and India are reversing?
26. Who is providing degree level courses for their own employees?

Part 10

27. What will be the impact of the increasing development of wireless technology?

Key

1. Collapse of time relates to the fact there is now immediate communication between people with mobiles, e-mail and MSN messaging. In the past, there was a time gap in communication.
2. 'Death of distance' means that no part of the world is now far away. It is possible to talk in a virtual classroom to people at the other side of the world. Technology has brought about the death of distance.
3. The pressure for change.

4. Pace of change is very rapid, so there is a need to keep re-training to keep up with the job and a need to learn new skills. In the past, initial training was enough for life.
5. You can find any information you want with the click of a button e.g. Encyclopaedia Britannica.
6. It is very high. Many young people are in debt, or working a lot of hours (16 – 20 per week) in order to keep going.
7. A lot of private companies have their own corporate universities e.g. Microsoft .
8. There may affect the impartiality of research, as corporations are controlling the funding of universities
9. He wants them to think about whether the changes due to technology are good or bad.
10. a) You had to go and seek knowledge then, as you do now in a face-to-face university.
b) Only special people who could go into them, with qualifications. It was for an elite. There is control of knowledge and access.
11. It created the necessity for a skilled workforce to manage power stations, railways, etc. People needed to be able to read, and use numbers.
12. It was not easy to build universities as quickly as they were needed, so in places like Australia and the US, materials were posted to students, to give them access to education.
13. It refers to people being able to learn when and where they want, at the speed they want, due to technology.
14. a) Rising costs, due to the need for more specialisation.
b) Corporations are taking over education, to provide training in the skills needed.
15. From the West towards India and China, where millions are graduating.
16. Nowadays technology is used all the time in the classroom. Students have e-portfolios.
17. The massification of education, the increase in numbers of students going to university. This increase is particularly noticeable in the East, in places like India and China.
18. a) It is a-synchronous, not in real time, which means you can learn when you want. (A lot of students like to work between midnight and 4 am.)
b) It makes education accessible to people who could not otherwise afford it. It is much cheaper.
c) You can update materials easily. There is no need to use books deal with photocopies
19. The Open University online course was the most popular, where students were satisfied. They were supported online and with traditional distance learning.
20. He is referring to people who go to different places to study and work, who have transferable skills. The students at the lecture travel here to study and bring the acquired skill back their own country.
21. It is easy to copy anything from the internet. In the past the West had a privileged position concerning knowledge, but that control of knowledge is being eroded.
22. An attempt to provide courses for a global market.

23.
 - a) Quality of teaching will fail.
 - b) Where will research be carried out?
 - c) The loss of conviviality, i.e. the experience of leaving parents and making friends, being responsible for yourself.
 - d) Students learn to live with other people, which is important for the future.
24. About whether they feel the online experience is as of high a quality as that of face to face.
25. Until now, students have tended to go to the West for a university education, but now these countries want to keep students at home and educate them.
26. Corporations in collaboration with a traditional university.
27. It will mean people can do their work wherever they want, with a laptop.