You should spend about 40 minutes on this task. Write about the following topic.

Some universities offer online courses as an alternative to classes delivered on campus. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words.

Nowadays, some universities offer online courses in addition to their traditional on-site ones. Although, this new choice has remarkable positive points, I think its drawbacks out-weights its benefits, at least with its current condition.

Online courses offer more flexibility both for instructors and students. For example, there is no spatial nor temporal constrains to attend a class. In one side, there are Instructors which gain enough time to prepare their course materials and the flexibility to modify them as soon as any change is required. On the other side, there are students which with online courses can attend the class whenever and wherever they are.

Despite the above mentioned pros, there are serious cons with online courses. Maybe the most important issue shows itself in the online exams. Unfortunately, the verification of the originality of student answers to the exam questions is a challenging issue. To overcome this problem, there are some tips to taking online exam, e.g. project based exams or designing student’ specific questions. But even with these tips the main issue is remained unsolved. Perhaps, this issue causes online degrees to gain little or no value for employments. Another important issue is with required infra-structure. A high bandwidth and stable internet are mandatory for attending an online course which are not available in all countries. So talented students in such countries do not find their opportunity to attend online courses.

In conclusion, I think online courses are not mature enough and their requirements are not available far and wide. Maybe in future, on-campus classes will be replaced with their online counterparts and education turns to a borderless activity.