



## **I – READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks )**

1. At the end of an average high school career and after dropping out of community college one year later, Dennis Snider realized his destiny was pretty clear. He started a well-paying job in a factory, and expected to spend the rest of his life doing manual labor. However, a minor injury he had sustained playing football in high school turned out to lead to degenerative joint disease (DJD), a condition which affects the cartilage in the knees.
2. At 21, Dennis was too young to consider knee-replacement surgery so, uneducated and unskilled, Dennis' DJD ruled out the only career for which he was qualified. For six years, he fruitlessly applied for job after job facing continual rejection due to his lack of qualifications. "I kept running into dead ends," he says. Despite his mother and wife's support, Dennis' depression increased.
3. Dennis knew that education was his only escape, but the circumstances didn't look hopeful. "I considered different colleges that might be able to provide me with what I needed to get a job," he says, "but I had absolutely no reliable means of transportation." However, all this changed when Dennis' wife discovered a college which offers degrees that can be earned exclusively online. "We had a second-hand computer which would barely work," says Dennis, "but I realized I could get my degree this way – a degree and a career !"
4. Dennis enrolled in the college's associate degree program in graphic design and multimedia, and is currently halfway through completing the coursework. He attributes much of his success to the personal connection he has maintained with his professors and fellow students. "I'm a very shy person, but I can really get into the threaded discussions," he says. "And if I ever have a question or a problem, I can post it and never have to wait long for a response – the professors' attention to detail is amazing."
5. Once Dennis completes his degree, he won't even have to wait until graduation to get started. "I've already been hired for several graphic design projects!"





### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Tick ( ✓ ) the most suitable title for this text.(1 mark)

- a) Making it to the top despite handicap ☐
- b) A brilliant career ruined by a disease ☐
- c) Online learning success story ☐

2) Find in the text details showing that the following statements are false. (2 marks)

- a) Because of DJD, Dennis never thought of going back to school. (paragraph 3)  
.....
- b) Dennis stood all alone in his hardship. (paragraph 2)  
.....

3) Complete the following paragraph with reference to the text. (3 marks)

After leaving school without proper qualifications, Dennis got his first ..... . It was secure and ..... . However he was ..... to quit because of a degenerative disease.

4) Find in the text words or expressions meaning nearly the same as : (2 marks)

- a) leaving school at an early age (paragraph 1) : .....
- b) with no success (paragraph 2) : .....

5) Focus on paragraphs 4 and 5 to find out three benefits Dennis drew from online learning. (3 marks)

- a) .....
- b) .....
- c) .....

6) Give a personal justified answer to the following question. (1 mark)

What do you think of Dennis ?

I think Dennis is ..... because .....

.....