

1955

Civil rights activists led by **Martin Luther King Jr.** successfully complete their 4-day 50-mile march from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.



1969

During their honeymoon, **John Lennon and Yoko Ono** hold their first Bed-In for Peace at the Amsterdam Hilton Hotel (until March 31).

1971

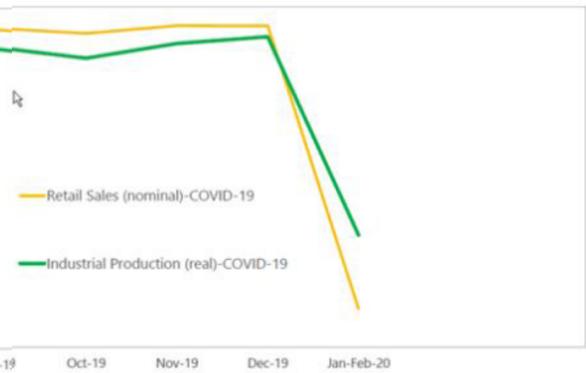
The Army of the Republic of Vietnam abandon an attempt to cut off the **Ho Chi Minh trail** in Laos.

1979

The first fully functional Space Shuttle orbiter, Columbia, is delivered to the **John F. Kennedy** Space Center to be prepared for its first launch.

halt
ial production and retail sales suffered
e drops.

duction and retail sales in Mainland China, in percent change from a year ago)



and IMF staff calculations.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

In China, the authorities stepped in early to backstop interbank markets and provide financial support to firms under pressure, while letting the renminbi adjust to external pressures. Among other measures, this included guiding banks to work with borrowers affected by the outbreak; incentivizing banks to lend to smaller firms via special funding from China's central bank; and providing targeted cuts to reserve requirements for banks. Larger firms, including state-owned en-

terprises, enjoyed relatively stable credit access throughout—in large part because China's large state banks continued to lend generously to them. Of course, some of the relief tools come with their own problems. For example, allowing a broad range of debtors more time to meet their financial obligations can undermine financial soundness later on if it is not aimed at the problem at hand and time-limited; subsidized credit can be misallocated; and

Success in containing the virus comes at the price of slowing economic activity, no matter whether social distancing and reduced mobility are voluntary or enforced.

keeping already non-viable firms alive could hold back productivity growth later. Clearly, wherever possible, using well-targeted instruments is the way to go.

Not over

While there are reassuring signs of economic normalization in China—most larger firms have reported reopening their doors and many local employees are back at their jobs—stark risks remain. This includes new infections rising again as national and international travel resumes. Even in the absence of another outbreak in China, the ongoing pandemic is creating economic risks. For example, as more countries face outbreaks and global financial markets gyrate, consumers and firms may remain wary, depressing global demand for Chinese goods just as the economy is getting back to work. Therefore, Chinese policymakers will have to be ready to support growth and financial stability if needed. Given the global nature of the outbreak, many of these efforts will be most effective if coordinated internationally.

ng and learning

From the outset, look for ways to establish routines that allow everyone to get organised and be engaged. This is about using your existing expertise as teachers to help organise, support and encourage learners to make the best of the situation.

physically together in a classroom, that doesn't mean they can't work together on a project. One of the most effective ways to support remote teaching and learning is to give every learner an opportunity to deliver a topic area.

For example, you could divide up the current areas of study and ask learners to teach the rest of the class. This may be as individuals or in small groups. You could ask learners to hold a seminar and include online tools to engage their audience. They might, for example, deliver a short, interactive presentation covering key information and then follow that up with an online challenge to gather feedback and assess understanding.

There are different ways of approaching this. A class could meet online one day, share their challenges and then

agree to meet a few days later to explore their findings. The role of the teacher is key to establish and drive the learning expectations. However, there is a huge opportunity to open up the work further to the learners themselves.

Have the right kit

No specific hardware or software is required beyond an internet connection. Standard office software tools are particularly effective to collate ideas online and develop collaborative responses. An online Word document or shared Google doc can be edited by many people at once. Try these ideas out, share with your learners when you would appreciate their help. Their response will astound you. Here learners will develop skills for their future working life at the same time as completing their school work.

Stay safe

The tools you choose should be in line with your school's eSafety policy. It's important to refer to your school procedures and discuss any concerns with colleagues.

To sum up, stretch your learners and ask for their suggestions and ideas. Keep classes talking, sharing and collaborating. And most importantly, remember that it may take time to get it right. This is a learning experience for everyone!

(Andrew is eLearning Manager at Cambridge Assessment International Education.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The Republican bill is very bad. Democrats can see that so long as their leaders are opposed to it. But I worry that once Pelosi and Schumer cut a deal, a substantial majority of Democrats will immediately support it, no matter what the actual terms are.

@zachdcarter

02



Congress must approve the deal, without all of the nonsense, today. The longer it takes, the harder it will be to start up our economy. Our workers will be hurt!

@realDonaldTrump

03



#Chloroquine has now been added to treatment guidelines for #Coronavirus for South Korea, China & Belgium. Successful treatments in France & Australia are powerful. Great Britain has now banned its export. We must ensure adequate supply for the USA!

@VanHipp

04



Korea takes the GPS data from an infected patient's phone and notifies everyone who was physically near that patient of that fact, for example. We won't do that. Hence we probably need at least double the penetration of testing (12k/1MM residents, or 4MM tests) to get there.

@Avik

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Online Learning in the Age of Disruption

PROF. ODEH AL-JAYYOUSI

In investment, it is always useful to diversify investment portfolios so as to secure sustainable economies. Besides, to ensure energy security, it is vital for nations to have an energy mix of both renewable and non-renewable energy. The same logic applies to education platforms and models. During the current disruptions due to Corona virus, nations worldwide are adopting social distancing, curfews, and limited gathering, hence, the adoption and diffusion of a variety of on-line learning platforms is not an option but a strategic resort to sustain education. Despite the fact that new technologies exist to support education and learning, the integration of technology in schools and universities are below expectation. We need to be mindful that new business models and innovation in education are likely to offer qualitative changes in terms of efficiency, quality and equity. It will be prudent for educational institutions and policy makers not to be risk averse and move from their comfort zone and embed digital technology in the education system at all levels.

There is immense pressure from policy makers and the public to keep our lives normal under disruption. Simply, policy makers are commissioned to ensure timely delivery of all products and services. Also, students do not want to miss an academic year. Parents are keen to see their kids graduate and businesses do not want to lose profits or to go out of business. Some people see their joy and energy by being outdoors and now they must adapt to new lifestyles and discipline. Families are faced with real challenges to stay home despite all the social media outlets and mass media.

Success factors for technology integration include strategy, leadership, appropriate technology and organizational culture. Specifically, to foster an innovation-friendly culture to integrate e-learning and to give it a meaning and a purpose, educators need to master new ways of delivering and preparing the educational content to enhance interaction, critical thinking and imagination. In theory, technology adoption models view that users need to perceive that the technology is useful and easy to apply. In many instances, the challenge for technology adoption stems in educators' resistance to apply technology in education since they are used to human interaction and that is why they are labelled as "digital refugees" compared with students who are technology savvy and "digital natives". Another challenge beyond technology acceptance from educators is the selection of adequate methods for students' assessment and evaluation. However, there are many digital platforms and educational learning systems like MOODLE which allows for attendance, discussion, and exams. Educators have to swim upstream and unlock the potential of digital technology. The key challenges for on-line learning is to ensure digital equity for the have nots and bridge the digital divide for communities who are off-line.

The model of learning at the Arab Open University is unique and disruptive. It proved to meet strict standards of quality and excellence in education. This is a result of sound investment in ICT infrastructure, capacity building and curriculum development. Many schools and universities worldwide realized the potential of digital technology which helped to transform the educational practice. During the pandemic of Corona virus, my house was transformed to a virtual university. My wife and my daughter both deliver their classes on-line. This compelled me to learn new digital tools to communicate with my students. The challenge is to choose a time where there is no noise to disrupt my lecture. This is an emerging model of crisis-driven innovation and co-creation.

Digital technologies play a vital role in fostering global partnerships, introducing innovative pedagogic models and in harnessing simulation like gaming, virtual reality, virtual labs and real-time learning. More importantly, the education industry has a window of opportunity to listen to customers and students and co-create appropriate educational technology. At the personal level, maintaining the right balance between work and life is the cornerstone for a resilient society. While working from home, students need to adopt new lifestyle including playing sport, going for a walk, playing Scrabble, Monopoly, and Master Mind, reading books on-line, taking free on-line courses. For researchers, this is an ideal time to publish or perish.

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