Micro Credentials v. Traditional Degrees

Presently, there is a movement towards earning micro-credentials in addition to, or in lieu of, traditional university degrees. Micro-credentials have been described as bite-sized chunks of education, which include online courses, bootcamp certificates and apprenticeships with specialty providers and online learning platforms. According to Simon Nelson, CEO of FutureLearn, a learning platform that offers online courses through its partnerships with universities, micro-credentials have stemmed from three global “macro trends.” The first trend is that there is a higher demand for high-quality tertiary education. Secondly, the digital transformation experienced by many industries has created a skills gap left unfilled by traditional education systems. Finally, the higher education sector has been digitized in response to a greater demand for people to easily acquire new skills in addition to their university degree. Ultimately, micro-credentials are often sought after by companies looking to source talent beyond just university graduates and target candidates with non-traditional backgrounds. However, whether these new forms of education will replace or simply supplement university degrees remains unknown, since the current job market still values candidates who have earned degrees.

Q1 What are micro-credentials?
A They are like traditional university degrees except earned online.
B They are smaller forms of education that can substitute or complement traditional education.
C They bite-sized forms of education used only to supplement college degrees.
D They are chunks of education that replace traditional degrees.

Q2 Which of the following was not provided as an example of micro-credentials?
A Bootcamp certificates.
B Online courses.
C Self-study classes.
D Apprenticeships with online learning platforms.

Q3 How have micro-credentials become so popular in the current job market?
A There is a higher demand for high-quality tertiary education.
B There is a skills gap created by digital transformation in different industries.
C A more digitized higher education sector.
D All of the above.

Q4 What is the main purpose of the text?
A Micro-credentials are becoming more prevalent in the job market.
B Micro-credentials are useful but will never replace traditional degrees.
C Micro-credentials are a valuable way to supplement a college degree.
D Micro-credentials are becoming much more valuable than university degrees.
ANSWERS: Micro Credentials v. Traditional Degrees

Q1. What are micro-credentials?
   B. They are smaller forms of education that can substitute or complement traditional education.

Q2. Which of the following was not provided as an example of micro-credentials?
   C. Self-study classes.

Q3. How have micro-credentials become so popular in the current job market?
   D. All of the above.

Q4. What is the main purpose of the text?
   A. Micro-credentials are becoming more prevalent in the job market.