Are E-Learning Courses Right for Me?

How well would an e-Learning course fit your circumstances and learning style?
Honestly answer the following questions, and score as directed below. No one will see this but you!
(Adapted from “Are Telecourses for Me?” as printed in The Agenda, PBS-Adult Learning Service, Spring, 1994. This questionnaire was developed by the Northern Virginia Community College Extended Learning Institute.)

1. My need to take this course now is:
   a. High – I need to take it immediately for a specific goal.
   b. Moderate – I could take it on campus later or substitute another course.
   c. Low – It could be postponed.

2. Feeling that I am part of a class is:
   a. Not particularly necessary to me.
   b. Somewhat important to me.
   c. Very important to me.

3. I would classify myself as someone who:
   a. Often gets things done ahead of time.
   b. Needs reminding to get things done on time.
   c. Puts things off until the last minute or doesn’t complete them.

4. Classroom discussion is:
   a. Rarely helpful to me.
   b. Sometimes helpful to me.
   c. Almost always helpful to me.

5. When an instructor hands out directions for an assignment, I prefer:
   a. Figuring out the instructions myself.
   b. Trying to follow the direction on my own, then asking for help as needed.
   c. Having the instructions explained to me.

6. I need faculty comments on my assignments:
   a. Within a few weeks, so I can review what I did.
   b. Within a few days, or I forget what I did.
   c. Right away, or I get very frustrated.

7. Considering my professional and personal schedule, the amount of time I have to work on a Distance Learning Course is:
   a. More than enough for and on campus course.
   b. The same as for a class on campus.
   c. Less than for a class on campus.

8. Coming to campus on a regular schedule is:
   a. Extremely difficult for me – I have commitments (work, family, or personal) during times when classes are offered.
   b. A little difficult, but I can rearrange my priorities to allow for regular attendance on campus.
   c. Easy for me.
Scoring:

A = 3 points  
B = 2 points  
C = 1 point  

20 points or more:  
An e-Learning course is a real possibility for you.

11 to 20 points:  
e-Learning courses may work for you, but you may need to make a few adjustments in your schedule and study habits to succeed.

10 or fewer points:  
e-Learning may not currently be the best alternative for you. You may want to consider taking an on-campus section of the course.

Before registering for any class, it is always best to speak with an advisor!

Things to consider…

1. e-Learning students sometimes neglect their courses because of personal or professional circumstances. Having a compelling reason for taking the course helps motivate the student to stick with the course.

2. Some students prefer the independence of e-Learning; others find the independence uncomfortable and miss being part of the classroom experience.

3. e-Learning courses give students greater freedom of scheduling, but they can require more self-discipline than on-campus classes.

4. Some people learn best by interacting with other students and instructors. Others learn better by listening, reading and reviewing on their own. Some e-Learning courses provide less opportunity for group interaction than most on-campus classes.

5. e-Learning often requires you to work from written directions.

6. It may take as long as two to three weeks to get comments back from your instructor in e-Learning classes. While the course material may be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, your instructor is not.

7. e-Learning requires at least as much time as on-campus courses. Students surveyed say that e-Learning courses are as hard or harder than on campus courses.

8. Most people who are successful with e-Learning find it difficult to come to campus on a regular basis because of their work/family/personal schedules.

9. Print materials are the primary source of directions and information in e-Learning courses.

10. Students who do well in e-Learning courses are usually comfortable contacting the instructor as soon as they need help with the course.

11. Students do not need to be technical experts in order to succeed in an e-Learning course, but a basic understanding of word processing, web browsing, and email are usually required.

Warning: Flexibility and convenience do not add up to easy courses and less work.