

Best Practices for Online Testing

Learn 9's Assessment features provide a basic method to build online assessments using different types of questions, the ability to import question pools, and the ability to manage certain testing and feedback options. Learn separates the process of creating and deploying tests in two different stages. The following tips and recommendations are made for both test creation as well as test deployment to assist in minimizing common problems experienced by both faculty and students.

Test Creation

It is a good idea to title each quiz or exam with a unique identifying name. For example, instead of "Test 1", try using a topic or chapter based name. This will help not only in proper identification through the Grade Center but when transferring content from one semester to the next.

Test Length

It is recommended that your tests last not more than 45-60 minutes because of possible connectivity issues. If a large amount of material must be covered, give several shorter exams. Many students' internet service will time-out before they finish a long exam and their answers will be lost.

Note: The "Set Time Limit" does not stop or submit the test when the time is up. It only lets the instructor know how many minutes over the time limit it took the student to complete the test. However, if you also enable the auto-submit option, the test will be automatically submitted when the time is up.

Test Availability

When deploying a test it is necessary to make the link available. Learn 9 will not make the test available unless this is selected. It is recommended to make the link available immediately and then using the "Display After/Display Until" options to set the automatic release and restriction of the test.

Password

If you have students who need to take a test as a make-up, it is recommended that you re-release the test and setup a password so that only that individual student has access to the test again.

Self Test Options

Learn 9 allows you to create practice tests or self-assessments that are not included in the students' final grade. If you are using a test as a self-assessment, de-select "Include this Test in Grade Center Score Calculations" under Test Options.

Test Presentation

It is recommended that you present test questions to students one at a time. Doing this will accomplish several things: it will assist with possible timeout issues your student may experience and it will limit the possibility of the student making copies of the exam questions through photography/screen capture and sharing with others.

Randomizing Questions

It is recommended that you randomize your questions. This means the students will be shown the same set of questions but in a different order. Additionally, if you want the questions within the exam to be randomly selected from a set of questions making it unlikely that any two exams will be identical, develop a larger pool of questions and use the "Random Block" question type when you create the test.

Note: Do not randomize questions if you have sequential questions or questions that build on one another.

Academic Dishonesty

There is no guaranteed method of preventing cheating when giving online exams. However, there are ways to minimize and discourage the behavior.

- Vary the type of assessments you use throughout the course
- Design discussion and test questions that cannot be answered easily unless the individual has done previous work in the course.
- Design open book test questions that require students to demonstrate their understanding rather than simply "hunting" for the correct answer.
- Deliver questions one at a time eliminating the ease of printing or taking a screenshot of your test.

Note: In Learn 9, you do not have the option of restricting printing or copying of tests.