Reconsidering Assignments & Assessments

Alternatives for remote instruction

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Teaching + Learning Lab



Questions & Concerns

- Balance between collaborative and individual work
- Advantages and disadvantages of long (3 hour) exams
- Pset due dates (frequency & alignment)
- Substituting psets for exams
- Creating student projects based on theoretical material

Why use alternative assessments?

Why use alternative assessments?

- Some activities that work well in a traditional classroom or lab may not work well remotely
- Some assessments may differentially negatively impact students in particular learning environments:
 - Time-zone issues
 - Internet connectivity
 - Living situations
- It's a pandemic

You may not be measuring what you think you're measuring...

Why use alternative assessments?

You may not be measuring what you think you're measuring...



Start with your goals for student learning

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Identify the TYPES of assessments that realistically & accurately measure that learning.

Choose the TYPES of assessments that support your ILOs

	ILO #1 I.D. phases on a phase diagram	ILO #2 Generate phase diagrams using a given solution models	ILO #3 Explain the relationship between S & U	ILO #4 Calculate products and amount from a set of reacting species
Assessment A TD software project				X
Assessment B Problem set	х	Х	х	Х
Assessment C Exam 2 (oral)	х			
Assessment D Pre-Class Q			Х	

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Individual v. Group work

- Peer feedback form
- 2-stage exams

Peer feedback

Peer Group Assessment Template

Criteria	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name	Total
Commitment to group goals	15					
Level of participation	5-				_	
Quality of work produced						
Meeting deadlines						
Work together as a group						
Total						

Figure 1. Peer Group Assessment Template

Criteria	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name	Total
Commitment to group goals	15.					
Level of participation						
Quality of work produced						
Meeting deadlines						
Work together as a group						
Total						

2-Stage Exams

- Stage 1:
 - Individual, between 2/3 and
 3/4 of the examination time;
 - a standard formal examination that students complete working alone.

• Stage 2:

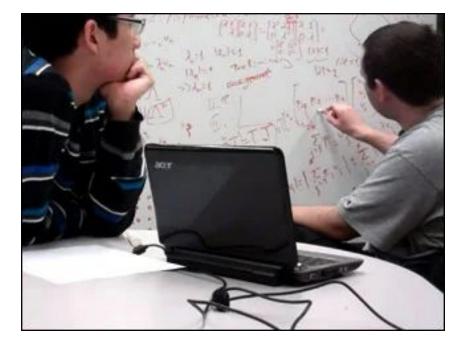
 After students turn in their individual exams - small groups solve similar or identical problems during the remainder of the examination time.

Oral Exams

- Use well-structured questions w/clear criteria
- Explicitly link to learning goals
- Takes longer to administer but far less time to grade

Project Lab in Mathematics

Haynes Miller, Susan Ruff



https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/mathematics/18-821-pr oject-laboratory-in-mathematics-spring-2013/

General overview of options

Reconsidering Assignments & Assessments

Discussion

Follow-up, additional info? \rightarrow jrankin@mit.edu

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