



Magic with Moodle

10 Using forums to answer student questions (rather than email)

 Faculty of Science - Psychology

Forensic and Mental Health (C83FMH UK) (AUT 14-15)

Claire Lawrence and Ellen Townsend

School of Psychology

Module: Forensic and Mental Health (C83FMH) (FYR 12-13)



Background



Faculty of Science - Psychology

Forensic and Mental Health (C83FMH UK) (AUT 14-15)


- A popular 3rd year module: 120-130 students each year
- Examined at the end of summer term
- Lots of students want to ask questions
- Students emailed one of us individually or came to our offices
- Found ourselves repeating the same information – often important enough for all students (not just the questioner)
- Email often unclear, not thought through and asking questions already answered online












What we did

Answer questions only on Moodle!

- Emailed all students to tell them
- Every time we received a question, we would post it on the module's News Forum in Moodle and answer it there
- Everyone could benefit from the response

How many answers should I prepare?		Ellen Townsend	0	0	Ellen Townsend Mon, 22 Apr 2013, 01:02 PM
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When to write the seen question		Ellen Townsend	0	0	Ellen Townsend Thu, 2 May 2013, 12:34 PM
Reminder revision session		Claire Lawrence	0	0	Claire Lawrence Mon, 29 Apr 2013, 11:28 AM
Interventions for victims of homicide risk		Claire Lawrence	0	0	Claire Lawrence Mon, 29 Apr 2013, 11:26 AM
Additional reading		Claire Lawrence	0	0	Claire Lawrence Mon, 29 Apr 2013, 11:24 AM
Weighting of seen question		Ellen Townsend	0	0	Ellen Townsend Thu, 25 Apr 2013, 12:50 PM
How many answers should I prepare?		Ellen Townsend	0	0	Ellen Townsend Mon, 22 Apr 2013, 01:02 PM
Sections in the FMH exam		Claire Lawrence	0	0	Claire Lawrence Mon, 22 Apr 2013, 11:37 AM
Sexual violence and sexual assault questions		Claire Lawrence	0	0	Claire Lawrence Mon, 22 Apr 2013, 09:51 AM
Interviewing witnesses - effective methods		Claire Lawrence	0	0	Claire Lawrence Tue, 16 Apr 2013, 10:56 AM



How it worked with students

- The forum has been useful - a good way to communicate
- We received far fewer questions in general
 - students took more time to consider whether the question was already answered, either on the News Forum or elsewhere online.
- Students like the fact that they are notified by email each time a question or answer is posted.
- Students like seeing answers to questions that they hadn't thought of themselves
- Everyone gains



Tips and recommendations

- State at the start of the module that this is the way to communicate with lecturers on the module
- Stick to the policy of posting questions to the forum and not answering individually (unless it is personal or confidential, of course); otherwise, you'll end up having two competing systems in place



UPDATING: FORUM ?

General

Forum name*

General forum

Description*

A rich text editor toolbar containing various icons for text formatting (bold, italic, underline, strikethrough, text color, background color), alignment (left, center, right, justified), list creation (bulleted, numbered), indentation, link, unlink, image, video, and document insertion. It also includes dropdown menus for Paragraph, Font family, and Font size, and a code editor icon.

General forum or chill-out zone for questions and answers or chat between students

Subscription and tracking

Subscription mode ?

Optional subscription

Optional subscription

Forced subscription

Auto subscription

Subscription disabled

Optional

Learning Team Support

learning-team-support@nottingham.ac.uk

Blog: bit.ly/ltnottingham

Moodle Help: bit.ly/uonmoodlehelp

(or search Workspace for “Moodle help”)