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Developing a digital examination
for
GEOG1005
Environmental Change

Jonathan Holmes and Nick Mann

Joint Faculty Best Practice Sharing Session: **Digital Education**
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GEOG1005 Environmental Change – until 2016-17

- First year, half-unit course
- ~90% of the first year geographers
- Lectures and100% exam assessed
- Formative assessment via Moodle quizzes
- Existing exam is 3 hours, two sections:

  Section A (30 % of marks) is 30 marks from around 15 to 18, short-answer questions, all to be answered (handwritten in the answer book), each worth between 1 and 3 marks

  Section B (70 % of marks) is two essay questions to be chosen from six
- Teaching and assessment arrangements unchanged since 2000

Why change the assessment?

1. Geography curriculum overhaul partly because first year course is over assessed
2. Anecdotal and student-questionnaire evidence that students enjoy GEOG1005 but daunted by the exam
3. Poor performance on GEOG1005 compared with other modules
4. Poor uptake of related courses in 2nd and 3rd year as a result of (2) and (3)

Sum of Av %	Year					
Module	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
GEOG1003	65.5	63.2	63.2	64.1	63.1	61.8
GEOG1008	62.9	63.3	65.7	63.0	63.9	64.1
GEOG1002	62.3	57.2	62.0	63.4	61.8	60.5
GEOG1006	59.0	61.7	61.1	59.1	62.6	59.8
GEOG1001	58.6	59.1	59.4	57.7	60.0	60.2
GEOG1007	58.5	59.3	58.3	59.7	61.7	63.5
GEOG1004	57.7	60.2	58.6	58.6	59.3	62.3
GEOG1005	53.6	53.6	57.2	53.5	51.6	60.9
Year av.	59.7	59.7	60.7	59.9	60.5	61.6

Reasons for switching to short-answer exam

- Students finds essays for this course challenging
- But, essays do not assess whole course content
- Essays bring down overall module mark
- Short answers assess whole course but may be less challenging
- Online exam most efficient way of administering short questions
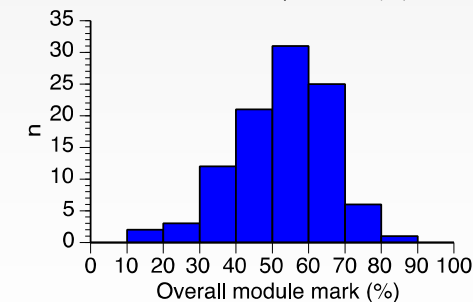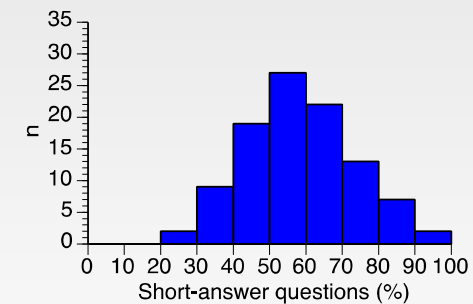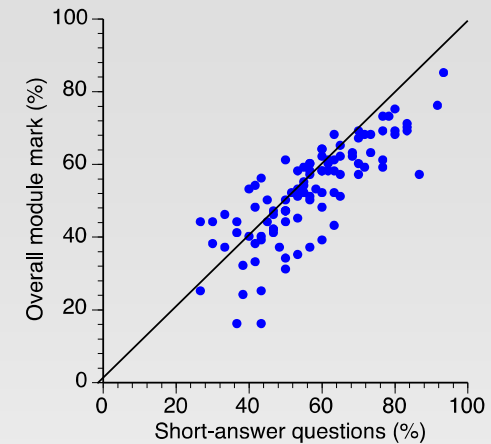
	Short	Module
mean	63	55
sd	21	14
count	155	155
max	100	80
min	13	11

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Online exam design

- First mooted late 2016
- To be delivered via a Moodle quiz
- Change of assessment to DTC and JFTC Spring 2017
- Initial meetings with Digital Education Spring 2017 and other UCL staff, autumn 2017
- Exam drafting 2017-early 2018
- Internal review Feb 2018, to external examiners this week
- First sitting summer 2018

Online exam design and implementation - options

Timing	UCL summer exam (+LSA) period	Term time/Reading week
Conditions	Closed book with invigilation	Open book and in own time/place
Equipment	Cluster	Own
Assessment type	Summative	Formative
Questions and marking	Computer marked	Free text (e.g. short essays)

Constraints and other issues

Practical

- Development and set-up time
- Rooming, timetabling and invigilation
- Equipment/ISD (NB Moodle Examination Notification Form at least 4 weeks in advance)

Pedagogical

- Number of questions in the exam
- Feedback delivery
- Assessment of understanding versus recall

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Best practice?
Get back to us in June!

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