Assessment – using the Moodle assignment Mechanical Engineering

Background context

Staff use the Moodle assignment for students to submit coursework and to provide feedback and marks in many contexts. In this case study, Elise Pegg (Lecturer) and James Scobie (Prize Fellow) share their experiences.

Structural Mechanics, Year 3 150 students Assessment by a written report to demonstrate understanding of the limitations of models	**Thermodynamics** (wind tunnel labs), **Year 2** 220 students • Students work in groups of 10 and submit coursework for 20+ labs • PG students provide feedback using a comprehensive feedback form

Purpose

- To make sure students receive their feedback in a timely way, even for large cohorts.

- To make the submission process easier for students. It's convenient for students to submit coursework when and where it suits them. They don't have to be on campus at the time of the deadline. It also saves printing costs for students.

- To make the marking process more efficient for academic staff, and for staff who support the submission process.

- To have more flexibility to complete marking 'on the go'. Multiple markers can complete marking wherever they are.

Approach

 Students upload coursework to the Moodle assignment submission point. Staff mark work anonymously and return the feedback and marks to students within Moodle.

Using the Moodle assignment removes the need for paper submission. Turnitin plagiarism detection software helps to identify cases for further investigation.

Staff can enter marks and feedback offline in a *grading worksheet* (a spreadsheet downloaded from the submission point). This means they can complete marking when working offline.

Pros

- There is lots of flexibility to choose the settings to suit your marking process. 'Tool tips' explain each setting choice.

- Makes marking for large groups easier – less paper to carry when travelling .

- It's easy to complete marking offline in a spreadsheet which you download. You can upload marks and feedback in bulk.

- You can annotate a copy of the submission to give students precise feedback, e.g. for First Year students approaching an assessment for the first time.

- You can manage deadline extensions and late submissions.

- Turnitin reports are useful for detecting plagiarism.

- Students can include colour illustrations without extra printing costs.

Once you've found the right settings for you, it takes around **10 minutes to set up an assignment**.

If you don't need a fixed deadline in the Moodle assignment settings (e.g. where student groups have different deadlines) you can reuse submission points.

It **saves a lot of time when marking, especially for large cohorts**. It also saves time for students and for office staff who support submission, and for staff who coordinate other markers.

Cons

- Students may upload files in the wrong format which won't go through Turnitin.

- There are so many options in the assignment settings. At first it can be tricky knowing which ones to choose.

Recommendations

Ask an experienced colleague to see example assignments, and discuss which settings to use. This will speed up the first-time setup of your assignment submission point.

Consider setting up a practice assignment submission for students so they know what to expect (e.g. file formats, plagiarism detection, draft submissions, cut-off dates). You can provide submission instructions to students in the assignment description.

Double check enrolled users on your Moodle course before semester starts, to make sure they are up to date with SAMIS enrolments. **Note that if you use Turnitin and / or anonymous marking, you will need to set up a new assignment submission point for each new cohort.**

Use the Moodle Support Hub to find out how to set up Anonymous Marking. It includes helpful answers to your frequently asked questions. You can request a *Sandbox* Moodle course from the TEL Team (email e-learning@bath.ac.uk) so you can try things out first.

To find out more contact the Faculty Learning Technologists: fed-tel@bath.ac.uk