

Rethinking Assessment - Alternative assessments to end of term exams

There are many alternative assessments which can be considered in place of the traditional campus-based end of term exam. These assessments can be managed via email or, in a more structured and coherent way, using the online tools available on Sulis/Moodle and Turnitin. For further guidance, see [Rethinking Assessment: Moving to an alternative, remote end-of-term assessment](#).

Alternative assessment	Description of assessment approach	Supported tools	Considerations
Case Study Essays Worksheets Problem sheets	Traditional assignments that align with the achievement of a learning outcomes of the module and can be easily managed remotely or online for the student. Grading and feedback can be provided in multiple formats.	Assignments Dropbox Turnitin Feedback Studio PostEm Gradebook	<p>These submissions can be via email <i>or</i> via the Assignments tool in Sulis which is integrated with the Lessons tool and the Gradebook tool. This tool provides a platform for students to submit via Sulis with each submission documented for the lecturer. IT can be used for both individual and group assessments.</p> <p>In marking these types of assignment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) This assignment can be downloaded and marked on hard copy with feedback emailed to the students; b) It can be graded online through the Assignments tool where individualised feedback can be provided in one space. Lecturers can decide to enable checking for plagiarism with Turnitin during the setup of an assignment. c) Turnitin Feedback Studio is a very powerful feedback tool allowing for contextualised feedback, audio feedback, creating your online library of feedback, grading with rubrics and peer review. Grading in Turnitin is not linked to Sulis. <p>For large cohorts, lecturers may find it efficient to provide feedback through the PostEM feedback tool in Sulis (instead of Assignments), which allows instructors to upload a grades .csv file. This is not integrated with the Gradebook tool.</p> <p>Dropbox creates a private folder for each student where both lecturers and student can upload documentation. However, it is not linked to grading features.</p> <p>The Gradebook tool collects grades from Assignments, Forums, and Tests & Quizzes. It is advised in cases where students have multiple assessments. Please note that grades are not automatically linked to module grade entry SI system.</p>

Synchronous (live) presentations	In class presentations can be arranged online and recorded, if necessary.	BigBlueButton (Access through the Meetings tool)	This would involve setting up a schedule of presentation slots and ensuring that each group has access to the technology required and is available for their presentation at their allocated time. It is recommended to break down large classes in smaller groups and run separate sessions.
Asynchronous (recorded) presentations	An alternative to the live presentation, the recorded presentation allows students to record a voice-over on their PowerPoint presentation or audio/video podcasts of their presentations.	Panopto PowerPoint and Assignments tool	You can set up an assignment folder for students to record their presentation directly in Panopto. You can choose for presentations to be visible for other students. Group presentations would however difficult for students to coordinate remotely, and alternatively, you can ask students to record presentations in groups in BBB (see above). Also, you can add students to record their presentations in PowerPoint and upload to the Assignments tool. Please note that Sulis has an upload limit of 50mb per file (which does not apply in Panopto)
e-Portfolio, reflective blog, collaborative writing in group	Evidencing the achievement of learning outcomes which includes a reflective commentary.	Blog tool Lesson tool	Can be completed using MS Office tools or online. If online, the Lessons tool in Sulis allows for student pages where they can curate text, video and audio, etc. Your students can also use shared document / shared folder from OneDrive to their eportfolio.
E-tivities	E-tivities provide a framework for enhancing active and participative online learning and can be graded.	Forums tool	Lecturers can post topics for discussions, with rules around peer reviewed responses and class discussion. It is advised that you use Forums in combination with the Lessons tool in order to provide guidance to your students. Where you have multiple graded e-tivities, the use of the Gradebook tool is advised.
Proctored oral exam	Where a student must take an individual proctored oral exam, a lecturer can arrange a live conference call.	Skype for Business	The lecturer would set a meeting with the student in MS Outlook and from within Skype they would ask that students share their webcam and screen. It is imperative that there is a stable internet connection as an unreliable connection resulting in call drops would taint the validity of the exam as the lecturer would lose sight of the student.

<p>Open book Exam</p>	<p>The traditional exam paper is shared with the students with a specific date for completion. This is based on understanding rather than recall.</p>	<p>Assignments</p>	<p>This can be sent in via email to the lecturer or uploaded on the assignments tool in Sulis. The integrated Turnitin originality report can help to detect similarity between student submissions in the same class.</p>
<p>Short tests</p>	<p>Usually short answer or fixed response assessments to test recall ability.</p>	<p>Tests and Quizzes</p>	<p>Tests and Quizzes continue to be used for small stakes asynchronous assessments over a long time period. If you wish to use this as part of your <i>continuous assessment</i>, there will need to be flexibility on your part in terms of the dates available to ensure that there is minimal overlap or overburdening of the system. It is imperative that you log a call with ITD with the details (<i>preferred</i> date, time, student numbers etc) in order to ensure that support will be available for this type of assessment.</p> <p>Note: Tests and Quizzes should not be used as a short time bounded alternative to the exam as a synchronous assessment. This is due to potential challenges for the students, who would be accessing the online test, considering the various potential constraints around their different geographical location/time zones, varying internet connection speeds, varying different types of devices and browsers and the technical requirements and capacity of Sulis, which is <u>not</u> designed to run multiple large-scale synchronous assessments in Tests and Quizzes concurrently over short time periods.</p>

For further information and advice on alternative assessment, please see www.ul.ie/ltf or contact CTL@ul.ie.

For technical questions, log a call with [ITD Service Desk](#).

