Creating Moodle Quizzes

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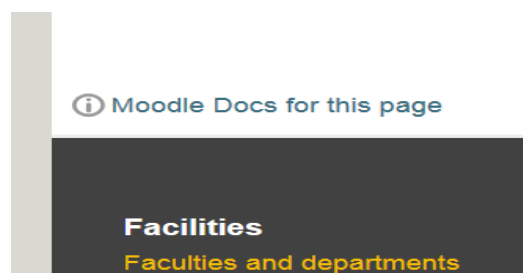
Useful Resources:

Moodle for Administrators

Getting started with Moodle

Moodle offers a quiz activity that can be used in any course. There are a variety of question types available:
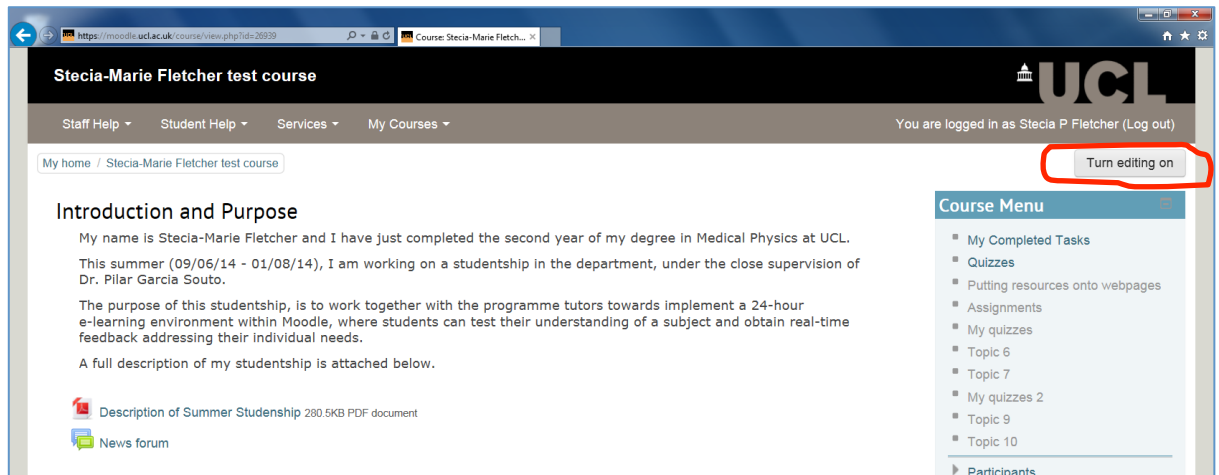
- Multiple Choice
- True/False
- Short Answer
- Numerical
- Calculated
- Essay
- Matching
- Random short-answer matching
- Embedded answers (Cloze)
- Algebra
- Calculated Multichoice
- Calculated Simple
- Drag and Drop into text
- Drag and Drop Markers
- Drag and Drop onto image
- Regular expression short answer
- Select missing words
- Description

These are all well documented on Moodle via the "Moodle Docs for this page" button. (Usually located in the bottom left-hand corner of the page.)
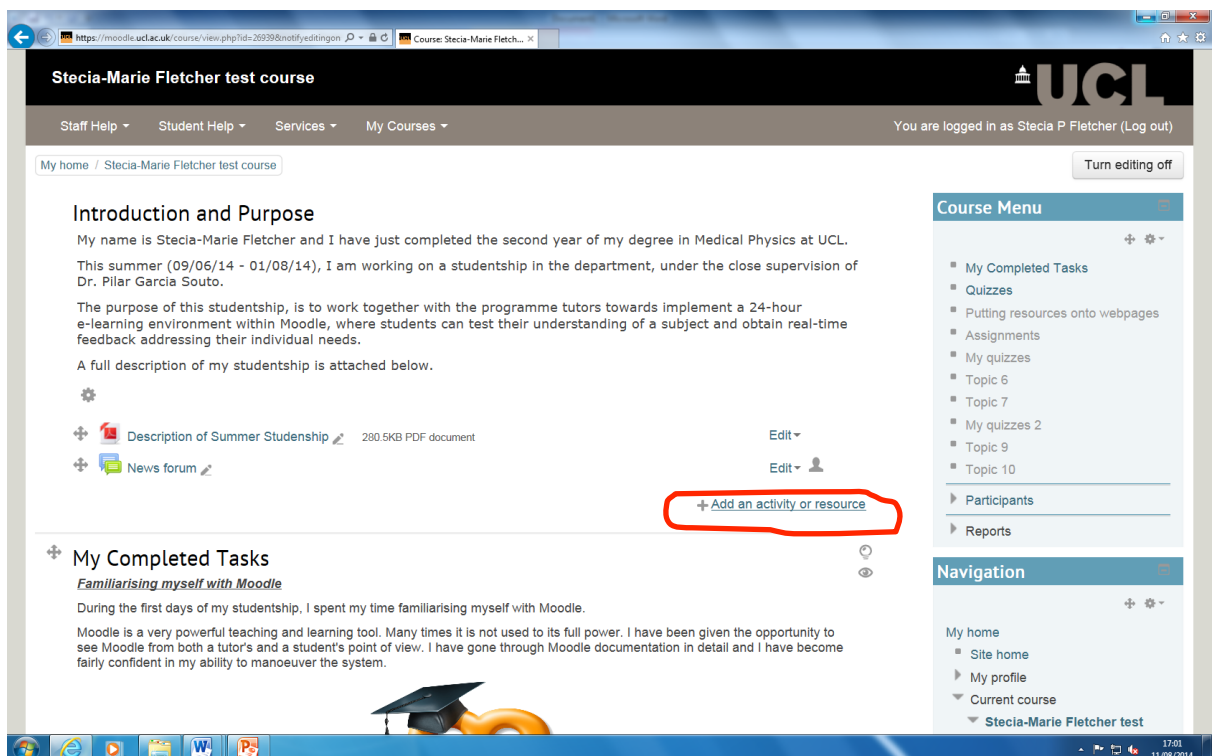
As course tutor on Moodle, you can follow these steps to add the quiz activity to your Moodle course:
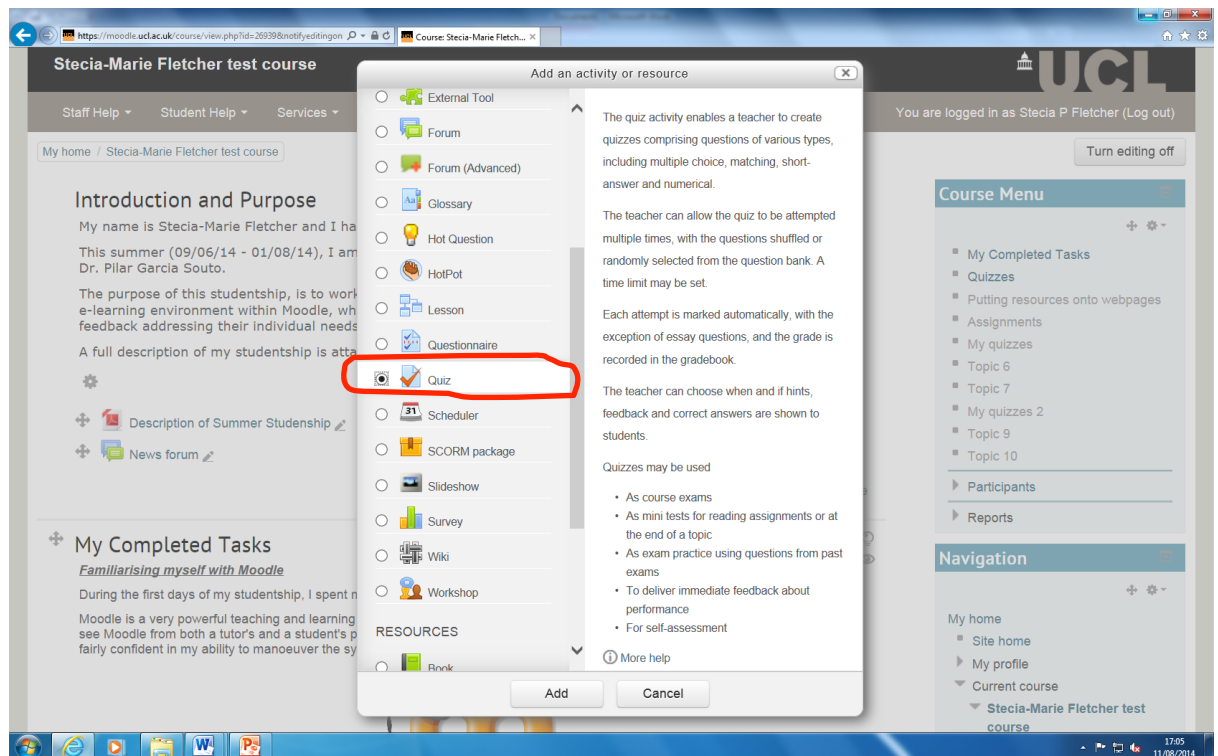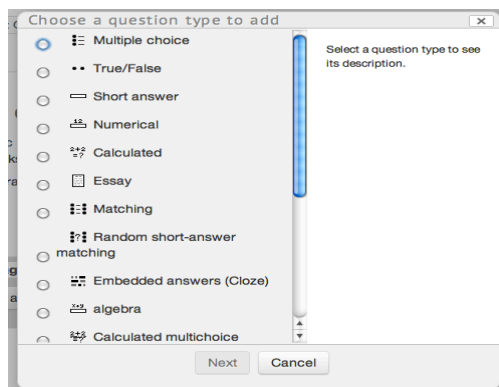
1) Turn editing on

2) Add an activity or resource

3) Choose the Quiz activity

4) At this point you will be required the name your quiz and edit settings.
5) Click 'Save and Display' in the 'Edit quiz' page.
6) Now you can add questions to your quiz. It is easy to do this. Moodle guides you through. On the 'edit questions' page, there are two options: 'Add a new question' and 'Add a random question'.
7) The 'Add a new question' option allows you to create a question from scratch using the available question types.

8) The 'Add a random question' pulls a random question from a selected category in the question bank.
9) Questions can be added to the quiz until it is attempted.

Cloze question type

The cloze question type allows multiple answer boxes in the same question. Cloze questions on Moodle are available for short answer, numerical and multiple choice questions.

The answer boxes must be written into the question text.

For short answer the answer bøx format is as follows:

{a:SHORTANSWER:=b~%c%d#e~f#e~*#e}

a- question weighting. Omitting this will assign a grade of 1.

b- correct answer (full marks)

c- percentage of mark given (from 0 to 100)

d- partially correct answer

e- answer specific feedback

f- incorrect answer with specific feedback

'*' represents a wildcard.

The same format applies to the multiple choice questions. 'SHORTANSWER' is replaced by 'MULTICHOICE'.

The format for numerical questions is slightly different. It is as follows:

{a:NUMERICAL:=b:g~%c%d:g#e~f:g#e~*#e}

Where g represents the accepted error.

MATLAB for Moodle

Moodle questions are quite limited. Therefore, I used MATLAB to create mainly cloze questions for Moodle.

Once you have determined which question type you should use, create a prototype question. Make sure to do this carefully, exploring all options that you would like to include, for example, feedback, hints, penalties etc. This is very important before moving on to the next part of the process.

After creating the question, find the question in the question bank and export it in Moodle xml format. Use this xml file to assist you in writing a loop in MATLAB , using the fprintf function ['help fprintf' in MATLAB] to write a new xml file. This creates a specified number of random questions.

Go back to your question bank in Moodle and add a new question sub-category under the top category:'Default for *Name of Course'.* Give this category a unique name and recall it for future reference. Import your final xml file into this category. You should now have a large number of dynamic questions to choose from.

To add a random question to a quiz, go into the quiz and edit quiz questions. Click 'Add Random Question' and choose the name of the sub category in your question bank. Every time the quiz is attempted, Moodle will pull a random question from this category.

For images:

If you want to have images as a part of your question text, you must upload the images to a web page and enter the URL in HTML format. If you are a member of UCL, it may be useful to use your UCL personal homepage. (www.ucl.ac.uk/~userid). To make changes to your homepage, you must use the UCL WTS. To find out more about how to upload files (by extension images) to your homepage, go to http://www.ucl.ac.uk/isd/students/web/personal_website .

Specific to my questions:

When running the MATLAB script to create images, the arrow function MUST be in the current folder. This is not a built in MATLAB function.