

Types of Assessment

For the new full-time programmes starting in September 2018, there are 2 terms that we are using for assessment. These are **assignment** and **exam**

Assignment

An assignment is a task that requires independent study. Examples of these are:

Blog

Informal account on a topic or reflective learning over an extended period.

Case study

Application of theory to practice with questions on a given scenario.

Essay

An answer to a question offering an overall argument by presenting and analysing evidence in a lengthy, continuous, connected prose format. Key skills include the ability to discuss, analyse, criticise, evaluate, and synthesise. The structure comprises the introduction, main body, and conclusion.

Report

An in-depth investigation into a topic provided by the lecturer. The structure comprises the executive summary / introduction, aims and objectives, main body, and conclusion plus recommendations.

Forum discussion

Collaborative learning involving answers to prompts by the lecturer and / or colleagues, such as pre-set activities, topical news, etc. Forums could be split into groups and each group can answer the same or different topics to help manage large numbers and avoid repetition.

Group assignment or project

An assignment or project carried out collectively by a team of students working collaboratively.

Individual project / dissertation

An in-depth investigation into a topic chosen by the student and agreed by the lecturer over an extended period. It may include field-work (on-site work on a project).

Portfolios

Cumulative assessment that documents the work involved in a task or set of tasks, and self-reflection on performance.

Presentation

Oral report on an investigative assignment.

Exam

Questions may be mathematical-based, short answer, and essay-style. Types include:

- 'seen': a bank of questions is circulated prior to the exam of which a subset will be asked.
- 'open-book': pre-agreed readings may be used during the exam.
- 'unseen': questions are not circulated in advance and no readings may be used during the exam.
- 'take home': questions are circulated prior to the submission deadline, which is typically a couple of days.
- 'MCQ' objective tests: multiple choice questions (MCQ) to select the correct answer from a set of alternatives.

Short answer

Length varies and includes fill-in the gaps, mathematical problems etc.

Test

Short exam which may include short answers and / or MCQ

Marking methods

Suggestions for marking methods include:

Self and peer assessment / evaluation

Used in conjunction with group assessments, each team member applies a set of assessment criteria to everyone's contribution including themselves. It is the lecturer's decision how any assessment / evaluation feeds into marking.

Viva

Questions on an assignment are answered orally.

Probing questions for groups

Another marking method to distinguish student's contributions (as applicable) is to

address questions to team members who have not presented / worked on that particular part of the work.