

Managing Grading – Part 2

Test Centre marking schemes

An examination of the marking schemes below shows that it is possible for students to gain marks that are not whole numbers; marks are shown to 2 decimal places. If it is considered undesirable to conduct assessments that may lead to apparently unusual scores, with some planning it is possible to ensure that the final number of marks is a whole number or a multiple of 0.5 marks.

Multiple choice questions

It is possible to have more than one correct answer for a multiple choice question; if so, consider telling students that there is more than one correct answer.

In multiple choice questions with multiple correct answers, Test Centre deducts marks for incorrect answers but it will not give a score less than zero. The value of the penalty for incorrect choices is calculated by dividing the total number of marks for the question by the total number of correct choices.

Example 1: Suppose you have a multiple choice question that is worth 5 marks. It has five choices, one of which is correct. Therefore correct answer is worth 5 marks.

The penalty for each incorrect choice = Total number of marks (5) ÷ Total number of correct choices (1) = 5. Therefore in this case each incorrect answer will result in the deduction of 5 marks.

If a student ticks the correct choice, but also ticks two incorrect choices, she will score 5 marks for the correct choice, -5 marks for each of the incorrect ones (-10), but as scores cannot be less than 0 she will be awarded 0 marks.

Example 2: Suppose you have a multiple choice question that is worth 5 marks. It has five choices, two of which are correct. Each correct answer is worth 2.5 marks. The penalty for each incorrect choice = Total number of marks (5) ÷ Total number of correct choices (2) = 2.5. Therefore in this case each incorrect choice will result in the deduction of 2.5 marks.

If a student ticks both of the correct choices but also ticks another choice that is not correct, he will earn 5 marks for the correct choices and will lose 2.5 for the incorrect choice. He will be awarded 2.5 marks in total.

True False questions

True/False questions are single-answer by definition. A correct answer is awarded full marks and an incorrect answer is awarded 0 marks.

Fill In The Blank: single blank

Fill-in-the-blank questions with a single answer give full marks for a correct answer and 0 marks for an incorrect answer.

Fill In The Blank: multiple blanks

Fill-in-the-blank questions with more than one blank will give full marks if all answers are filled in correctly.

If there are multiple blanks, each blank is worth an equal proportion of the total number of marks of the question. The total number of marks awarded will be the number of

answers filled in correctly multiplied by that proportion. There is no penalty for incorrect answers.

For example, if there is a fill-in-the-blank question worth 5 marks with three blanks, each blank is worth $\frac{1}{3}$ of 5, or 1.67 marks. If a student fills in two blanks correctly but not the third, the student gets (1.67×2) or 3.33 marks for that question.

Matching questions

Matching questions require users to match pairs; they have multiple answers and there is no penalty for incorrect pairs. Each correct pair matched is worth an equal proportion of the total number of marks for the question.

For example, if there is a matching question worth 5 marks that has five pairs to match, each answer is worth 1 mark. So if the student answers 3 out of the 5 matches correctly, he will be awarded 3 marks for that question.

Note: it is a good idea to place matching questions into their own pool.

Non-Objective Questions

Essay or Task

Essay or task questions are graded manually. The tutor decides on the value of the answer and assigns marks accordingly.

Likert Scale

Likert Scale questions are not graded. They are used for surveys to rate opinions or beliefs, and are never assigned marks as there are no correct or incorrect responses.