



Table 1: Mapping Assessment Options to Blackboard Tools

Assessment options	Question type chosen for the assessment method	Recommended Blackboard tool	Proctoring
<b>Pro Rate Continuous Assessment (CA)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Assignment</b>	Long essay style questions (typed submission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard assignment tool</li> <li>• Turnitin in Blackboard</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Take Home Offline Exams</b>	Long essay style questions (typed submission) – students answer the questions in MS Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard assignment tool (recommended) for file/image uploads               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice on how to create a pro-forma MS Word answer booklet to take essay based answers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Turnitin in Blackboard (only for Schools with prior experience)</li> </ul>	N/A
	Hand written exam questions – students answer the questions on paper and take photos of their handwritten work for upload into Blackboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard assignment tool (recommended) for file/image uploads               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice on how to create a pro-forma MS Word answer booklet to take photos of answers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Real Time Online Exams</b>	MCQ's / SQA's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard Tests tool for MCQs</li> </ul>	N/A
	Long essay style questions (typed submission) – students answer the questions in MS Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard assignment tool for file/image uploads               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice on how to create a pro-forma MS Word answer booklet to take essay based answers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Turnitin in Blackboard for file uploads</li> </ul>	N/A
	Hand written exam questions - students answer the questions on paper and take photos of their handwritten work for upload into Blackboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard assignment tool (recommended) for file/image uploads               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice on how to create a pro-forma MS Word answer booklet to take photos of answers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	N/A

Assessment options	Question type chosen for the assessment method	Recommended Blackboard tool	Proctoring
Real Time Online Invigilated Exam	MCQ's / SQA's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blackboard Tests tool for MCQs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zoom for online proctoring if required (please contact IT Services for guidance on whether this option is feasible in your context)</li> </ul>
	Long essay style questions (typed submission) – students answer the questions in MS Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blackboard assignment tool for file/image uploads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice on how to create a pro-forma MS Word answer booklet to take essay based answers</li> </ul> </li> <li>Turnitin in Blackboard for file uploads</li> </ul>	
	Hand written exam questions - students answer the questions on paper and take photos of their handwritten work for upload into Blackboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blackboard assignment tool (recommended) for file/image uploads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice on how to create a pro-forma MS Word answer booklet to take photos of answers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

For full details regarding the use cases for these tools, please check the handbooks at <https://www.tcd.ie/itservices/working-remotely/online-assessment/staff/>

Table 2: Advantages and Disadvantages of the Three Main Blackboard Technologies

	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Blackboard Assignment tool</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports more and larger file types than Turnitin; useful for modules involving image uploads, scanned documents etc.</li> <li>• Files for programming modules can be added to a zip file and uploaded</li> <li>• Simplest workflow of the three options</li> <li>• Has advanced features where needed such as rubrics, delegated marking, anonymous marking</li> <li>• Overall feedback and original submissions can be bulk exported</li> <li>• Submissions can be checked for originality using the SafeAssign feature</li> <li>• Can attach template files directly to the assignment instructions</li> <li>• Accessibility: students can submit after the Due Date; these are marked as late but are not deducted marks automatically; allows flexibility in terms of when submissions are accepted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annotations and rubrics cannot be bulk exported outside of Blackboard</li> <li>• The SafeAssign database is not as extensive as Turnitin's</li> <li>• Some advanced workflows like delegated marking or rubrics can be complex to setup and administer so are recommended for summer 2020 only if you have prior experience with using them</li> <li>• Limited support in the Blackboard app; not all features available</li> </ul>
<b>Turnitin in Blackboard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the largest database for checking for originality reports</li> <li>• Has the extensive annotation features including the ability to create feedback templates to reuse across modules</li> <li>• Original documents as well as any submissions with grades &amp; feedback can be bulk exported</li> <li>• Allows for anonymous marking</li> <li>• Accessibility: students can submit after the Due Date (if this is allowed in the options); these are marked as late but are not deducted marks automatically; allows flexibility for submission deadlines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only supports documents up to 40mb and limited support for formats beyond standard Office or PDF files – no support for image-based files (containing fewer than 25 words)</li> <li>• Can take some time for bulk exports of feedback/grades to generate</li> <li>• Cannot attach files in the feedback to learner section or to the assignment instructions</li> <li>• Does not support advanced options such as multiple markers or group assignments</li> <li>• Not supported by the Blackboard app</li> </ul>
<b>Online Tests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can create a bank of questions and draw randomly from these</li> <li>• Can also present answers to questions in a random order</li> <li>• Supports a wide range of question types</li> <li>• Accessibility: allows for Test Availability Exceptions whereby some students can be given additional time for the test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time-consuming to create questions and to test that everything works as required</li> <li>• Significant planning, resources and co-ordination needed to run effectively</li> <li>• No originality reports possible</li> <li>• Files uploaded using the 'File Response' question type cannot be easily bulk downloaded</li> <li>• Some of the maths-based question types are not advanced enough for maths/physics courses</li> <li>• The Blackboard app does not work well for Tests; some question types do not work</li> </ul>

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