Assessment possibilities

David Carless
University of Hong Kong,
#UQFAN,
February 12, 2020
University of Queensland



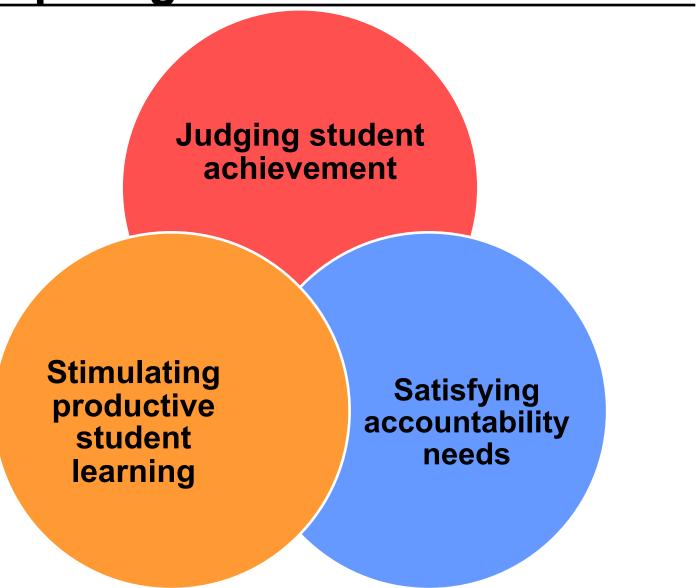
Overview

Three assessment possibilities:

- two-stage exams
- short assessed responses
- cumulative peer review & rebuttal

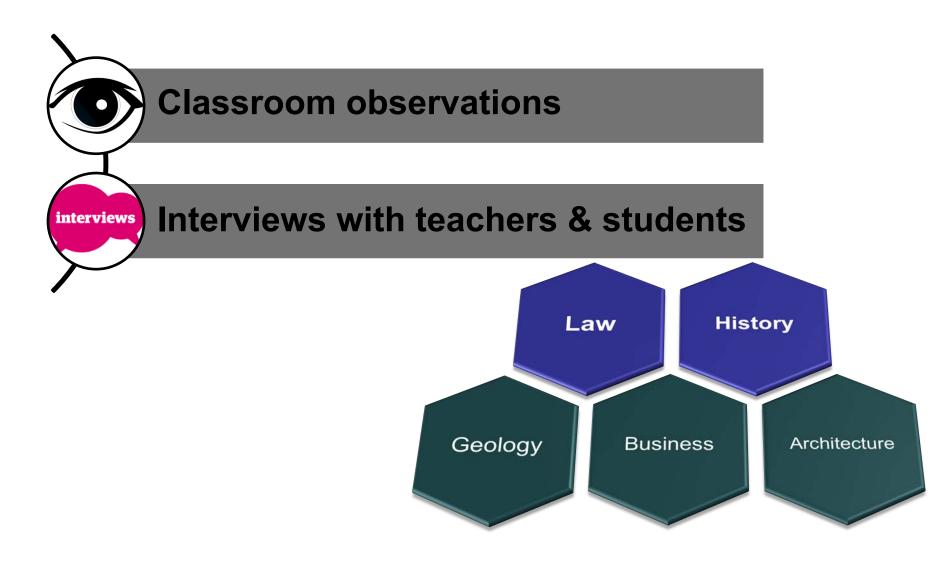


Competing assessment functions





Research process



Excellence in University Assessment

LEARNING FROM AWARD WINNING PRACTICE

DAVID CARLESS





TWO-STAGE EXAMS



Procedures

Stage 1. Students complete the examindividually (80-90% weighting)

Stage 2. Students re-do (part of) the exam in groups submitting one answer sheet (10-20% weighting)

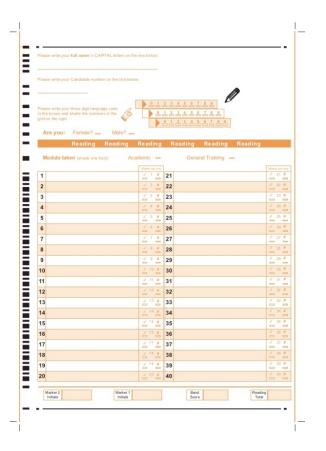


Applications

M/C, calculations, short answers

Main disciplines:

'Hard' sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Economics, Linguistics ...





Main proponent

Nobel-prize winning Physicist, UBC, Canada



Carl Wieman



Outcomes

Positive student response

Improved achievement when working collaboratively

(Levy, Svoronos & Klinger, 2018)



Pause for comments

Possibilities

Challenges

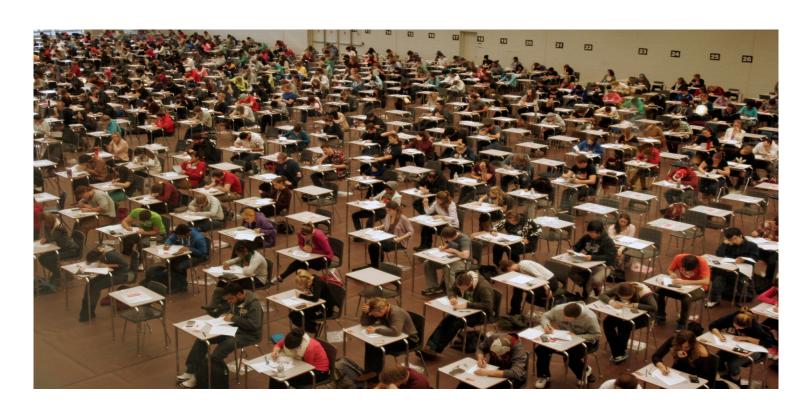
Queries





Law: Same-day exam feedback

Oral debriefing immediately after exam, supplemented by online discussion



SHORT WRITTEN RESPONSES



Making History course

Foundation level, year 1, 110 students



History Assessment

Fieldwork report (30%): Museum visit

Individual project (40%)

Participation (30%):

tutorial participation 15%

short weekly written responses 15%



Short in-class written responses

20-30 word weekly answers on topic for <u>next</u> class





Sample short answer questions

1. What are the essential qualities of a good museum?

2. How might thinking historically help us realize a better future?

3. Is History a science or an art? Explain your answer.



My implementation

Master of Education

English Language Curriculum & Assessment module

Participants = English language teachers from primary and secondary schools

Sample question & response (1)

Question 5. Purpose of assessment

What do you think is the main purpose of assessment?

The primary aim of assessment is to identify students' merits and demerits so that they will be aware of the standards of excellence and make efforts to improve themselves.



Sample question & response (2)

Question 7. Change to your assessment practice

What is the most useful change to your assessment practice you could make and why?

I should spend more time following up what my students do after I give them feedback, to see if they take my advice or meet any difficulties.





"Feedback should be more work for the recipient than the donor"

(Wiliam, 2015)

https://www.dylanwiliamcenter.com/feedbac k-for-learning-make-time-to-save-time/



Perceived benefits

Paves the way for learning next topic

Encourages some student preparation

Stimulates thinking & reflection
 (Carless & Zhou, 2015)



Implications

Promotes student engagement but difficult to assess

Learning tool more than an assessment method

Various technology-enabled alternatives



Pause for comments

Possibilities

Challenges

Queries





PEER REVIEW



Key issues

Training & coaching for peer review

Sustained experiences of peer review

 Multiple peer reviewers e.g. trios rather than peers

Feature of MOOCs

Peer reviewed assignments + detailed rubrics as key feature of MOOCs (Admiraal et al., 2015; Huisman et al., 2016)





Potential good practice

Students did 5 peer reviews then selfevaluated own work

Multiple raters to mitigate variance in judgments (Hew, 2016)





Composing peer feedback

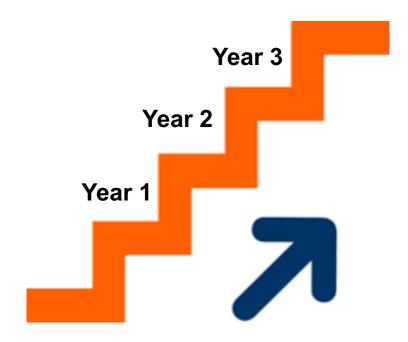
Providing feedback more cognitively engaging than receiving feedback (e.g. Nicol et al., 2014)





Cumulative peer feedback

Need for multiple cumulative experiences of peer review during a programme (Harland et al., 2017).





Peer review + rebuttal

Research proposal assessment task

Anonymous peer review by two staff & two students

Rebuttal letter addressing the four peer reviews

(Harland et al., 2017).



Pause for comments

Possibilities

Challenges

Queries





Conclusions





Assessment design principles

- 1. Assessment integrated with instruction & ILOs
- 2. Encourage deep approaches to learning
- 3. Spread student effort
- 4. Mirror real-life uses of the discipline
- 5. Design for feedback interaction
- 6. Support students in appreciating quality
- 7. Flexibility & choice
- 8. Integrated & coherent



Learning-oriented assessment

A major priority in all assessment should be to promote effective student learning processes (Carless, 2015)





THANK YOU



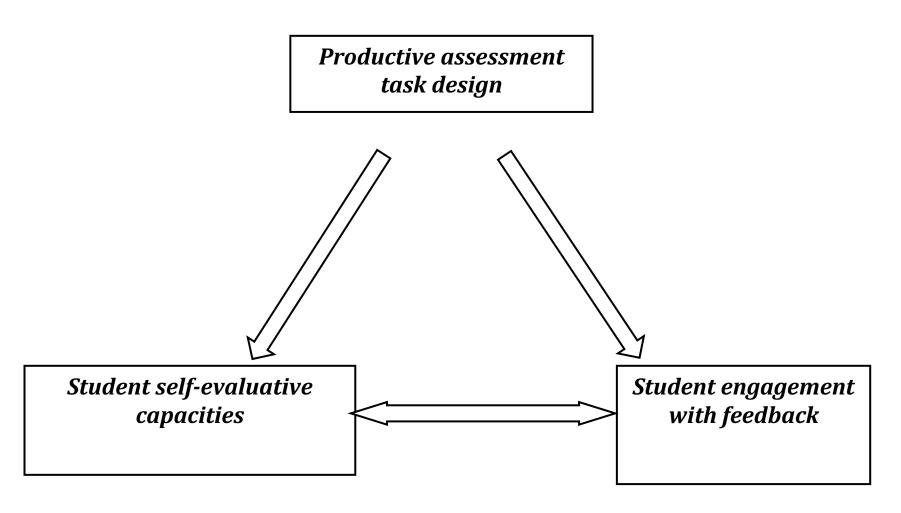
Two-stage exams in action

2 minute video on two-stage exams

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVFwQzl
VFy0



Learning-oriented assessment framework





References

- Admiraal, W., Huisman, B., & Pilli, O. (2015). Assessment in massive open online courses. *The Electronic Journal of e-Learning, 13*(4), 207-216.
- Carless, D. (2015). Exploring learning-oriented assessment processes. *Higher Education*, 69(6), 963-976.
- Carless, D. (2015). Excellence in University Assessment: Learning from award-winning practice. London: Routledge.
- Carless, D. & J. Zhou (2015). Starting small in assessment change: Short inclass written responses *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02602938.2015.1068272
- Harland, T., Wald, N., & Randhawa, H. (2017). Student peer review: Enhancing formative feedback with a rebuttal. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 42(5), 801-811.



References (continued)

- Hew, K. F. (2016). Promoting engagement in online courses: What strategies can we learn from three highly rated MOOCS. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, *47*(2), 320-341.
- Huisman, B., Admiraal, W., Pilli, L., van de Ven, M., & Saab, N. (2016). Peer assessment in MOOCs: The relationship between peer reviewers' ability and authors' essay performance. *British Journal of Educational Technology. Doi:* 10.1111/bjet.12520
- Levy, D., Svoronos T. & Klinger, M. (2018). Two-stage examinations: Can examinations be more formative experiences? *Active Learning in Higher Education*. doi:10.1177/1469787418801668
- Nicol, D., Thomson, A., & Breslin, C. (2014). Rethinking feedback practices in higher education: a peer review perspective. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 39(1), 102–122.



The University of Hong Kong