BLACKBOARD TIP

CREATE TEST USING RANDOM BLOCK OF QUESTIONS FROM POOL

**Situation:**
You want to give a test to students that covers the same material, but varies the questions each student is given.

**Approach:**
1. Create a pool of questions.
2. Create the test using a random number of questions from the pool.
3. Add the test to the course. This is known as deploying the test.

**Student’s Perspective:**
Each student receives the same number of questions on the test. Where random blocks of questions are used, students are shown questions selected at random. They do not know which questions are in random blocks, so they never know if their question #8 for example, will be the same as question #8 given to another student on the same test.

**Example:**
1. **Create a pool of questions.**
   
   Go to the course.
   Under Control Panel → Course Tools → Tests, Surveys, and Pools
   Select Pools
   Click the Build Pool button
   Give the Pool a name.
   Submit.
   Create questions in the pool in the usual manner. Refer to the video tutorials in the On Demand Learning Center, for demonstrations on how to create questions of various types.

2. **Create the test using a random number of questions from the pool.**
   
   Under Control Panel → Course Tools → Tests, Surveys, and Pools
   Select Tests → Build Test
   Give the Test a name.
   Submit.
   To add questions to the test select Reuse Question → Create Random Block
   Under Choose Criteria
   Select Pool and mark the pools from which you want to pull the questions. You may check 1 or more.
   Select Question types and mark All Pool Questions or only those types of questions you want to select. You may check 1 or more.
As you mark your criteria the questions matching the criteria will be displayed.

When you are happy with the questions that appear, note how many items are displayed. In the example above 4 questions are displayed. All the displayed items (there may be multiple pages of questions) will be added to the test when you hit Submit.

Submit.

Edit the number of questions to display from this block of questions.

Edit the number of points per question. Each question will be worth the same number of points.

In the example below 2 questions will be randomly selected from the block of 4 questions.
More than one random block of questions can be added to the test. Just be sure that the questions are unique or you risk the student getting the same question twice.
In the example below 3 more questions will be added to the test. They will be randomly selected from a new block of 5 questions.
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Create Random Block

A Random Block is a group of questions retrieved from a Question Pool. Questions are randomly retrieved from the selected Question Pool based on the question type and the number of questions available in the selected pool.

Choose Criteria

- Pool
  - Academic Planning
  - Call Number
  - Citation
  - Example
  - Information Literacy
  - Reading MLA citations
  - Writing Context

- Question types
  - All Pool Questions
  - Calculated Formula
  - Calculated Numeric
  - Either/Or
  - Essay
  - File Response
  - Fill in Multiple Blanks
  - Fill in the Blank
  - Hot Spot
  - Jumbled Sentence
  - Matching
  - Multiple Answer
  - Multiple Choice
  - Opinion Scale/ Likert
  - Ordering
  - Quiz Bowl
  - Short Answer
  - True/False

Selected Criteria

- Pool: Reading MLA citations
- Question types: All Pool Questions

Preview questions that match selected criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Text</th>
<th>Question Type</th>
<th>Source Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does the year 1897 in the following citation represent? James, William...</td>
<td>Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Reading MLA citations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the name of the publisher in the following citation? Vidal, Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Publishing...</td>
<td>Reading MLA citations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where was the book in the following citation published? Espinosa, Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Library...</td>
<td>Reading MLA citations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who are the authors of the book in the following citation? Select all that apply...</td>
<td>Multiple Answer</td>
<td>Reading MLA citations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is the author of the book in the following citation? Yoder, Multiple Choice</td>
<td>James D. Melo...</td>
<td>Reading MLA citations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Displaying 1 to 5 of 5 items

Passaic County Community College
In the test above each question is worth 20 points. Each student will be given 5 questions to answer. Questions #1 and #2 will be randomly selected from the block of 4 questions on Citation. Questions #3, #4 and #5 will be randomly selected from the block of 5 questions on Reading MLA Citations.

When all the questions have been added the test exists and is not yet deployed.
3. **Add the test to the course.**

Go to the component where the test will reside.

Under Assessments
Select Test

Select the test to deploy to students.
Submit.
On the Test Options page update fields as necessary. Make the test available.

2. **Test Availability**

   ![Checkbox for Make the Link Available]

   Yes  No

Submit.

**Caveats:**

- More than one random block of questions can be added to the test. Just be sure that the same questions do not appear in multiple blocks or you risk the student getting the same question twice.