

Exam Report

Module Code/Title: Introduction to the Nanoworld

Module Leader: Alberto Politi

Feedback comments:

Assessment in this new lecture unit was by 2 multiple choice computer-aided quizzes. I attempt to summarise here more general issues with multiple choice exams to stimulate discussion and share good practise.

Mechanism:

- about 30/50 questions in each quiz, including different levels of difficulty and graphs/pictures.
- students had computer timed tests and could start the test any time during the first 30min of the invigilated sessions (so no problems with late comers).
- most students finished all questions, especially in the final test (since they knew what to expect).
- students could take one A4 handwritten sheet of formula into the exams (so less stress on memory and more on understanding).
- questions varied from 1 mark (bookwork/simple) to 3 marks (problem).
- the quizzes were timed just before Easter and just before main exams. Hence less stress on students at one exam period

Results:

- multiple choice tests allow the examiner to assess most of the taught material.
- ~14% of those who attended both midterm and endterm exam failed.

One problem during loading of the final test was solved by Bill Warburton's team.