

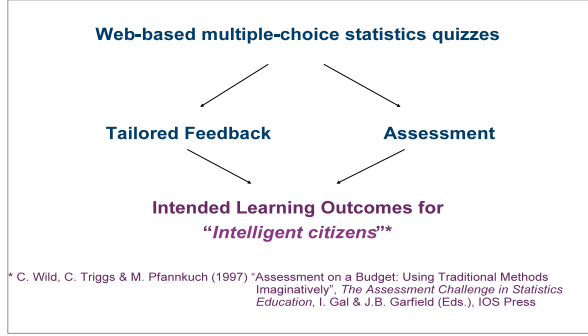


Transition into statistical thinking! Using Quiz Software to teach and assess introductory courses in Statistics.

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ABSTRACT. One of the main issues that statistical education has to face from the very early stages is introducing students to statistical thinking. It has often been observed that, in some service courses in Statistics, students have negative feelings, such as discouragement and even frustration towards the subject area.



Model Choice
An exam question in Probability often requires students to recognise, from a brief description, the family of probability distributions they should work with, in order to solve a problem.

Testing Statistics
The idea of this project was that the use of real stories and data sets (see Gal and Garfield, 1997) with novel material is recommended when teaching Statistics.

Students' Experience
The system of Testing Statistics was first piloted as a means of formative assessment in 2008-2009 for a one-year long, Level 1 Statistics course for students who wish to enter Honours Psychology.

Example of Model Choice Question (2 attempts) - Feedback. The number of questions a student gets correct in a multiple-choice examination, given that the student guesses all the answers...

Example of Testing Statistics Question - Feedback. In a series of experiments conducted in South Florida, USA, between 1968 and 1972, some cumulus clouds were 'seeded' with a silver iodide smoke to investigate whether this would increase the resulting rainfall.

Students' Comments
The lab quiz is very useful as it tells you what you got right and what you got wrong so you know which areas to improve upon.

Another example of Model Choice Question (2 attempts) - Feedback. The number of questions a student gets correct in a multiple-choice examination, given that the student guesses all the answers...

Another example of Testing Statistics Question - Feedback. In a series of experiments conducted in South Florida, USA, between 1968 and 1972, some cumulus clouds were 'seeded' with a silver iodide smoke...

More Students' Comments
I like the test format. Receiving feedback on incorrect answers helps you gain the correct answer and understand where you went wrong.

Another example of Model Choice Question (2 attempts) - Feedback. The number of questions a student gets correct in a multiple-choice examination, given that the student guesses all the answers...

Students' Individualised Summary page. This page shows a summary of the student's performance on the testing statistics quiz, including the number of questions correct and the time taken.

An Open Invitation
Please, visit the sites www.mathstore.ac.uk/modelchoice & www.mathstore.ac.uk/teststat and provide us with your feedback!