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Tools and approaches to help engagement

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My module

Financial Maths

- Level 4 module
- 20 credits
- 4 timetabled hours per week
- 43 students registered (17 PGT, 26 UG)

- Used pre-recorded videos to cover the essential theory
- Used live sessions as examples classes and to answer student Qs

Online discussion forum

Piazza (www.piazza.com)

- It is/was free.
- Students can post anonymously.
- Questions can be organised by folders.
- Reliable notifications of when messages are posted.
- Supports LaTeX notation.
- Can endorse good questions and answers.
- Better engagement than Moodle forum.

- Used Teams chat during live sessions.

In-class polling

Pingo (https://pingo.coactum.de/)

- It is free.
- Students don’t need to register.
- Supports LaTeX notation.
- Choice of MCQ (single or multiple correct answers) or text.
- Option to re-poll.
- Can organise questions using tags.
- Gives an interactive element to live classes.

Interactive notes and homework

R Shiny apps

- Replace static graphs with interactive graphs

- Random question generation and automatic answer checking
- Could use Stack, Numbas instead
- Could use learnr or r/exam R packages instead
- Had regular weekly submission deadlines

VLE design

Moodle

- Link to all resources from one place
- Clearly set out the tasks in order
- Post material 1 to 2 weeks in advance
- Clear instructions on what to do and when, and why
- Break things down into digestible chunks
- Plan the module carefully and communicate the plan!

Student feedback

“Live sessions occur very regularly and help advance learning by going through problems in a systematic way.”

“He also provides homework for every chapter that is marked automatically online. This means I know how well I am grasping the material and I can keep practising. It’s very helpful.”

“I really like having to watch a couple of short videos multiple times a week - helps to stay focuses and keep the content fresh, as opposed to one long video per week like some other modules do.”

“One of the most organised modules that I’ve had in my four years at university”


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Any questions?