Survey Online Exams

1. Intro

Due to the current corona-measurements, education has been online for more than a year now. Not only the lectures and assignments, but also most of the exams are held online. The online examination took place in quite a few different manners. The online examination is, depending on the type of the course, held in several exam platforms. Besides that, there is variation in the set-up of the exams.

The aim of the survey is to assess the experiences on the set-up and rules of online examination and the user-friendliness of different platforms. This way, experiences of students are monitored and are used to find out which way of online examination is convenient. This information is useful to provide lecturers with an advice consisting of guidelines for the preparation of online exams.

In this document a brief summary of the results will be given. The survey is split up in three sections;

- **Rules and setup of the online exam**
  These questions consider the conditions that apply to the exam. These questions do cover everything that is not directly related to the content of the course but is of importance for the conduct of the exam.
- **Exam platform**
  Several platforms are used to take off the exams. In this section the differences between the platforms are considered.
- **Consequences of online examination**
  Online exams differ from physical exams. In this section the consequences of these changes are inventoried.

Besides the defined sections, also a distinction was made between BSc- and MSc-students as they might experience exams in another way. In this document, first the results for the BSc-student will be elaborated upon and will be followed by the findings of the MSc-student survey.

2. BSc-students

2.1 Rules and setup of the online exam

Online exams are way less standard than a physical exam, so this comes with more questions. To counter these questions, **the vast majority declares that it's very much appreciated if they can practice with the platform in advance.**

Exams are often divided into sections with breaks in between. **The survey indicates than more than half of the students don't prefer the division into sections. The opinion on breaks during the exam varies but there is a minority that prefers having breaks.** When breaks are introduced, the advised duration would be between 5 and 15 minutes.

The vast majority of students suggest being able to navigate through the questions and also the ability to jump to a previous question. When something is not fully clear during the exam, **asking questions is most convenient via Brightspace, mail or (video)call.**

Different methods of submitting exams are used, the survey shows that **uploading the complete exam is by far the most convenient.** The following question was about timeslots for scanning and uploading, the variability is large and no unambiguously conclusion can be drawn. **For uploading the answers of one question, students need approximately 5 to 10 minutes. When the full exam should be scanned at once, students need a somewhat larger frame: 5 to 15 minutes.**

2.2 Exam platform

In this section several exam platforms are compared to assess the user-friendliness. First issue raised was the ease of logging in. **For all evaluated exam platforms, logging in is fairly easy** and no important actions have to be taken. The survey shows that **students appreciate an overview of the amount of questions, in almost all platforms this is sufficient, although Grasple, Mobius and COZ rank below Ans, Brightspace and Mumie.**

Finally, the ease of answering questions is discussed. **Answering questions is least convenient in Ans, followed by COZ. Most preferable method used is uploading a pdf to brightspace** because the survey shows that this is, according to students, the most convenient way.

2.3 Consequences of online examination

The online exams clearly have an impact on students; **a majority of students experiences (additional) stress because the exam takes place online. Most important reasons for this increase in stress are uploading answers and technical issues with for example internet or electricity.**

3. MSc-students

3.1 Rules and setup of the online exam

For exams on campus, students know exactly what they can expect because almost all exams are held in the same manner. For online exams this isn't always the case, because lecturers decide upon the setup and conditions that apply. **The vast majority of students indicate that they appreciate being able to practice with the exam-platform in advance**.

The exams are often divided into (time-)sections and sometimes a break in between is introduced. **Most of the students prefer this division into sections because it gives structure to the exam.** The opinion on breaks during the exam varies along the spectrum; it is therefore hard to draw one conclusion from this data. However, **when a pause is held during the exam, students appreciate a break that's not too long, somewhere in between 5-10 minutes preferably closer to 10 minutes than to 5 minutes.**

When making the questions, a large majority states that they prefer being able to jump back to previous questions. When a question is not fully clear, **students suggest using (video)call to ask questions although options like mail and brightspace are also apprized.**

Submitting the exam is done in various ways, **more than half of the students declare that scanning a pdf after all assignments are made is preferred.** The opinion on dedicated timeslots to upload these scans are divergent, there is no unanimous resolution. Also an indication of time that students need to upload their answers can be found in the results. **For scanning one questions the majority states that they need between 2 and 10 minutes. When the full exam should be scanned, students indicate a somewhat larger timescale, namely 5 – 15 minutes.**

3.2 Exam platform

In this section, six platforms were compared to see if there are big differences in user-friendliness. First question that was addressed focused on the signing in for various platforms. As can be seen in the results, **for Grasple, COZ and Mumie logging in seems to be harder than for Mobius, ANS and Brightspace. Brightspace is obviously the easiest platform to log into.**

The survey also shows that **almost all students appreciate having an overview of the amount of questions during the exam. This is best shown in Ans, but for almost all platforms this seems not a frequent problem.**

Also on submitting the questions the convenience varies among the different platforms. **Especially Ans and uploading a pdf to Brightspace seem to be convenient options. For COZ and Grasple it is less convenient to answer the questions.**

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