

PeerWise Coding examples

Difficulties 2016:

Time consuming:

“would have been a better use of my time to study in my own style”

“EXTREMELY time consuming. Unable to overcome”

“yes, very slow process finding good distractors. Overcame by working on the qs for hours”

Lacked knowledge:

“Didn't have enough prior knowledge”

“not confident enough in my own knowledge”

“not knowing the content well enough beforehand”

Lacked enjoyment or motivation:

“boring sometimes”

“it was forced study. I need to enjoy study and can't when time is allocated for it”

“didn't enjoy it”

Being creative

“yes in the sense that I found it hard to think of a creative q idea that would be complicated enough (probably didn't overcome that, just gave it a shot)”

“it was difficult to come up with questions that have not previously been written”

“writers block.”

No difficulties:

“no”

“no. easy to use”

Structure and complexity of questions:

“difficulties thinking of distractors and designing questions that point to a simple diagnosis”

“it's just really really hard to make a good question and then when you think you have, people give it a crap score, really frustrating”

“what sort of structure to give the question did case histories”

What to change 2016:

Time consuming:

“discontinue. Diminishing returns in terms of learning obtained to time spent ratio”

“I found writing mcqs really quite hard - I wanted to make sure they were good enough & accurate enough to submit and it took me a long time to first learn enough content to write them and then create different answers.”

Should be optional/discontinued:

“don't make it compulsory”

“discontinue.”

“not doing it - or not being marked on it - leave it as optional”

No timetabled slot

“do it as a one off and let people do it on their own time not forced to sit in a room to do it”

“don't have a session allocated to it”

“In general it is really good! I just didn't like having a timetabled slot in a noisy room to do it in as it is quite an individual activity”

Lower the requirements:

“if it does continue only make it compulsory to write one good question for each topic”

“not having to write 2 in each section”

Improve question quality:

“would prefer if questions were not student generated(sorry, understand that's the whole point), but student questions can often be inaccurate/ the content misinterpreted. Not very reflective of the real world. Can cause further confusion.”

“all questions looked at by marker rather than just top scored one for grade”

Change incentives/grading:

“don't make the class rate them - some people can be harsh or the system can be cheated. Plus some people may not get to your q so you could get a low score that way”

“There is something broken about the motivation to utilise the learning opportunity. Attachment to terms requirements doesn't work because people know mere participation is enough. People who invest thought and research into a complex and well thought out question often are not fairly assessed by their peers. Peer ranking tends to be more positive for simplistic questions. Also people sort questions based on difficulty to answer easy questions and boost their answer score. Because the task

is too much like a prescribed chore, people find shortcuts to completing the task. And as it stands, there are too many shortcuts."

"the marking"

Change the question/format:

"opportunity to have short answer questions"

"Move to non-MCQs as an option, ie other styles of qs eg TIF, basic q/a questions cloze deletion etc."

Keep PeerWise open longer

"give whole year to do the MCQs and writing of MCQs"

Difficulties 2017:

Time consuming:

"I spent too long overthinking the options"

"it took a long time to write questions initially."

Lacked knowledge:

"had not heard of some of the topics"

"knowing about the condition - researched it"

No difficulties:

"no"

"no - instructions were clear & question items useful"

Structure and complexity of creating questions:

"some topics were more challenging combinations"

"it was difficult to write a question without overtly giving a diagnosis as it caused qs to receive poor feedback score"

Difficult to follow the guidelines for assigned topics:

"coming up with cases was sometimes challenging"

"some MCQ topics were difficult to write about because they didn't make sense eg pathogenesis of a condition whose pathogenesis is unknown"

"some of the topics were really hard to write about or the available info wasn't really clear"

Logistical issues:

"peerwise - crashy/clunky. Wrote in word then copy/paste"

What to change 2017:

Optional/discontinued:

“get rid of it. Teach path like ELM”

“make it optional”

No timetabled slot:

“maybe don't allot computer lab time for MCQs and take roll - just schedule it as a home/independent activity”

“the sessions in the computer lab were unnecessary.”

Lower the requirements:

“less timelines”

“not make them required to be case based as sometimes cases were included despite the question not requiring it”

Improve question quality:

“have the instructors/tutors give feedback to everyone. Not for all 8 questions each but at least one per person”

“question topics that can be realistically applied clinically.”

Change incentives/grading

“make the writing of the question worth more marks eg if it was better written then should get more points”

“give prizes for badges! They're a fun and silly incentive to get students competitive and learning. Also the leaderboards”

Writing questions is difficult

“some of the topics were really hard to write questions for”

“I would make sure the questions that you get correlate with the lecture material”

PeerWise questions stay up longer:

“I hope the qs can stay up there for study at the end of the year”

Logistics-related improvements

“should categorise questions based on modules so we can choose rather than not knowing”

“perhaps mix up the question context as in have a combination of natural hx, complications, epidemiology pathogenesis, macro and microscopic findings. This is because I received a few repeats”

