

Resit Examinations

The Taught Assessment regulation on resit examination states:

27.1 Boards of Examiners must publish the requirements for resits for those courses that they are responsible for. Boards must take the same approach to resits for all students on a particular course, except where a student's previous attempt is a null sit.

27.2 Boards of Examiners must set requirements at resit that are as demanding as those made of students at the first attempt.

27.3 Boards of Examiners will inform students who are required to undertake resit assessment of the format of their resit assessment. Resit methods need not be the same as those used to assess the learning outcomes at the first attempt, but all relevant learning outcomes must be assessed. Resit arrangements must give students a genuine opportunity to pass the course. Boards of Examiners choose between two options to achieve this:

(a) Carry forward any component of assessment (coursework or examination) that has been passed already and require the student to retake the failed element;

(b) Set an assessment covering all learning outcomes for the course, and weight this as 100% of the course result.

At the moment we do not comply with this regulation because we carry forward exam and coursework grades and require students to resit the exam component only. For some students this means they are resitting an examination they have already passed to attempt to get a higher grade that will compensate for a low coursework grade. We do this because it is unfair to ask students to redo coursework in vacation time when some (usually less well-off) students need to work.

For many of our courses, coursework and examinations are examining different learning outcomes so our approach is incoherent because we are not asking students to demonstrate they have improved on learning outcomes examined by the coursework. We are permitted to change the assessment pattern between the main diet and the resit. I'd like to discuss the following options and decide on a uniform approach for all of our examinations where resits are permitted. Here are the options I'd like us to consider:

1. Continue our current practice.
2. Set **two** written examinations, one that is a resit examination paper for the main diet paper and the second that is based on the coursework and attempts to use an examination to interrogate the students understanding of the coursework. Students would resit the components they failed in the main diet.
3. Set **one** written examination that includes at least one compulsory question on the coursework and covers all of the learning outcomes. The compulsory question

should contribute the same proportion to the final grade as the coursework does to the overall course assessment.

At the moment I think our approach is not really in the spirit of the regulation so option 1 keeps us in that position. I believe that for some students our current practice does not give them "*a genuine opportunity to pass the course*".

Stuart Anderson
4 Sept 2018