

Interim Assessment

How to ensure both high participation and a strong learning effect

1-A Course information

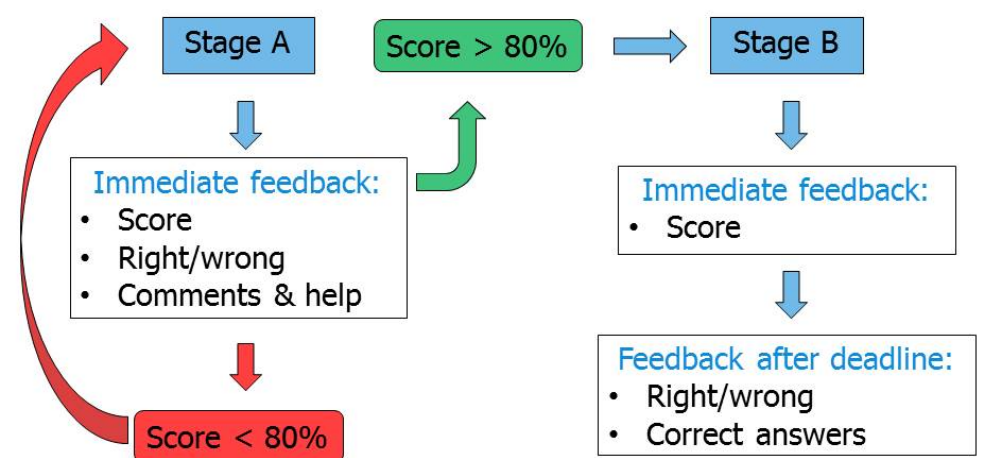
Maple TA homework tests for each chapter

- Formative stage A tests
 - Assessment **for** learning
 - Unlimited availability (until retake)
- Summative stage B tests
 - Assessment **of** learning
 - Can only be taken once
 - Time limit & deadline
 - Count towards (half) bonus point

Make good use of stage A!

1-A Course information

For each chapter: stage A and stage B



(Digital) tests during the education period can strongly support the learning process of students. But if such tests are purely formative, participation levels could be disappointingly low and students that would benefit most may not participate. Therefore, teachers tend to add summative components to such interim tests: compulsory participation, part of the final mark etc.. Unfortunately, this makes students focus on scoring rather than on learning and, hence, the learning effect will drop dramatically.

We have ensured both high participation levels and a high learning effect as follows:

1. All 9 tests are separated in a learning stage A and a scoring stage B;
2. Students get high-quality feedback in stage A, helping them to improve themselves before entering stage B.

We have fully automated this set-up and used it 3 years in a row for a group of 140-180 MSc students. Even though the tests are not compulsory, >95% participate all the way through and find it a very effective and enjoyable way to digest the course material.

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