Accepted Manuscript

Title: Online assessment, adaptive feedback and the importance of visual learning for students. The advantages, with a few caveats, of using MapleTA

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PII: S1477-3880(17)30041-5
DOI: https://doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.iree.2018.03.002
Reference: IREE 127

To appear in:

Received date: 27-4-2017
Revised date: 19-12-2017
Accepted date: 5-3-2018

Please cite this article as: Mario Pezzino, Online assessment, adaptive feedback and the importance of visual learning for students. The advantages, with a few caveats, of using MapleTA, *<![CDATA[International Review of Economics Education]]>* (2018), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iree.2018.03.002

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Online assessment, adaptive feedback and the importance of visual learning for students. The advantages, with a few caveats, of using MapleTA.*

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April 2017

Abstract

The paper highlights the importance and necessity of a versatile and reliable platform for online assessment in higher education. Recent technological developments allow instructors to go beyond standard multiple choice questions (MCQs). The paper considers, in particular, two important aspects: (i) embedding visual and interactive material in assignment questions that favours reasoning and learning and (ii) the importance of questions and feedback that can adapt to the particular performance of students. To reinforce the message, the paper shows how the latest release of the platform MapleTA could represent a powerful tool in the hands of educators in those fields where algebraic and diagrammatic analysis is essential to the learning process, such as mathematics, economics and business.

Keywords: online assessment; adaptive questions; visual learning; MapleTA.

JEL Classification: A22, C63, D43

*The author is grateful to the editor and two anonymous reviewers for their comments and advice. The author is also grateful to the participants in the Economics Education Seminar Series, UCL, and the 2017 Developments in Economics Education conference for helpful comments and suggestions. Finally, he is grateful to Elsa Lee, eLearning Technologist at the University of Manchester, for her help and patience when the author was taking his first steps with MapleTA.

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