LESSON 1 – CUSTOMIZE THE QUESTION OPTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

In this lesson, you will learn how to:

- Customize the question options for an assignment
- Use question pools in a quiz or test

Customize the question options for an assignment

You have several options available for your homework, quiz, and test questions, such as changing point values, including questions from other textbooks, adding instructor tips, and others. In this lesson, you will learn about the various options and how to use them to customize your questions.

1. **Edit the homework assignment.**
   In the Homework/Test Manager, click the **Actions** dropdown list for one of your homework assignments and select **Edit**. Click **Go** to open up the homework editor. In Step 1 of the editor, click **Next** to go to the Select Media and Questions step.

   Note: The steps for customizing the question options for a quiz or test are similar.

2. **Change the question point values.**
   By default, each question is worth 1 point. Change the point value for the first question to 2 points, and change the point value for the second question to 3 points. Notice that the total number of points for the assignment is automatically updated.

   ![Image of the homework editor with question selections and point values]

3. **Include questions from another textbook.**
   In addition to the questions from the textbook you are teaching from, you can select questions from other textbooks in the Pearson library.

   Click **Change** to the right of your textbook title at the top of the page. In the Select book pop-up window, enter "Bittinger" in the Find Titles box, and click **Find Titles**. Select the **Bittinger, Basic Mathematics, 11th edition** textbook from the list and click **Select Book**.
Notice that the dropdown lists are updated to reflect the organization in the new textbook. Click the **Chapter** dropdown list and select **Chapter 1**. Then click the **Section** dropdown list and select **Section 1.2**. Check the box to the left of the first two questions in the Available Questions list, and click **Add** to include these questions in your homework assignment. The program identifies the questions from the different book with an asterisk and the thumbnail view lists the textbook from which the question was chosen.

Note: You can include up to 20 questions from other books in any one assignment. However, you must include at least one question in the assignment from your course book.

4. **Include multiple-choice questions.**
   The majority of the publisher questions are of the short-answer format, however, there are also multiple-choice questions available.

   Check the **Show additional test bank questions** box in the **Question Source** section at the top right of the page. Uncheck the **Show publisher questions** box.
The Available Questions list is refreshed and shows only the questions from the test bank. These are identified with (tb) in the Question ID. Hover your mouse over the first question in the list for a thumbnail view of the question.

Check the boxes for the first two questions in the Available Questions list and click Add to include these questions in your homework assignment.

5. Add instructor tips.
You can add your own notes to questions for clarification or to provide additional directions to students.

Click the first question in your My Selections list to open the preview window. On the Preview window, click Add Instructor Tip. Enter "Be sure to check your answer." in the box. Click Save to add the tip to the question. The instructor tip will pop up automatically when the student first opens this question in your assignment.
Note: You can only type text in the Instructor Tip box. Mathematical expressions and images cannot be included in the Instructor Tip.

6. **Require students to show work.**
   You can require students to show their work on individual questions in the assignment. On the question preview window, check the **Student to show work** box at the bottom of the window.

   ![Screenshot of the question preview window with the Student to show work box checked]

   The Show Work window will pop up automatically when the student first opens this question in your assignment. Students can select Help in the menu bar to learn how to use the Show Work window.

   **Note:** Students must turn off the pop-up blocker in their browsers to have the Instructor Tip or Show Work window pop up automatically. Alternatively, they can click the Instructor Tip or Show Work button in the Learning Aids panel to pull up the window.
Tip: You have to manually grade each student's work, so be judicious in the number of questions that require students to show work. A best practice is to limit the number of Show Work questions to 20% of the total number of questions in the assignment.

7. Set the question scoring options.
You can adjust the numeric answer tolerance for a question, award partial credit for equivalent answers, and set the number of attempts students have on each part of the question.

On the preview window, click Scoring Options at the bottom right of the window.

In the Question Scoring Options window, select the Award partial credit option, and enter 80% in the box. If a student enters an answer for this question that is equivalent to the correct answer but not in the specified form, the answer will be marked partially correct and the score will be 80% of the total points for that question.
Up To Speed

On Step 2, click View question details at the top of the My Selections list. On the View Question Details window, you can specify the numeric answer tolerance, credit for unsimplified answers, number of tries within each question, and require students to show work for multiple questions.

8. Save your changes.
Return to the Add/Remove Content window and click Save & Assign to save your question options and return to the Homework/Test Manager.
Use question pools in a quiz or test

Within quizzes and tests, you can increase the variation of questions by using question pools. A question pool is a group of questions that are associated with a single question on a quiz or test. The question the student views on the quiz or test is a random selection of one of the questions from the pool. In this lesson, you will use question pooling in a quiz.

Tip: Since the questions on your quiz or test are also algorithmically generated, pooling greatly reduces the chances of two students seeing the same question with the same values.

1. **Edit the quiz.**
   In the Homework/Test Manager, click the **Actions** dropdown list for one of your quizzes or tests, and select **Edit**. Click **Go** to open up the quiz editor. In Step 1 of the editor, click **Next** to go to the Add/Remove Content step.

2. **Enable question pooling.**
   Before you can create question pools, you have to enable question pooling. Click **Pooling options** at the top of the My Selections list. On the Pooling Options window, select **Enable question pooling** and click **OK**.

3. **Create a question pool from existing questions in the quiz.**
   Check the boxes to the left of the first two questions in the My Selections list. Click **Pool**. The two questions are pooled together.

   Notice that the pooled questions in the My Selections list are separated by a different color band, with each band representing one question pool. Your quiz now has two questions.
4. **Create a question pool by adding new questions.**
   If needed, filter the list of available questions to show questions from Section 1.2. Check the boxes for questions 1.2.9, 1.2.11, and 1.2.15 and click **Pool**. These questions are added to a quiz and are pooled as question 3 on your quiz.

   ![Tip](image)
   *Tip: Pool questions with the same objective and difficulty level to increase the number of variations for your quiz.*

5. **Save your changes.**
   Click **Save & Assign** to save your quiz and return to the Homework/Test Manager.