How to Create a Random Block for an Exam on Blackboard

Summary:
- To use Random Blocks in Blackboard Exams, you need to first create a pool of questions for each Random Block.
- After the question pool(s) is created, then begin the exam creation process. [See Step 11]
- Be sure to specify the points possible per question in each Random Block. [See Step 17]
- Be sure to specify how many questions of each pool are to be presented in each Random Block. [See Step 18]

**Step 1** Log in to your course on Blackboard.

**Step 2** On the left, under the “Course Management” section, click “Course Tools”

**Step 3** Towards the bottom of the “Course Tools” list, click “Tests, Surveys, and Pools”
Self and Peer Assessment
Send Email
SoftChalk - Synchronize Copied Content
SoftChalk Publish with ScoreCenter
Tasks
Tests, Surveys, and Pools
Turnitin Assignments
Turnitin Assignments by Groups
**Step 4)** Click “Pools”

![Tests, Surveys, and Pools](image)

- Tests
- Surveys
- **Pools**

**Step 5)** Click “Build Pool”

![Pools](image)

**Step 6)** Enter a title for your question Pool. Then click SUBMIT on the bottom right of your screen.

![Pool Information](image)

- *Indicates a required field.
- **POOL INFORMATION**
- ✴ **Name**

**Step 7)** Now you will create the questions for your exam. Click “Create Question” to see a list of possible question types you can add to your question Pool. *(For Random Blocks, please keep in mind that the questions you create here will be presented in a randomized order to your students during the exam)*

![Pool Canvas: EXAMPLE OF TEST POOL](image)
Step 8) The questions you create will appear on the right after you submit them.

You do not need to assign a point value to them here. It is important to note that all questions within a Random Block are assigned the same value (points possible that your students can earn by answering correctly.) This is done in STEP 17 of this guide.

Step 9) Once you are done creating questions, click “OK” on the bottom right:

Step 10) You will be brought back to the list of Pools in your course, you should see your newly created pool among them. You’re all done here, now it’s time to create your exam! Proceed to the next page of this guide.
Step 11) Go to a Content Area (i.e. “Course Documents”) in your course, and move your mouse over “Assessments,” then click “Test”:

![Course Documents](image)

Step 12) On the next page, click “Create”
**Step 13)** On the next page, enter in the exam name. Description and Instructions are optional. Click “Submit” on the bottom right to continue...

![Test Information](image)

**Step 14)** You will now be brought to the “Test Canvas” where you can create new questions, and add Random Blocks of questions from the Pool you created in Steps 1 – 9.

Move your mouse over “Reuse Question,” and click “Create Random Block”

![Test Canvas: EXAMPLE: Test with Random Block](image)

Success: EXAMPLE: Test with Random Block created.

**Test Canvas: EXAMPLE: Test with Random Block**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Create Question</th>
<th>Reuse Question</th>
<th>Upload Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create Random Block</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Instructions</td>
<td>Total Questions 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This test has no questions!
Create questions or add questions from other resources.
Step 15) A new window will pop-up where you can locate the pool of questions to draw from. In order to see your questions, you need to select the pool you created, and then a question type.

Step 16) After selecting the Pool and Question Type, you will see the questions within the Pool that we created in steps 1 – 9 appear on the right of that window. Review the questions to make sure you have selected the right questions... then click “Submit.”
Step 17) Here you will assign a point value for each question in the Random Block. Each question in a block has the same point value. On the right, circled in red, change the “Points per question” to the value you want.

Step 18) Here you will select the number of questions to display out of the total number of questions possible within the question pool you created. Enter in that number in the box circled in red:

If we set that number to 5, like in the screenshot above, this would mean that each student will be presented only 5 out of the 9 possible questions in random order.
**Step 19** Once you have the number of questions to display set, and the point value for all questions within the random block set, click “OK” on the bottom right.

**Step 20** On this page, select the exam you just created among the list, and click “Submit” on the bottom right:
Step 21) Enter in the title of the link your students will click to begin the exam, along with any availability / feedback options you desire. This guide assumes you have worked with these options before. Once all your settings are in order, scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Submit”.

SHOW TEST RESULTS AND FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Score per Question</th>
<th>Answers</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>Show Incorrect Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After Submission</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEST PRESENTATION

- All at Once
- One at a Time Prevent Backtracking
- Randomize Questions

Step 22) Congratulations! You have created an exam with a random block! Your students will now be able to access the exam within the content area you added the exam to, and will appear according to the availability settings you selected.

EXAMPLE: Test with Random Block

Availability: Item is not available.