Magic with Moodle 15 - Using Moodle assignments 2

Using Moodle assignments in the School of Education

Background

We needed certain features that were available in Moodle assignments and did not need the features that Turnitin offered, e.g.,

- a School-specific grading scale (a system of ‘spot marks’)
- to support School policy on grading
- to deliver grades via Moodle
- School assessment policy also requires the return to each student of a ‘feedback form’ for each assignment, explaining the criteria used in grading and how each particular assignment met (or failed to meet) those criteria.

What did you do?

- We found Moodle assignments to be more configurable for our needs than Turnitin assignments. We now use Moodle assignments in modules across the School.
- We could add our own grading scale (a system of ‘spot marks’) which ensured a match between School policy on grading, and the delivery of grades via Moodle.
- We could also make use of Moodle’s ‘response files’ feature, which was important to us because of the need to return the feedback forms.

How did it work out?
It is appropriate to support the School’s assessment policy
Staff were happy enough with it
Students have very little difficulty with it

Recommendations and tips

- In 12-13 I set up a rather clunky ‘copy and paste’ activity (using the ‘notes’ feature) to get students to confirm that they understood the regulations relating to assignment submission. In 13-14 I’ve ditched that idea and now simply remind students of the regulations (I include a link to them) and tell them that by clicking on ‘send for marking’ they are agreeing that they understand them.
- One thing we find particularly useful is the ability to set up resubmission assignments which are visible only to students who fail to get a pass mark in the original assignment (using ‘grade condition’ in the ‘restrict access’ settings).
- The problem many staff encounter is that the grading screen contains too many columns and finding the ‘grade’ button for a particular assignment can involve a lot of horizontal scrolling.

More information:

- Moodle Magic Case study 14: Using Moodle assignments for non-text submissions
- How to create a Moodle assignment
- How to delete a draft Moodle assignment (student instructions)
- How to enable resubmission of a Moodle assignment (staff viewpoint)
- How to give feedback privately to students