Review of: "Improving Learning Outcomes through Well Designed MCQ Tests"

Dragan Zezelj[1]

1 University of Zagreb

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thanks to the authors for this great effort. Here are some thoughts.

Apart from developing a new MSQ platform, there is not much new in this approach. Negative marking, although unpopular (yet I support it), is a feature that can be easily implemented in at least one LMS system mentioned in the paper. Connecting learning outcomes to the questions is almost a standard capability, as well as providing detailed feedback.

In Section 3, the authors proposed features that should preferably be integrated into an MSQ exam platform. Interestingly, there is no mention of features that some other tools have, such as the Secure Exam Browser, for example.

In ref.9, research on previous exams conducted by the same professor among the same group of students from one course is presented.

In the proposed article, the following is stated: Exam A was conducted in a controlled environment among third-year students for one course, and B and C among second-year students for another course, also in a controlled environment. Exam D was conducted among first-year students, not in a controlled environment and without negative marks, while Exam E was conducted traditionally, presumably in a controlled environment. Exams D and E were for the same course. Deriving conclusions based on the exam results from different courses, different students, and different teachers might be at least questionable.

In Section 6, the authors included AI in a way that, in the eyes of this reviewer, is nothing more than unnecessary sensationalism in the context of the daily matter regarding the potential usage of AI. With the current pace, there is no doubt AI will be widely involved in many areas, but it doesn't justify this kind of speculative prediction. The article would be better without that part.