Instructions for using Moodle question bank upload script

This is a script to turn a spreadsheet with quiz questions into a Moodle XML file. The easiest way to use it is to email me your spreadsheet and have me email back the XML file (contact info at bottom).

I have provided an example spreadsheet. Each question is a single line. Not all question types use all columns.

Question types

I have only written support for the following question types:

- multichoice (single right answer only and must have more than one answer choice)
- shortanswer
- truefalse

If you want another question type, feel free to ask. To make the process faster, write up one question of that type in Moodle, export your question bank (or just the questions from the category containing that question) to an XML file, and send me that file so that I can have a template to work from.

The script is limited to 16 possible answers, but I can easily modify that if needed.

Categories

Question bank categories are organized hierarchically with the top category being called "Top". You can leave out the "Top" designation in the spreadsheet. If I wanted a question in Top > Elasticity > Elasticity of Demand, I would put `Elasticity/Elasticity of Demand` in the `Category` cell. If I only want a single level of categories, then I would put this question in the Elasticity category by writing just `Elasticity` in the `Category` cell.

Limitations on special characters, images, and formatting

I cannot guarantee that all special characters will work. Avoid using straight single quotes if possible (they might work). Here are curly quotes to use instead: " " ' ' (they look better, anyway).

I have not determined any way to support images. Moodle stores them in a strange way.

Formatting requires writing code (HTML, for example) into the spreadsheet cells.

License

Feel free to modify and distribute this script for personal use. Please share with me any useful modifications you make. If you would like to make substantial improvements, we should coordinate.

Spreadsheet format

Do not change the column names. You can reorder the columns as desired as long as you do not have empty columns between the columns with contents. The order of rows is not important.

* Required (others might be required, but I have not tested extensively)

- Category
- Tags: tags for the question (separated by commas—no spaces around the commas)
- idnumber: Unique number for each question (not required)
- Type*: multichoice, shortanswer, or truefalse
- DefaultGrade*: score for correct answer
- Penalty*: lost score from repeated attempts
- Hidden: ?
- single: for multichoice, is there only one correct answer? I have not coded support for "false". Leave blank if not multichoice type.
- shuffleanswers: should answer options be shuffled (can be overridden by quiz settings)
- answernumbering: how to number answers
- CaseSensitive: for shortanswer, should answer choices be case sensitive? Leave blank for other question types.
- Correctfeedback: feedback to display if the answer was correct
- Partiallycorrectfeedback: feedback to display if the answer was partially correct
- Incorrectfeedback: feedback to display if the answer was incorrect
- Name: name for the question. Only you see this. It can help to identify questions.
- GeneralFeedback: feedback to show everyone
- Text: text of the question
- Score1: percent of DefaultGrade earned for this answer. Required if Answer1 is not empty.
- Answer1: text to show student for first answer for multichoice and truefalse. First answer to check against student answer for shortanswer.
- Feedback1: feedback to show students who choose this answer

Questions

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