

# CREATING A RANDOM BLOCK TEST



## Tests, Surveys, and Pools

Instructors who want to create a test that randomly generates a different set of questions for each student can create a test using a random block. Random block tests are useful for:

- Creating a midterm or final exam that pulls random questions from several unit/lesson question pools.
- Discouraging cheating in online tests (question pool must have 100 or more questions to draw at random to be effective).

This tutorial assumes that you have already created one or more [question pools](#) in Blackboard.

## CREATING A RANDOM BLOCK

1. When in your course, scroll down to the **CONTROL PANEL** and click on the **COURSE TOOLS** menu. From the Course Tools menu, select **TEST, SURVEYS, AND POOLS**.
2. On the **TESTS, SURVEYS, AND POOLS** main menu page, click **TESTS**.
3. On the **TESTS** page, click the **BUILD TEST** button. This will take you to the **TEST INFORMATION** page. Enter a name, a description, and instructions in the text boxes provided. Then, click **SUBMIT**.
4. You will be taken to the **TEST CANVAS** page. Mouse over the **REUSE QUESTION** button and select **CREATE RANDOM BLOCK** from the menu that appears.
5. The **CREATE RANDOM BLOCK** page will appear.

Under **CHOOSE CRITERIA**, use the criteria menus to search for the **POOL** and **QUESTION TYPES** that you want to include in your random block. The pool questions matching your search criteria will appear in the **SELECTED CRITERIA** list.

6. Once the questions you desire appear in the **SELECTED CRITERIA** list, click **SUBMIT**.

Select Pool(s) to Search

Select "All Pool Questions" or select question type

**Create Random Block**

A random block is a group of questions retrieved from a question pool. Questions are randomly retrieved from the selected question pool based on the question type and the number of questions available in the selected pool. [More Help](#)

**Choose Criteria**

View ▾ Reset to Default

**Pool**

- Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions
- Chapter 01 Short Answer Questions
- Chapter 01 True/False Questions
- Chapter 02 Multiple Choice Questions
- Chapter 03 Multiple Choice Questions
- Dec 8 Pool
- Human Development - Pool Questions
- Human Skeleton

**Question types**

- All Pool Questions
- Calculated Formula
- Calculated Numeric
- Either/Or
- Essay
- File Response
- Fill in Multiple Blanks
- Fill in the Blank

**Selected Criteria**

Pool Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions Chapter 01 True/False Questions + Question types All Pool Questions

**Preview questions that match selected criteria**

Question Display ▾

Displaying 1 to 25 of 66 items

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Question Text	Question Type	Source Name
A 2001 study showed that more than 50 percent of newlyweds met their spouses ...	Multiple Choice	Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions
A minority group is	Multiple Choice	Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions
A sociologist who investigates how people interpret the situations they are I...	Multiple Choice	Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions
According to Aristotle, "We like those who resemble us, and are engaged in th...	True/False	Chapter 01 True/False Questions
According to Parrillo, a category of people who share visible biological char...	Multiple Choice	Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions
An ethnic group held up as a role model in contrast to a newly arrived group ...	Multiple Choice	Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions
An example of an ascribed status is a	Multiple	Chapter 01 Multiple Choice

Cancel Submit

- You will be taken back to the **TEST CANVAS**, where you will see that a **RANDOM BLOCK** has been added to the test.

In the random block, click the **NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO DISPLAY** text box.

**Test Canvas: An Example Random Block Test**

Create Question | Reuse Question | Upload Questions | Question Settings

Description: This is an example of a random block test. Random blocks use question pools.  
Instructions: Select the best answer.  
Total Questions: 1  
Total Points: 10

Select: All | None | Select by Type: - Question Type -

Delete | Points: | Update | Hide Question Details

1. Random Block | Points per question: 10 | Total Points: 10

Total Questions: 65  
Number of Questions to display: 1  
Source Pool: Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions, Chapter 01 True/False Questions  
Question Types: All Pool Questions

▶ Preview questions that match selected criteria

- The text box will turn into a form where you can **TYPE** the **NUMBER** of random questions to pull from the pool. When done, click **SUBMIT**.

1 - 25. Random Block

Total Questions: 65  
Number of Questions to display: 25  
Questions to display in the block: 25 | Cancel | Submit

- Next, if desired, edit the point value of each question by clicking on the **POINTS PER QUESTION** text box.

1 - 25. Random Block | Points per question: 10 | Total Points: 250

Total Questions: 65  
Number of Questions to display: 25

Click to edit points per question value.

- In the form that appears, add a new point value and click **SUBMIT**. The total point value of the test will update based on your settings.

1 - 25. Random Block

Update Points: 4 | Cancel | Submit

Total Questions: 65

- When you are done building and customizing your random block test, scroll to the bottom of the **TEST CANVAS** and click **OK**. The test will be added to your list of tests in Tests, Surveys, and Pools.

**When you are ready to deploy your test so students may take it, see the “Making Your Test Available” tutorial.**