

## 7.28 Annexure 6A: Announcing and sharing teaching techniques

Simon Mukwembi

**From:** H. Cynthia Chiang <cynthia@physicschick.com>  
**Sent:** 27 April 2014 08:57 PM  
**To:** Simon Mukwembi  
**Subject:** Re: make-up tests

Hi Simon,

Thanks very much for the info, and sorry for the late reply. (I've been overhauling my laptop's operating system, and I think it's finally functional again and back online.) I think I'll follow something similar to case #1. My original class mark scheme was to take the average of the best 2 tests out of 3, and if I offer a 4th test as a make-up, then students who take it will have their class mark calculated from the best 3 out of 4. One possible pitfall is that a student's overall class mark may actually decrease if he/she completely bombs the make-up; do you think that's a risk that's fair? (I think it's ok, but the students may not?)

thanks!  
Cynthia

On 04/24/2014 07:21 PM, Simon Mukwembi wrote:

> Dear Cynthia,  
> This varies from one course to the other depending on the lecturer's preference. The most common situations are as follows:  
> 1. Giving a total of  $n+1$  tests and taking the average mark of the best  $n$  tests when calculating DP. This means that the extra test works as a make-up test for everyone, and this make-up mark will replace one bad mark.  
> 2. Giving  $n$  tests and taking the average of all the  $n$  tests for the DP mark. Make-up tests, under this model, are granted only to students who would have missed a test for legitimate reasons, such as being sick et cetera.  
>  
> Please let me know if this helps.  
>  
> With regards,  
> Simon.  
>  
> —Original Message—  
> From: H. Cynthia Chiang [mailto:cynthia@physicschick.com]  
> Sent: 24 April 2014 09:47 PM  
> To: Simon Mukwembi  
> Subject: make-up tests  
>  
> Hi Simon,  
>  
> Picking up from our conversation yesterday, can you tell me how make-up tests usually work? E.g. are they offered as a drop-in replacement for other bad test scores, or is there a more complicated weighting scheme?  
> Are they offered to everyone in the class, or just people below a certain percentage? I know there's probably more than one solution, but thought I'd ask you what's considered normal here.  
>  
> The last test I gave my students turned out even worse than I feared – my tutor returned the scripts to me today, and only "two" students out of ~25 were above the DP cutoff. Not a single person scored above 50%.  
> If a make-up test is an acceptable way of giving them another chance, I'd like to do that...  
>  
> thanks,  
> Cynthia

Simon Mukwembi

**From:** University Notice  
**Sent:** 11 June 2014 08:51 AM  
**To:** University Notice  
**Subject:** Invitation - T&L and School of Education Seminar by Professor Simon Mukwembi  
**Attachments:** 2014-06-27 PhD Cohort Mukwembi.pdf

To All Staff and Students

The University Teaching & Learning Office (UTO) and the School of Education invites you to a Seminar by Professor Simon Mukwembi from the School of Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science and UKZN's Distinguished Teacher for 2013 on **Do Mathematical Models have the Potential to Solve Systemic Problems in Education?**

See attached invite for further details.

**Date:** Friday, 27 June 2014  
**Time:** 16h00 – 18h00  
**Venue:** LT 6, Main Tutorial Building, Edgewood Campus, UKZN  
**Chair:** Dr Rubby Dhunpathi (Director Teaching & Learning)

**RSVP Essential to Mrs Silindile Mchunu on 031 260 3002 or [utlo@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:utlo@ukzn.ac.za)**

Issued by the University Teaching and Learning Office