

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE ONLINE MARITIME ENGLISH TEACHING

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Introduction. The state of martial law in Ukraine and Russian occupation made Kherson-based higher education establishments to relocate themselves in 2022. Kherson State Maritime Academy is temporarily in Odesa. The process of education is conducted in blended or fully remote mode (it depends on year of studying). E-learning is going using LMS MOODLE [1] and Zoom (synchronous learning).

Relevance of research. Maritime English is one of the most important courses for future ship engineers as they need to know English to find a job, understand other crewmembers, read manuals and regulations etc. The objectives of the course are given in the course summary on LMS MOODLE.

Results. Cadets have three or four Maritime English courses according to academic years (e.g. abridged program cadets have only three courses). The course first section contains important information on number of modules, names of topics, assessment criteria, activities necessary to receive a credit. First section also contains Forum activity where course participants have possibility to ask teacher the question or to help other students in case they know the answer. Activity News provides all important announcements during course. The information about teacher, her/his contacts are given on Meet the Teacher page.

Second section of the course contains information on 1st Module's name, competencies and essential competency. The next sections are representing the content of module's topics (e.g. quizzes, assignments, links, pdf of Student's Book parts, glossaries, wiki, chats and forums).

Quizzes are necessary activities which must be done by the end of every module. They are called Stop and checks. Such quizzes include 23 questions on module's topic (e.g. multiple choice questions, matching, true/false, essay, drag and drop markers, drag and drop onto image, embedded answers (cloze), short answer). The questions' order is always shuffled.

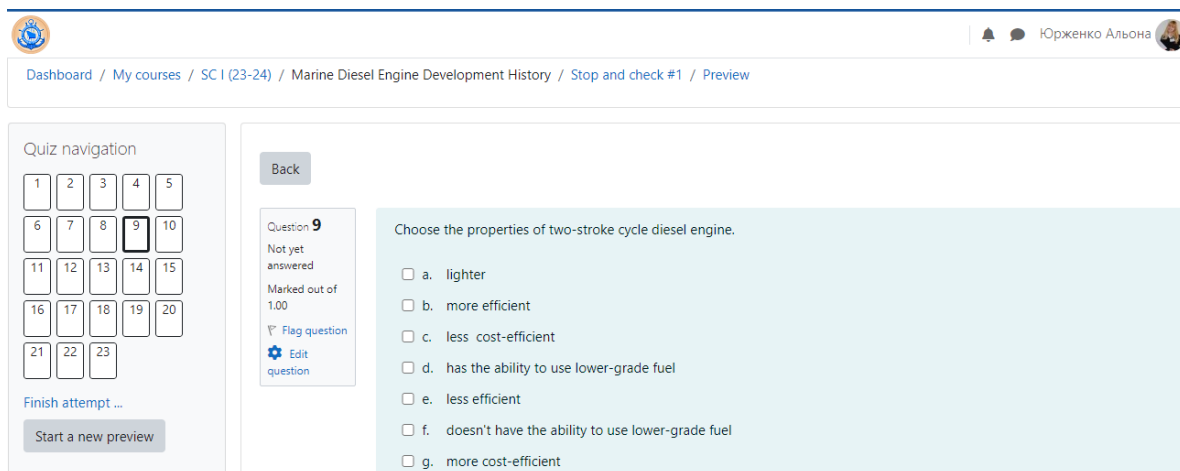


Figure 1 – LMS MOODLE Quiz example

The courses also contain gamification elements in order to involve cadets in studying: leaderboards, badges, missions, levels, maps, games, quests. We believe gamification is one of the e-learning elements necessary nowadays to enhance motivation, and learning outcomes of future ship engineers [2].

Conclusions. While e-learning offers numerous advantages, it also faces several barriers that can hinder its effectiveness and adoption. The biggest one is unreliable internet connection which can be done reliable by nobody in conditions of war. E-learning can be isolating for learners who thrive on social interaction and collaborative learning experiences. While e-learning offers flexibility in terms of when and where learning can take place, some cadets may struggle to balance their studies with other responsibilities [3, 4]. In our opinion, by overcoming these challenges, e-learning can become more accessible, effective, and inclusive for learners of all backgrounds and abilities.

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