

Modular teaching and flexible assessment

S A Siddiqui and M G Zadnik
Department of Applied Physics
[Curtin University of Technology](http://www.curtin.edu.au)

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Physics 113/114/115 is an introductory physics unit offered to a wide range of first year science students in various disciplines across the university. The full unit is offered in 6 modules. Since the students come from a wide range of academic backgrounds, learning attitudes and work commitments, they can opt to take 3 modules per semester (slow track) or 6 modules per semester (fast track).

The assessment is based on module tests, laboratory work and a final examination. The main feature of this unit is the flexible assessment in module tests using WebCT. Each module test is available to students in the Computer Assisted Assessment (CAA) Laboratory on WebCT from 8 am to 5 pm over a period of one week, following the completion of lectures in each module. The supervised environment of the CAA Lab provides a secure environment for testing while giving students greater time flexibility.

The unit has been running for the past two years. This paper will discuss various aspects of the unit in terms of implementation, outcomes, student feedback and demand on staff time.

Dr S A Siddiqui, Associate Lecturer, Department of Applied Physics
Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, Western Australia
6845

Email: S.Siddiqui@curtin.edu.au Tel: (8) 9266 7193 Fax: (8) 9266 2377

Prof M G Zadnik, Dean, Teaching & Learning

Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, Western Australia
6845

Email: m.zadnik@curtin.edu.au Tel: (8) 9266 2326 Fax: (8) 9266 2377