What students say about Revel® - Programming Python

Institution: University of Tromsø, Norway
Course: Introduction to Python Programming
Course material: Revel for Liang: Introduction to Python Programming and Data Structures, 1/e
Educator: Frode Nasje
Instructor’s Approach to Revel

Revel is used predominantly as a flexible, self-study model. During the course, the instructor allows students to work with Revel as they like. He only sets mandatory assignments for the last lesson to collect feedback on the student experience.

Before adopting Revel, the instructor used to create his own tests as part of the mandatory requirements for the exam. Now he uses Canvas and Revel. With Revel, he assigns online programming tasks and exercises. Although they are not mandatory, he can still check how students progress with the topics, and he finds it useful that students can work independently.

In the new course, he uses the exercises and links to the book page found in Revel. The points students earn during the initial assignments by the instructor count as part of their assessment. The assignments that follow are graded by the teaching assistants.

The instructor says he would not hesitate to use Revel again in his future classes.
What students say about Revel

Preparedness

56% of respondents felt better prepared for class after using Revel.

Student opinion: “The ability to work independently: to sit down alone and go through the concepts, was extremely useful.”

For the instructor: “The ebook, the self-study courses and exercises from the book is the perfect mix.”

70% of respondents felt that Revel helped them better understand the course material.

“I like that it breaks the material into shorter sections and it’s easier to categorise in your head.”

“I like the videos and how they break things up.”

“The interactivity is very useful in programmes as you can categorise elements in real time.”

Without the assigned reading, 23% of respondents spent more time reading because of Revel.

“Easy to read and understand the concepts. The literature is "to the point" and focuses on the most important stuff.”

“In the book, you can easily go back using the search function to find what you are looking for.”

As a result of using Revel, I feel better prepared in my course lectures.

I found that I spent more time (in hours) reading for the course as a result of using Revel than I have spent reading for my other courses which don’t use Revel.
What students say about Revel

Assessment

47% of respondents felt more confident to take tests and quizzes after using Revel.

“The chapters are short and to-the-point and I like the multiple-choice questions.”

With just one lesson’s assessment, 30% of respondents felt the difference and found value in the experience.

“I wish our teacher used the quizzes and the small programming exercises after each chapter.”

“The teacher should have used it more like he did at the end.”

44% of respondents found value in Revel’s self-assessment content and instant feedback experience.

“You can test yourself along the way versus reading the whole topic first and then testing yourself.”
What students say about Revel
Engagement

50% of respondents found Revel to be more engaging than any other resource they have used so far.

“I like the whole experience with Revel. I wish more subjects were like that.”

“The interactivity was the best part. Especially with this amount of information, if you read it for a long time, a lot can get lost. You can read but not retain it.”

Revel > Traditional Textbook

43% of respondents would be happy to use Revel without a physical book.

“I know I learned better using it [Revel] versus the original textbook.”

“In programming, I find the textbook difficult and as you get into the technology part, and for me, I need to test it and go step-by-step to see how it is working.”

“When you use the textbook, you read a concept, and then you spend a lot of time typing in and practicing the programming. With the book, you can’t use copy and paste to test the concepts.”

If you would like to know more about Revel®, visit our website at https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/higher-education-educators/products-and-services/course-resources-and-content/revel.html