#### Webinar 28 May 2020

How I encourage my students to do prep work with MyLab Economics and MyLab Mathematics" by Professor Leslie Christensen





Professor: Leslie Christensen

School: Copenhagen Business School

Course: Microeconomics



Leslie Christensen has an extensive portfolio of implementing new technology-enhanced teaching methods since 2006.



**Copenhagen Business School** is one of the world's top universities for Business & Management.

- CBS Denmark
- 20.000 students
- Undergraduate Degrees
- Ranks #10 in the world & #6 in Europe.

# Why technology? Why MyLab Economics? Because Economics is something students learn by doing













I have noticed that the profile of my students had changed, particularly over the last decade and I have identified two important changes affecting my work

Students finishing high school and entering university are better in group work and project tasks

But their level of Math knowledge appeared to be lower than in the previous years.

I found this also to be true for students who had a gap year (or several years) since graduating high school Students were born in digital era and raised as digital natives, which appeared to be indicative of student attention span, the way they learn, and the way they want to be taught.



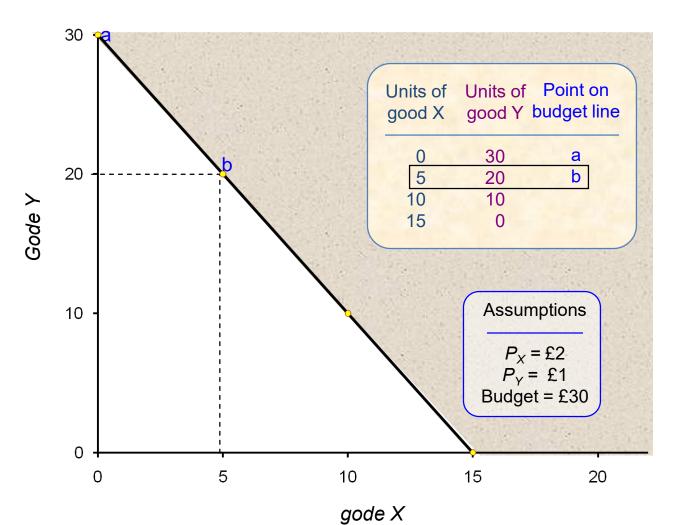
### First day in class

Take a look in your book...

Do you have the skills needed to understand this book about economics?







# **Applications calculate MRS**

#### Let's calculate MRS

• MRS = 
$$\frac{MUx}{MUy} = \frac{\partial U(X,Y)}{\partial X} / \frac{\partial U(X,Y)}{\partial Y}$$

• 
$$U(X,Y) = X^2 * Y^4$$

$$0 \quad \frac{\partial U(X,Y)}{\partial X} = 2X * Y^4 \qquad \frac{\partial U(X,Y)}{\partial Y} = X^2 * 4Y^3$$

• MRS = 
$$\frac{2X*Y^4}{X^2*4Y^3} = \frac{2}{X}*\frac{Y}{4} = \frac{1}{2}*\frac{Y}{X}$$

## **Screening of Students**

#### Playing golf

- Score is not important



#### Brush Up in Mathematics – WHY?

- We need some math skills to be able to learn economics, to understand and interpret our results
- For students who have not taken mathematics courses for some time
- All that is required is a commitment to study and willingness



#### **Maths Makes your Grades Better**

Your study of maths will also help you with related subjects that you may be studying here at Copenhagen Business School – Accounting, Finance and Statistics uses the same mathematical concepts as micro



### **Maths Requires Practice**

There is a parallel between learning maths and play tennis or learning to play a musical instrument
It requires a lot of practice
Talent and natural ability can play a part – some are more naturally gifted







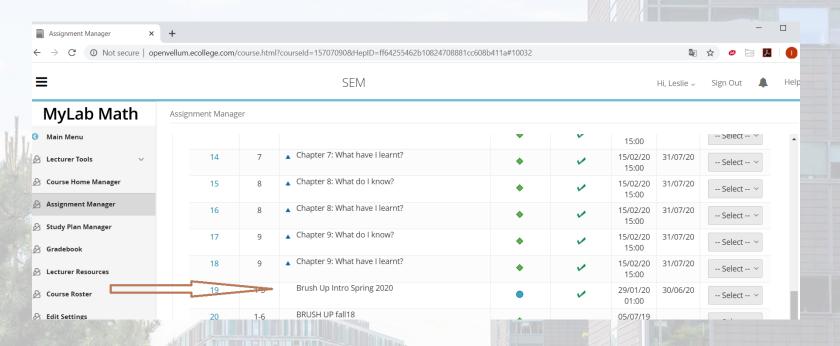
#### Brush Up in Mathematics – Do I need it?

- Mandatory Test (2 hours) on
  - Open from (5 to 6 days)

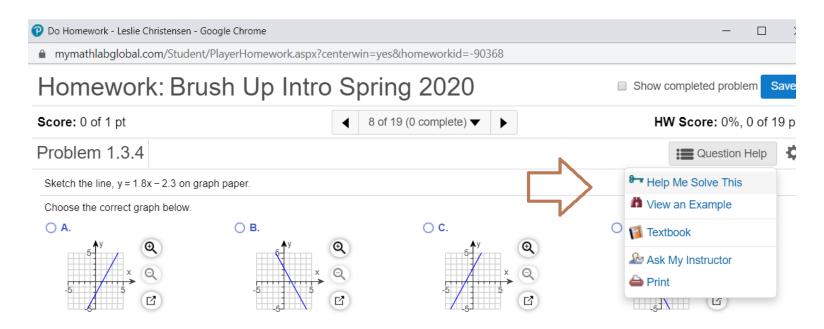
- Feed-back on test: (day after the test)
  - Your skills are OK
  - Come to Brush Up



# All our students at our Business School have free access to www.MyEconLab.com

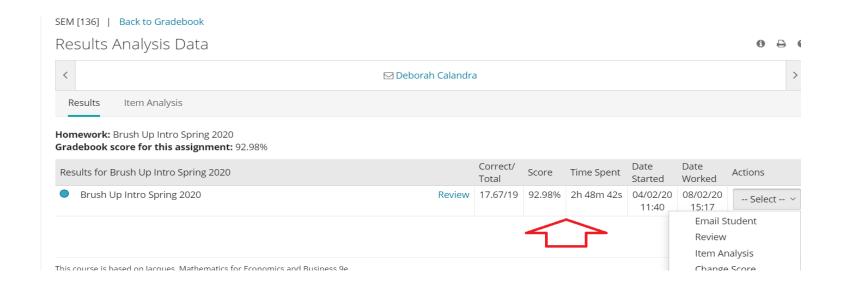


# Students starts with this assignment – to be familiar with the platform



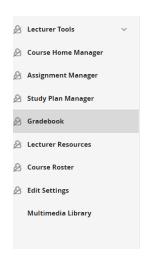


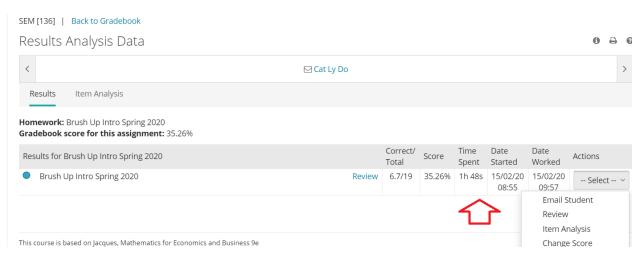
#### **Need Brush Up?**





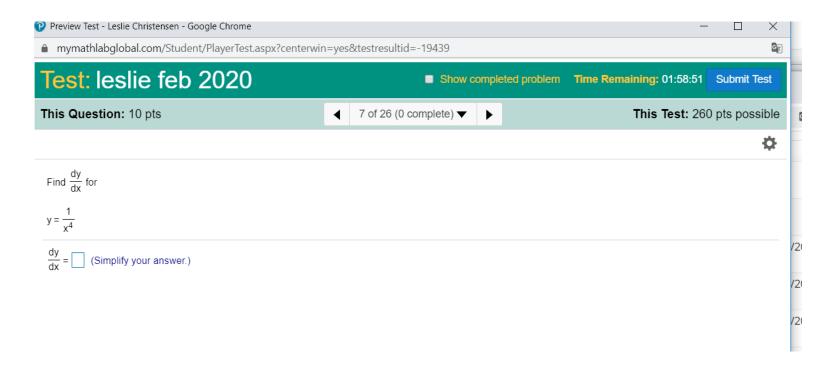
#### **Need Brush Up?**







#### **Question from the test**





### Feedback to students after taking the test

Dear student (25%)

Your skills in Mathematics are fine and you can without problems follow an intermediate course in Microeconomics. This means you do not have to come to our Brush Up in Mathematics this Weekend

If you want to join our Brush Up course and Workshops this Weekend, you are welcome and can do so by using the following personal links:

Dear student (75%)

We will help you to upgrade your skills in Mathematics:

We will start in room xx at 8.00 am with a short introduction to the day.

Because Mathematics is something you learn by doing please enroll yourself - by using the Link – into the four Workshops where you need to upgrade your skills and performance.



# Agenda for Brush Up in Math

08.00 – 09.00 Intro
09.00 – 16.00 Four Work Shops with lectures and exercises:

W1 Linear equations and further algebra

W2 Other Functions

W3 Mathematics of Finance

W4 Differentiation/Partial differentiation

(You do not need to take them in numerical order – fx you can start with W4, then take W2, W3, W1)



#### **Doodle link**

https://doodle.com/poll/b68u7nyyapchth3r

(You do not need to take them in numerical order – fx you can start with W4, then take W2, W3, W1)

PS Remember that the link <u>is personal</u> and remember to bring your own laptop and a print of your test.



There will be 4 different types of workshops where you can participate in one or more. It is important that you register which workshops you want to take. This is done by filling in this doodle form. The four different workshops run four times during the day, so you will be able to attend all of them if you so wish. The four different workshops run four times during the day, so you will be able to attend all of them if you so wish. You do not have to choose the workshops in the given order, as there will be taught the same at all the time slots.

The four different workshops are:

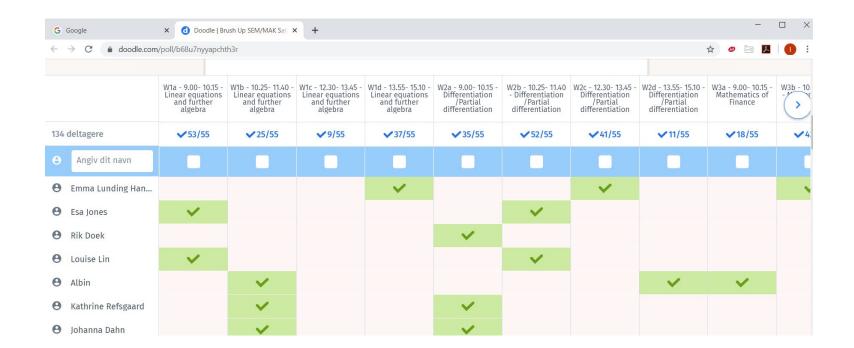
W1 - Linear equations and further algebra, room SPs14 W2 - Differentiation / Partial differentiation, room SPs12 W3 - Mathematics of Finance, room SPs08

W4 - Other Functions, room SPs07

They will each be repeated in the following time slots:

a - 9.00- 10.15 b - 10.25- 11.40

b - 10.25- 11.40 c - 12.30- 13.45



#### Lecturer Workshop 2

# W2: Math Brush-up – Differentitation

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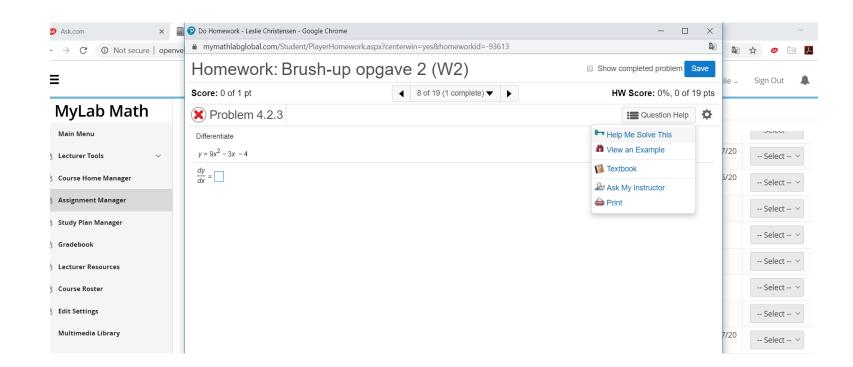






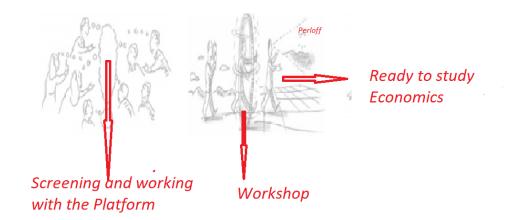






# No free riders

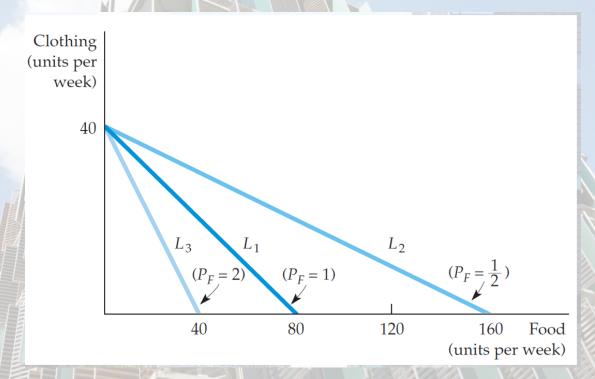
All that is required is a commitment to study and willingness



#### **Solution Benefit for** Instructor challenges institution applied large student unlimited practice, cost reduction, better instant feedback in time allocation numbers, low level of Maths among new the platform, students personalised feedback from the instructor



# Do you remember this graph?



#### **Applications (2): Calculate MRS**

• 
$$U(X) = 2X$$
  $dU(X) = 2$ 

• 
$$U(X) = 2X^2$$
  $dU(X) = 2 * 2X^{2-1} = 4X$ 

• 
$$U(X) = \frac{2}{X}$$
  $dU(X) = -1 * 2 * X^{-1-1} = -\frac{2}{X^2}$ 

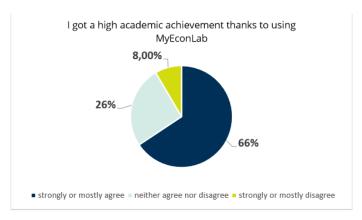




# Benefits and Challenges of Integrating MyEconLab

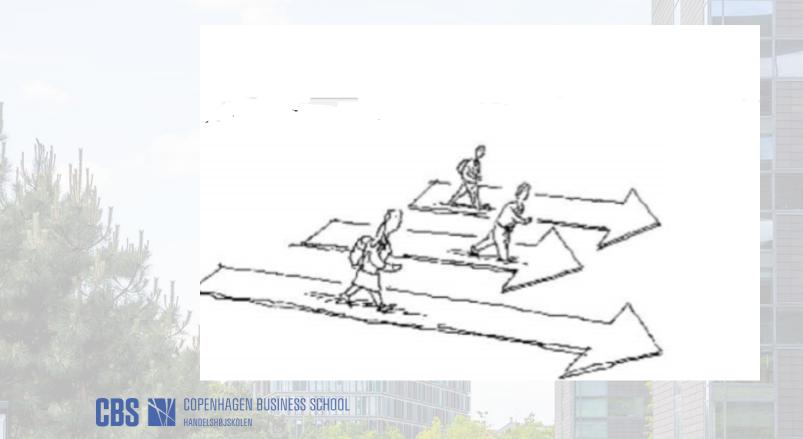
The students highlighted certain features in the MyLab as valuable for their learning experience:

- instant feedback,
- possibility to working in groups on the same exercises with different data points,
- unlimited access on various devices.



Graph 1 Extract from student's evaluation surveys

## Students move at his/her own speed...



# Benefits and Challenges of Integrating MyEconLab – from my point of view

- extended number of student contact hours with the subject,
- personalisation of instruction for large cohorts of students
- personalised feedback on assignment as well as on performance



