Pearson

Why Revel?

Why are personalised teaching & learning tools essential in today's HE environment?

Lecturers want to engage students, provide targeted support and optimise classroom teaching. But more than two-thirds of academics agree they "spend too much time working", according to the Times Higher Education University Workplace Survey. The "overwhelming extent of their obligations" includes tight timetables, the pressures of marking and assessments, and supporting students with differing learning requirements.

With so little time, every minute counts.

Achieving the optimum balance

Unfortunately, the traditional textbook/classroom combination isn't always the fastest or most effective method to engage today's learners with a more personalised learning experience.

Digital native students are used to an interactive online experience with anywhere access – and they expect the same from their learning materials. According to EdTech Magazine,

> **66** *educators should focus on creating environments and curricula that are student-centred, playing to the interests and preferences of Gen Z learners and engaging them as active participants. Students are naturally attracted to active learning, which promotes recall and deeper understanding of the material, as students are engaging with the content rather than simply listening to it"*

(source: E-International Relations).

If lecturers are to balance the growing demands on their time while improving teaching experiences and outcomes, they need help in offering engaging and personalised learning, blending critical thinking and interactive application with timely assessment and feedback, at scale. This is where a new generation of learning technology can help deliver better results, with more creative control and less time.

How Revel works

Revel is a personalised learning resource that encourages active reading, practice and participation in one engaging and continuous experience. Unlike 'traditional' e-books, which replicate existing content, Revel reimagines texts and incorporates interactive elements to improve learning.

> ❝ *This takes eBooks to the next level."*
> Educator, University of Sheffield

With Revel, lecturers can optimise their time according to their preferred teaching styles and the needs of each student.

Rich media and interactive content, designed around core learning principles, support a unique approach to each subject. Revel can be used before, during and after lectures to increase engagement, enhance understanding and boost knowledge retention.

What makes Revel better for teachers and learners?

1 — Clear presentation of content

- Revel is designed to reduce extraneous cognitive load effort spent on elements not relevant to learning.
- Content is broken into manageable pieces and presented consistently.
- Research shows this helps students process important information and move it to long-term memory.

2 — Quizzes

- Revel embeds assessments at the end of chapters to help students check understanding and address knowledge gaps.
- Immediate feedback improves engagement, promotes retention, confidence and motivation.
- An easy-to-use analytics dashboard allows lecturers to check student performance.

3 — Interactivity and collaboration

- Revel incorporates interactive models, simulations and multimedia to help students grasp information more deeply.
- Drag-and-drop, interactive maps and video features lead to active engagement and improved learning outcomes.
- Collaboration and shared writing tasks encourage group participation.

4 — Integrated writing tools

- The writing tools in Revel are designed to help develop higher-order skills including evaluation, analysis, synthesis and critical reflection.
- Lecturers can actively assign writing tasks and encourage students to apply theory in case studies and real-world scenarios.

Freedom to teach your way

Continuous assessment, such as quizzes and concept checks, enable lecturers to gauge student comprehension and address learning gaps. The ability to provide timely feedback, including notes and study tips, is invaluable for making students feel like they are getting the most out of their course.

Monitor progress and focus attention where it's needed

The performance dashboard empowers lecturers to monitor class assignment completion as well as individual student achievement. For example, the 'trending' column reveals whether students' grades are improving or declining, helping educators to identify those who might need help. Testing learners outside the classroom creates more time for face-to-face teaching.

Boost engagement

Lecturers can integrate rich media directly into the author-created narrative to engage students and bring to life core principles. The inclusion of videos, together with interactive elements, means students are more likely to complete their assigned reading and retain what they've read.

The biggest benefit is that I can go into the dashboard and see actually what the students have been doing."

Dr Samantha Burvill, Senior Lecturer, Swansea University

It gives you confidence as a lecturer that they are actually engaging. It was particularly helpful in providing formative feedback to students, which is very challenging in HE, particularly with large cohorts."

Sarah Owens, Senior Lecturer and Programme Director for Development, Swansea University

Did you know?

Research shows that taking a test on presented material promotes subsequent learning and retention of that material on a final test. When assessments are implemented appropriately and with specific, timely feedback, they engage students in the retrieval process and this act of retrieving solidifies the original learning.

MacDaniel, Anderson, Derbish & Morrisette, 2007; Wiliam 2007

▶ Watch a brief video of responses from students and lecturers from the University of Sheffield and Swansea University after piloting Revel.

http://pear.sn/aEP950uWdYh

I would highly recommend it, especially for those (where) English is not their first language."
Swansea Student

Ensure students stay on track

Revel allows lecturers to precisely indicate which readings must be completed on which dates. This clear, detailed schedule helps students stay on task by eliminating any ambiguity as to which material will be covered during each class. When they understand exactly what is expected of them, students are better motivated to keep up.

Use Revel where and when needed

Revel is easy to set up and incorporate as an autonomous course or module specific solution. Lecturers can choose which elements of core texts to enhance with interactive exercises and rich media, to ensure maximum accuracy and relevance. Unlike VLEs, which must be integrated across faculties and require IT support, Revel is easily enabled, giving easy access to the desired content.

Support all kinds of students at every stage

Revel supports transitional learning from school to HE and helps students for whom language may be a barrier (or where there are other accessibility challenges) by enabling them to gain confidence and consolidate understanding through the use of interactive content that teaches concepts through a variety of mediums.

Did you know?

Interactive content can often more clearly provide information that is difficult to convey in static text. The value of active pauses lies in the opportunity for learners to stop and process information using encoding and retrieval processes in the brain. – Cheon, Crooks, & Chung, 2014

Students using Revel

Access everything in one easy to use solution

With Revel, students can read and study however they like. Fully digital, this solution provides a continuous, integrated learning experience. Rather than having to depend on multiple textbooks and various sources, everything is easily accessible and in the same place.

Boost confidence and reinforce key concepts

The immersive nature of Revel helps to build understanding and encourage participation. Students can check their progress and address learning gaps at regular intervals with quizzes and concept checks. Links to rich media content and further reading ensure key concepts and complex ideas can be visualised and understood in context.

Learn anytime, anywhere

Revel crosses the divide between classroom and self-led learning. The mobile app lets students read, practice, and study anywhere, anytime, on any device. This helps them to develop an understanding of core principles outside the classroom and prepare for lectures in advance, allowing more time in class to discuss strategic concepts. For students who pay for their education – and expect a return – Revel extends the value of lecture time and provides additional contact beyond the classroom.

Adapt to different learning styles

Revel also makes the transition from school to HE much more manageable, by engaging students in a more familiar, structured way, in preparation for more self-directed learning. Shared writing activities direct students to share written responses with classmates, fostering peer discussion.

> ❝ *It's got plenty of features to help motivation: It's quick, it's easy, and it's extremely helpful.*❞

Student, University of Hull

> ❝ *I found that the interactive nature of Revel was very useful in letting me put theory into practice.*❞

Student, Nottingham Trent University

> ❝ *It [MCQs] was the most helpful part for me because in a test situation, if you get it wrong you definitely remember it, if you get it right then you're happy and you move on, but you still remember it either way, and it's a nice little boost in confidence if you know the answer.*❞

Student, University of Sheffield

▶ Students from Swansea University share what they value about instant feedback, interactivity and the learning design features in Revel.

http://pear.sn/6GrM50uWdZM

Universities using Revel

Enhance the student experience

Revel allows universities to give students the regular homework and feedback they want, including interactive learning outside the classroom, and develop skills more related to employment, such as critical thinking and collaboration. Revel is ideal for supporting diverse student communities, such as those for whom English is a second language, and providing more engaging learning experiences that can contribute towards efforts to boost retention.

...without putting additional pressure on teaching resource

Revel enables universities to deliver better courses at scale by helping time-poor teaching staff to optimise their teaching time and ensure students come to class more prepared and engaged.

87% of students agreed or strongly agreed that Revel helped them to improve their understanding.

Case study: University of Stirling

Students who used Revel performed **6%** better on average than those students that didn't engage. Those who used Revel for additional revision performed **11%** higher on average than their peers.

Case study: Swansea University

Using Revel to prepare for the seminar helped to create time to discuss the question in depth. I was pleasantly surprised by the extent I could sit back and let the group discuss the question among themselves. Normally they wouldn't have reached the stage of reading academic work before a seminar."

Educator, Swansea University

Revel with impact

88%

88% of students said they found Revel helpful

88%

88% of students said they would recommend Revel to others

87%

87% of students agreed or strongly agreed that Revel helped them to improve their understanding of Biological Psychology

82%

82% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they valued the regular assessment and instant feedback that Revel provided

74%

74% of students agreed or strongly agreed that Revel was more engaging than any of the other resources used on their degree so far

60%

60% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they had spent more time reading as a result of using Revel, compared to modules on which they did not use Revel

Swansea University, Revel, UK

Students from Swansea University share what they value about instant feedback, interactivity and the learning design features in Revel.

http://pear.sn/6GrM50uWdZM

Swansea University and University of Sheffield, Revel, UK

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ALWAYS LEARNING