



A guide for students

Welcome

This guide provides a simple overview of the main features of PeerWise. PeerWise is an online tool, so to begin, navigate your browser to the following URL:

<http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/>

Logging in

If you already have a PeerWise account, simply use your existing user name and password. If you are new to PeerWise, your instructor will have provided you with the "Course ID" and "Identity". Using this information, you can create a new account by following the "Registration" process.

Main menu

After logging in and selecting your course, you will be shown the "Main" menu for that course. The "Main" menu is divided into the following areas:

The screenshot shows the PeerWise main menu for the course ENGGEN131 (C module) 2009. The user is logged in as paul. The page is divided into several sections:

- Your score:** 5933 (Questioning: 1139, Answering: 2373, Rating: 441)
- Your questions:** You are currently contributing 9 questions. You have deleted 0 of your questions.
- Answered questions:** You have answered 55 questions (of these, 5 have been deleted by the author). You have written 43 comments about these questions.
- Unanswered questions:**
 - All questions:** There are currently 1396 unanswered questions you may answer.
 - Followed questions:** There are 6 unanswered questions by authors you are currently following.

Arrows from the text labels on the left point to the corresponding sections in the screenshot:

- Your score
- Questions you have contributed
- Questions you have answered
- All the questions you have not yet answered
- The questions from authors you are "following"

Answering a question

You might like to start by answering a few of the questions that have already been contributed by other students. You can select a question to answer from the "Unanswered questions" table:

Unanswered questions

You may answer any of the following questions :

Questions ordered by responses

QUESTION	SUITABILITY	DIFFICULTY	CREATED	RESPONSES	RATING
1 View	OK	medium	4:21pm, 01 Jun	103	4.0548
2 View	OK	medium	1:08pm, 08 Jun	93	3.6324
3 View	OK	easy/medium	4:26pm, 03 Jun	92	2.7377

Once you have answered a question, you will be given feedback on the response you selected, and you will be shown an explanation of the answer.

You will then be given an opportunity to select the difficulty level you think best matches the question and to give the question a rating, which you should think about very carefully.

When rating a question, you should be judging two things:

- whether you think the question is of a high enough quality that it could appear in the final exam
- whether you think the explanation provided with the question is sufficient so that if someone answered the question incorrectly the explanation would help them to understand what they have done wrong

Other things to keep in mind:

- you should not rate questions differently based on their difficulty – an easy question is just as useful and just as likely to appear in the exam as a hard question
- be **fair** with your ratings – you should justify a poor rating with a comment to the author of the question, or by agreement with a previously written comment
- make sure any comments you provide are constructive – you are rating questions written by your peers so provide the kind of feedback that you would find useful and encouraging yourself
- to encourage everyone to participate equally, all activity on PeerWise is anonymous (however your instructor is able to track contributions)

Please rate this question:

DIFFICULTY
Please select what you feel is the most appropriate difficulty level for this question (NOTE: questions of all levels of difficulty are equally valid)

Select difficulty

Select difficulty

Easy
Medium
Hard

RATING
Given that you have selected the difficulty level above, please select what you feel is the most appropriate rating for a question of this difficulty to 5 (NOTE: you should take into account the language used in the question, the quality of the alternatives, the quality of the explanation and the overall usefulness of the question)

poor 0 1 2 3 4 5 excellent

Current rating: 2.8364

COMMENT
If you have selected a rating above, then you may also provide additional feedback about this question.

You may choose to write your own comment in the space provided below. This feedback will be visible to the contributor of the question, as well as everyone who answers the question:

Font family --

Contributing a new question

Once you have answered a few questions, you may be ready to contribute a new question of your own. You will need to:

- Provide the question text
 - make sure the question is very clear, and not likely to be ambiguous
 - use professional language, and avoid slang or spelling mistakes
- Provide the correct answer
 - there must be only one
- Provide the "distracters"
 - you can have up to four
 - all distracters should be plausible
 - ideally, each distracter should correspond to a misconception that other students may have regarding the question
- Provide an explanation
 - this is very important, and will serve to help anyone who answers the question incorrectly to understand what they have done wrong
 - the quality of your explanation is one of the criteria for how your question will be rated
 - you might like to provide an explanation corresponding to each one of the distracters for your question
- Provide the topics
 - you may "tag" your question with certain topics to which it relates. You can either select from a list of current topics, or you can add new topics of your own
 - this may help others to locate questions of interest

Your questions

You can view the questions that you have contributed in the "Your questions" table:

Your questions

You have contributed the following questions :

Questions ordered by date

QUESTION	SUITABILITY	DIFFICULTY	CREATED	RESPONSES	RATING
1 View	OK	medium	11:58am, 24 May	9	2.8750
2 View	!	medium	12:36pm, 22 May	14	3.5455
3 View	OK	medium	9:20pm, 20 May	16	2.8333

The "Suitability" column will display a symbol with one of the following meanings:

OK	This indicates that your question is likely to be suitable for revision purposes. Your question will require an average rating greater than or equal to 2, and the answer you have suggested is correct must be the most popular alternative selected.
!	This indicates that there may be a problem with your question. Either the average rating will be below 2 (in which case there may be a problem with the question itself), or the most popular alternative selected will not be the one you have suggested is correct (which may indicate that there is something tricky about your question). If there is a valid problem with the question, you should delete it.
...	This indicates that more responses are needed before the suitability can be determined (at least 5 responses are required).

Answered questions




When answering questions, you should obviously try to get as many correct as possible. However, PeerWise is designed to be used for revision, so it doesn't matter if you make mistakes – as long as you learn from them.

At any stage, you can review the questions you have answered in the "Answered questions" table.








Answered questions

You have answered the following questions :

Questions ordered by responses

QUESTION	RESULT	DIFFICULTY	ANSWERED	RESPONSES	RATING
1 View		medium	5:08pm, 28 Jun	95	3.4932
2 View		medium	11:25am, 08 May	87	2.8472
3 View		medium	10:39am, 28 Jun	77	2.5476

The symbols in the "Result" column have the following meanings:

	Your selected alternative matches the one the author of the question suggested was correct, and is also the most popular alternative selected. Particularly if the question is highly rated, it is very likely that this is indeed the correct answer to the question.
	Your selected alternative matches the one the author of the question suggested was correct, but it is not the most popular alternative selected
	Your selected alternative does not match the one the author of the question suggested was correct, however it is the most popular alternative selected
	Your selected alternative matches the one the author of the question suggested was correct, however there have not yet been enough responses to accurately determine which is the most popular alternative
	Your selected alternative does not match the one the author of the question suggested was correct, however there have not yet been enough responses to accurately determine which is the most popular alternative
	Your selected alternative does not match the one the author of the question suggested was correct, which is also the most popular alternative selected. Particularly if the question is highly rated, it is very likely that you have answered this question incorrectly.
	The alternative you selected, the alternative the author suggested was correct, and the most popular alternative are all different. It is very likely that there is a problem with this question.

Agreement / disagreement with comments

When rating a question, you may provide a comment about the question, and you may also choose to either agree or disagree with any previously written comment. To agree with a comment, select the star in the “Agree with comment” column, and to disagree with a comment, select the cross in the “Disagree with comment” column. If you would like to submit more than one agreement / disagreement, you can return to this form in the “Answered questions” section.

The screenshot shows a browser window titled "PeerWise - Agree/disagree with comment - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/course/main.php". The page content includes a table with 16 comments. The table has four columns: "WHEN", "COMMENT", "AGREE WITH COMMENT", and "DISAGREE WITH COMMENT". The "AGREE WITH COMMENT" column contains a star icon and a radio button, while the "DISAGREE WITH COMMENT" column contains a cross icon and a radio button. The comments are sorted by their rating level, with the highest rating (10 stars) at the top.

WHEN	COMMENT	AGREE WITH COMMENT	DISAGREE WITH COMMENT
11:35am, 12 Aug	★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ Epic question man. Well worded and good explanation. Now i just need to find soemone to test the code on :)	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>
11:44am, 09 Aug	★★★★★ That is soo geeky...yet so adowable!!	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>
11:51am, 16 Aug	★★★ Good question. Nice theme, and highlights a fairly common mistake.	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>
10:55pm, 09 Aug	★★ Interesting q...	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>
8:08pm, 10 Aug	★★ Cute question!	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>
5:38pm, 11 Aug	★ Wow you've put a lot of thought into this one, well done! Great question :)	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>
3:41pm, 09 Aug	Very good question	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>
7:16pm, 09 Aug	Nice question, took me while to decide.	★ <input type="radio"/>	✕ <input type="radio"/>


The level of agreement with the comments determines the order in which they are displayed.

Following authors

If there are many students contributing to PeerWise, there may be a large number of questions available for you to answer. One way to discover good questions is to identify question authors that are writing good quality questions. If you find a question that you particularly like, the author of that question may have also contributed other good questions. You can choose to follow an author at any time, and this will give you access to all of the questions written by that author.

To follow an author, simply click on the “Follow” button when viewing the details of a question in the “Answered questions” section.

Follow

 If you would like to follow this author, click the "Follow" button. This will give you access to all of their existing and new questions in the "Followed questions" section of the Main Menu.

Once you have chosen to follow an author, all of their questions that you have not yet answered will appear in the “Followed questions” section.

Personal tags

You can assign your own personal tags to any questions that you have answered. Personal tags are not visible to anyone else, but may help you later to locate certain questions again.

To add a personal tag to a question, simply write the tag in the text box and click the “Add tag” button.

You can add your own personal tag(s) to this question by entering a tag in the field below (use letters, digits and spaces only) and clicking the "Add tag" button.

Tag:

A list of the personal tags you have assigned to your answered questions will be displayed on the “Answered questions” page. Selecting a tag from this list will display only those questions to which you have assigned that tag.

You can remove all of the personal tags you have assigned to a question by clicking the “Remove all tags” button.

Leaderboard

There is also a simple leaderboard, which includes tables such as the top rated questions, and the most popular contributors.

PeerWise - Statistics - Mozilla Firefox

http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/ua/course/main.php?cmd=stats

PeerWise
EngGen 131 (2008 S2)

You are logged in as paul. Logout

Home | Main menu > Statistics

Course statistics

Users (questions)	Users (answers)	Total questions	Total answers
552	565	1325	26026

Top rated questions

Top 5 rated questions for this course (rated by at least 5 users)

RANK	QUESTION RATING
1	4.0732
2	3.9714
3	3.9268
4	3.9245
5	3.9138

Highest rating of any of your questions (rated by at least 5 users)

-

Most questions answered

Most questions answered by a single user

RANK	QUESTIONS ANSWERED
1	1145
2	701
3	500
4	408
5	357

Number of questions you have answered

9

Scoring

You will notice that a score is displayed in the top right hand corner of the Main Menu::

Your total score is composed of individual scores for question writing, answering questions and rating existing questions. To increase your total score, you should try to achieve good scores for each component. To do this, you should:

- write relevant, high-quality questions with well thought out alternatives and clear explanations
- answer questions thoughtfully
- rate questions fairly and leave constructive feedback
- **use PeerWise early** as the score increases over time based on your contribution history

The screenshot shows a user interface with a blue header bar. Below the header, it says "You are logged in as paul. Logout". On the right side, there is a box titled "Your score" with a large blue number "1736". Below the score, it lists "Questioning: 30", "Answering: 263", and "Rating: 102".

Formatting your questions

When you create a question, there are some basic formatting options available to you.

The screenshot shows the "Write question" interface. It has a title "Write question" in blue. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: "Write the **main text** of the question below. Make sure the question is clear and unambiguous, and use language which is professional. Feel free to format the text of your question using the formatting options along the bottom." Below this text is a large empty text area. At the bottom of the text area is a rich text editor toolbar with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, undo, redo, font family dropdown, link, unlink, image, HTML, and a file upload icon.

You can insert an image (which is hosted on the web) by providing the URL of the image

You can view and edit the HTML of the question directly

You can insert an image by uploading an image stored on your local computer. File formats .png, .jpg and .gif are supported, and the file size can be up to 50K.