EVICAB, A NOVEL PORTAL FOR INTERNET EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION

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1. Rationale

Internet is more and more frequently used in education. We have used Internet examination in the ordinary teaching in the Institute and in the courses given by the author in other universities in Finland and abroad.

2. Materials and Methods

The European VIrtual CAmpus for Biomedical engineering, EVICAB, is a novel Internet portal located in the address: www.evicab.eu. It includes a wide variety of educational material and the technology for Internet Examination.

During the examination the students may use all the material available on the Internet, including the course book. The only thing which is not allowed is communicating with other persons with e-mail or other means. This changes the style of the questions: In ordinary examinations, where the students may not have the material available, it is more tested whether the students remember certain details from the course. In an Internet examination, where all material is at hand, the examination tests whether the students have fully understood the concepts and have the ability to combine various issues and to give rationales for their conclusions. The latter method corresponds more closely with the professional skills what the students need when they move to the working life.

An important feature in the Internet examination is that it may be performed simultaneously in more than one classroom locating in different universities in different cities or even different countries. This is important because the students do not need to travel for the examination.

3. Results

We have studied with a questionnaire the students' opinions on the Internet Examination. The results show that it is very well accepted. The students appreciate the fact that they may concentrate on answering on larger entities instead of small details. They also report that the examination event is actually also a learning event.

4. Conclusion

The Internet examination is a modern way to perform the examination. Its main benefit is that it is not tied to one location but may be arranged in several different locations at the same time.

The students apparently appreciate this kind of examination more for several reasons. One, but not the only one, is that all information for finding small details on the topic of the questions is available on the Internet.