

Beta Class Sample Questions

The beta class evaluation is only conducted for Web/virtual asynchronous classes and Web/virtual synchronous classes. The beta-class evaluation is very similar to the alpha-class evaluation. The major difference is that at this phase of the evaluation an instructor who was not part of the development team teaches the course. The evaluation primarily explores the clarity and usefulness of the direction for the facilitator.¹

Use the alpha class questions shown below to further test the technical delivery, value of the instructor's interactions, and relevance and completeness of content.

Technical Delivery

1. Was it easy to log in and engage in the class? Where did you encounter difficulties?
2. Did the system respond in a timely fashion? Did screens repaint quickly? Did interactions respond rapidly to your input? If not, what problems did you encounter?
3. Was it easy to navigate between lessons within the course? If not, how could the navigation be improved?
4. Did you experience any system crashes, broken links, or interactions [name each interaction] that did not work? Describe the problem(s).
5. If you left a lesson and returned late, was it possible to return to your place in the lesson? If not, describe what it was like to return to a lesson.

¹*Note:* If the instructor is also the developer or a member of the development team, this phase of the evaluation can be eliminated.

Content

1. Did the lesson achieve the stated objectives? If not, which objectives were not met?
2. Did the lesson provide skills and knowledge you needed to [name the behavior]? If not, in why way was the lesson not adequate?
3. How long did it take you to complete lesson [number] [lesson name]?
4. Did the content hold your attention? If not, what part was most difficult to pay attention to or to complete?
5. Was the student guide that accompanied this lesson helpful? How did you use it?

Role of Instructor (student's perception)

1. Did the instructor add value to the lesson? Explain how he or she added value.
2. Did the instructor provide feedback in a timely fashion? If not, what standard time would you recommend for providing feedback?
3. When you participated in a threaded discussion or Internet relay chat session, did the instructor add value? Give me an example.
4. Was the instructor a source of information? What kind of information did he or she provide? How could the instructor be a more valuable source of information?
5. Did the instructor foster conversations, the exchange of ideas, or encourage group work? Describe one of those events. (*Note: This is only for W/VSC and W/VAC*)

General

1. What did you like best about this lesson? Talk about that.
2. What did you like least about this lesson? Talk about that.
3. Tell me about the environment in which you took this lesson.

4. Did you have the prerequisite skills for this class? Which prerequisite skills were you lacking?
5. Do you like to learn using Web-based training? If yes, what do you like about this delivery method? If not, what do you dislike about this delivery method?

Clarity and Usefulness of Directions for the Facilitator

1. Were the directions in the instructor guide clear and easy to follow? How could they be improved?
2. Were the recommended pacing and timing suggestions helpful in keeping the class on time?
3. Did the exercises and assignments add value to the concepts being taught? How could they be improved?
4. Was it easy to use the teaching tools, such as registration reports, testing data, and moderator tools, for threaded discussion?
5. Did the material provide you with an opportunity to personalize the instruction? If not, what kind of tools would you like to have access to for teaching?
6. Talk about the time and effort required to manage the interactions among students, such as group assignments, threaded discussions, Internet relay chat, and listservs.
7. What additional information would you recommend including in the instructor's guide?
8. Were there adequate explanations regarding how to use the Web-based training software for teaching? What features were the most difficult to master?
9. Are there interactions that you would like to modify? How could they be improved?
10. What did you like most/least about the design of this class?