



Economics and Personal Finance

Online Course

Introduction

Economics and Personal Finance is an online course designed to support school compliance across the Commonwealth with the new statewide requirement that each student complete a course on economics and personal finance before graduation.

This online course is designed as self-paced and auto-graded instruction with minimal teacher intervention or as a textbook replacement for teacher-led instruction.

The material includes cartoons, interactive graphics, and myriad interactions and assessments that enrich the learning experience.

The course leads students to practice their newly acquired skills through animated characters that make economic decisions in a simulated environment.

Overview

- The course is structured as 160 modules of rich instructional content.
- Each module is intended for an average class time of 45 minutes from Introduction to the Comprehension Check.
- Students proceed at their own pace.
- All modules follow a similar pedagogical structure.
- The course targets competencies from the Virginia Standards of Learning for Economics and Personal Finance.



Overview

- Module content is a blend of instruction, graphics and video assets, and interactive components.
- The activities provide formative assessment opportunities that ensure each student has truly understood the concepts.
- Each module ends with a Comprehension Check and a Homework Practice assignment that assess student progress.



- The Homework Practice in each module and occasional Additional Practices provide assignments for students to complete outside class time.

Overview

- A series of characters provide a diverse group of teenage models to which students can easily relate.



Activity 83.4

Identifying the Process

Exercise:

Drag and drop each step into the correct order.

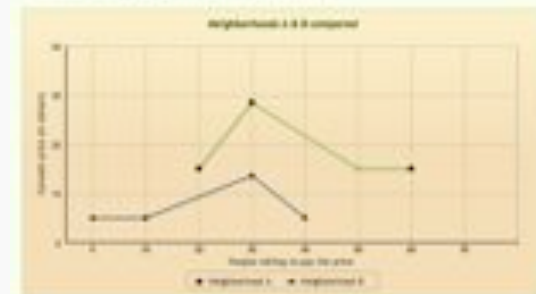
- 1 Evaluate your current situation.
- 2 Figure out if the change will bring financial benefits.
- 3 Consider the effects of the change on your lifestyle.
- 4 Do the calculations of financial data.
- 5 Figure out if the trade-offs are worth the financial benefits.

- The course blends assessment and instruction seamlessly.
- More than 500 interactions provide students with opportunities to challenge themselves by answering questions, playing games, and solving dilemmas.

- An interactive graphing engine develops critical skills for students exploring economics, interpreting, and interacting with information in graphic form.

Comparing Neighborhoods A and B

Use the graph below to compare neighborhoods A and B. Drag the points on each curve to their appropriate places, according to the data.



Don't forget to check your work before submitting it for evaluation.

(200)

Overview



- EconLab enriches the learning experience.
- Students may practice their newly acquired knowledge in a rich environment that goes significantly beyond traditional multiple-choice assessment through an embedded simulation.
- In the simulation, students assume the identity of one of the characters they have encountered in the course.



Deployment Considerations

- The course is structured as a series of fully self-contained SCORM modules which are currently deployed in Blackboard 9.1.060230.0.
- The SCORM modules conform to the SCORM 2004 standard (latest version).
- The course can be deployed in your own institution's e-learning platform as long as it is SCORM 2004 compliant.
 - Level of support for some of the features in SCORM 2004 varies among LMS.
 - Scoring support varies widely and needs to be analyzed on an LMS by LMS basis.
- Each module is divided into activities which are the most granular piece of training that is tracked.

Technical Considerations

LMS/Server Requirements

- Support for SCORM 2004
- The course and all its media requires a minimum of 2.5 GB of server disk space.
 - Modules will be hosted on an FTP site.
 - Modules will be shipped on a DVD.
- Internet access is not a requirement but does improve the student experience.
- Most of the installation involves deciding the level of student progress tracking that is necessary and setting it up for each module.

Deployment Considerations

Client Workstation Requirements

- The course will run on most modern browsers including
 - Firefox 4 and above
 - Safari 4 and above
 - Chrome
 - Internet Explorer 9
- The Flash Plugin must be installed.
- JavaScript must be enabled.
- There are issues with
 - Internet Explorer 6 and Internet Explorer 7
 - Firefox 1.x, 2.0, 3.0, and 3.5
 - Safari 2.0, 3.x
 - Mac OSX 10.4 Tiger
 - Java 5

Technical Considerations

- The course can be integrated into your social learning environment through your LMS.
- The recommended weights for grades is
 - 15% Comprehension Checks (one per module)
 - 15% Quizzes (one per lesson)
 - 35% Homework Activities (one per module)
 - 35% Unit Tests (five large assessments)
- The comprehension checks and homework activities report to the gradebook. They will need to be weighted according to your preferences.

License Agreement

The Virginia Department of Education will license the course to be used by public school divisions *at no cost* to be deployed either as a virtual or blended course or as a supplement to face-to-face instruction.

To receive more information about accessing and deploying the course modules, please go to www.tinyurl.com/epfsurvey and enter your contact information as well as information on your division's learning management system by **March 1, 2012.**

Contact Information

For additional questions, contact

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