Tests Vs Pools
BELOW ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TESTS AND POOLS. CLICK THE QUESTION TO VIEW THE ANSWER.

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Q: What is the difference between Tests and Pools?
A: A Pool is Blackboard’s name for a test bank or question database. Pools act like repositories for sets or categories of questions. The Pool tool is used to add, import and export, or modify questions before they are added to a Test.
Tests are types of assessments in which questions can be pulled from the Pool. Both Pools and Tests can be imported and exported in Blackboard for reuse.

Q: How do I access Pools?

A: Pools are accessed from the Test, Surveys and Pools area in the Course Tools portion of the Control Panel.

Q: How do I use a Pool?

A: First, create the Pool.
1. From **Control Panel > Tests, Surveys and Pools**, click **Pools**.

   **Tests, Surveys, and Pools**

   **Tests**
   Tests are sets of questions that are graded to measure student performance. Once a test is created here, it must be deployed within a content folder so students can take the test. Test results are reviewed in the Grade Center. Note that some question types are not automatically graded.

   **Surveys**
   Surveys are not graded, and student responses are anonymous. They are useful for gathering data from students that is not used to evaluate student performance. Surveys must be deployed in a content folder for students to respond to the survey.

   **Pools**
   Pools are sets of questions that can be added to any Test or Survey. Pools are useful for storing questions and reusing them in more than one Test or Survey.

2. Click on the **Build Pool** button in the upper left corner.
3. Enter a name, description, and instructions (if any) for the Pool and then click **Submit**.

   **Pools**
   Pools are sets of questions that can be used in multiple tests or surveys.

   **Build Pool**
   Click Build Pool to start.

Next, you may manually add questions to the Pool. (Alternatively, you can upload questions using Blackboard’s Upload Tool, a Testbank CreationT such as TestGen, or from a Word Document using Respondus.)

To manually create questions:

1. Point to **Create Question**.
2. Select a question type from the menu.
3. Enter question title and text and choose options.

4. Enter answers that are required by the question type. Use the radio button to select the correct answer.

5. Provide feedback and/or other options, if desired.

6. Provide Categories, Levels of Difficulty, Topics, or Keywords to enhance searching capabilities.
Once you have finished creating your question, click **Submit**.
Repeat to add additional questions to your pool.

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**Q: How do I add questions from a Pool to a Test?**

**A: The Reuse Question button** allows you to use questions from a Pool in a test you are creating.

1. Click the **Action Link** and select the option to **Edit the Test** (or create one if necessary).

2. Point to **Reuse Questions** and then select **Find Questions** from the drop-down menu.

3. A new window will open. Select the Pool you would like to choose your question(s) from by clicking the **Pools** filter on the left.

4. Select the Pool you would like to pull the question(s) from.
5. Check the box of the question(s) you would like to add to your Test and then click **Submit**.

6. The question(s) from the Pool will be added to the Test.

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**Q:** *If I change a question in a Test does the question change in the Pool?*

**A:** If you modify a question in a Test, it **will not** update that question in your Pool. If you want to permanently change a Pool question, be sure to modify it in the Pool. If you were to modify a question in the Pool, those changes **would** be reflected in the question as it appears in the Test.
1. Edit a question by entering the Pool and then clicking the **Action Link** for the question you would like to edit.

![Image of question edit interface]

2. Edit the question and then click **Submit**.

![Image of question editing form]

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