Turnitin and the Blackboard assignment tool

There are two main tools supported by the University for the online submission and marking of coursework; Turnitin (with Feedback Studio) and the Blackboard assignment tool. Each system has its benefits and drawbacks, with some variation in the features available. The main features of each are summarised in the table below.

Feature	Tii	BB	Comments
Anonymous marking	✓	✓	**BB**: Anonymity can be achieved in BB by setting up the assignment with anonymous marking enabled. This setting cannot be edited after the first file submission in the assignment, but anonymous marking can subsequently be enable be selecting "Grade with user names hidden". Care should be taken in deciding when to release grades when anonymous marking is enabled – you can select either to release all makes on a certain date, or when marking has been completed. **Tii**: When anonymous marking is selected for a Turnitin assignment, all submissions are de-anonymised when the post date is reached. This de-anonymisation is irreversible.
Allows for inline comments	✓	✓	**BB**: Inline commenting only works when the assignment is submitted via file upload; it does not work if the assignment is submitted via the text editor in the BB assignment tool.
Allows for audio/video feedback	✓	✓	**BB**: Video feedback is available via the "Record from webcam" facility in full edit mode. **Tii**: Audio files are not downloadable, but can be recorded by the students if necessary. As this extra step is requires, audio feedback is only recommended for formative work.
Allow selective release including release to a group of students	✓	✓	This is controlled for both tools via the adaptive release functionality in Blackboard.
Allows multiple file submissions per student	✗	✓	**Tii**: Only one file is permitted per student per assignment. If more than one file is needed per student, multiple assignments will be required. **BB**: Students can submit multiple files in multiple formats to a single assignment.
Can create different instructions for groups but students complete individually	✗	✓	
Instructor can add attachment to assignment instructions	✗	✓	**Tii:** Instructions to students can be added at the time of creating the assignment. Alternatively, additional instructions need to be made available separately and be placed on Blackboard

Allows students to attach a file to a submission	✗	✓	
Allows for late submission	✓	✓	**Tii:** Late submissions are flagged as late and allow for easier handling of mitigating circumstances **Bb:** Late submissions are allowed if no date/time restrictions are imposed on the assignment
Allow for resubmission	✓	✓	**Tii:** Submissions are overwritten up until the deadline **Bb:** Resubmissions are added into the system on top of existing submissions, resulting in several files submitted for the student
Accepts any file size	✗	✓	**Tii:** 40MB limit **Bb:** >2.5GB (set by Bb System Administrators) – SafeAssign limit is 10MB per file
Accepts any file type	Partial	✓	**Tii:** Can accept any file type, but only certain formats will generate an originality report. For more information see here.
Provides feedback files to student	✓	✓	
Grading	✓	✓	Numeric or grading form in both. **Bb** also allows alphanumeric grading
Grading without submission	✓	✓	**Tii:** If a student hasn't submitted a file you can still grade and provide feedback by clicking on the greyed-out pen in the Tii inbox. **Bb:** Grading without submission is controlled by the Grade Centre in Blackboard and no the Assignment tool. Create a column for an assignment without file submission.
Integration with Campus Solutions	✓	✓	Integration at the level of roster synchronization and grade uploading
Students can take back and correct work after submission	✓	✓	**Tii:** 'Revision assignment' allows students to submit multiple drafts without overwriting the previous drafts/submissions. Alternatively instructors can allow for resubmissions of the assignment that overwrite the original. **Bb:** Allows multiple attempts without overwriting previous submissions.
Submissions can be published to the class	Only Peermark	✓ by instructor and students	
Instructor gets an email on submission	✗	✗	
Student gets receipt of submission as well as receipt emailed to them	✓	✗	**Tii:** student receives an on-screen confirmation of submission, an email confirmation and is able to download a digital receipt from the Tii Document Viewer. Receipt is also viewable by instructor. **Bb:** Student gets on-screen notification of submission and can download

Offline grading	Partial	✓	**Tii**: Offline marking available on iPad only ([click here for information](#)). **Bb**: 'How to... Download and mark assignments offline' http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=13656
Can attach files when grading	✗	✓	**Tii:** Instructor can only link to an external link in general comments in Feedback Studio
Save for further review and editing	✓	✓	**Tii:** Unlimited editing even after post date
Automatic return of graded submissions to the student	✓	✓	
Batch downloading for archiving purposes	✓	✓	
Batch download of student submissions at any time	✗	✓	**Tii:** Batch download depends on type of file that is downloaded. Originality reports can only be downloaded individually. Batch download of Feedback Studio files can be done anytime so long as marking has occurred. Batch download of original files only possible after post date.
Plagiarism checking	✓	✓	**Tii:** Fully integrated with Tii/FS **Bb:** SafeAssign is currently enabled and fully integrated with the Grade Centre but is subject to further testing before recommendations can be made on its use. For high-stakes assignments please continue to use Turnitin to generate originality reports until further notice.

Contact us:

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