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Surveying the influence tests have on students' attitude towards physics and learning of physics

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Acquiring Physics knowledge for undergraduates comes with lots of anxiety and apathy on the part of most students. Examinations have a major influence on the approach to studying physics and hence have an effect on the students' performance. Many students may stay away from lectures, however, they will do everything possible to attend tests and examinations. The influence of examinations on students can be used to drive the process of learning physics. This paper reports on a study investigating the influence tests has on students' attitude towards physics and learning of physics in the first year mainstream mechanics module, PHY111, in the Department of Physics at the University of the Western Cape. In this presentation, an overview will be given of how tests are used in the PHY111 module to drive and focus student learning as well as the findings of a survey of the influence tests have on students' attitude towards physics and learning will be presented and discussed.

Apply to be considered for a student award (Yes / No)?

yes

Level for award (Hons, MSc, PhD, N/A)?

MSc

Main supervisor (name and email) and his / her institution

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Would you like to submit a short paper for the Conference Proceedings (Yes / No)?

yes

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