Using Mentimeter in your teaching

About Mentimeter

Mentimeter is an audience engagement platform with an array of features that allow people to interact with your slides such as by answering MCQs, posting their own anonymous questions & more.

People interact with Mentimeter by opening a web browser on their own device (i.e. smart phone, tablet or laptop) and entering a session code generated by your presentation.

Accessing Mentimeter

The University of Dundee has a Mentimeter license so you can login with your UoD credentials for access to the full range of functions.

Access via the University login: http://mentimeter.com/join/dundee

If you don't have a UoD login and wish to use Mentimeter in your teaching, please contact tilt@dundee.ac.uk who can set up a guest account for you.

Why use Mentimeter?

Mentimeter allows students to interact with you and your learning materials in a safe and anonymous way, and it can be fun!

Lectures can be long and too didactic and we often lose students' full concentration after around 20 minutes. Mentimeter is a great way to break up your lecture content with quizzes, Q&As or other forms of engagement to keep the students' attention.

In which ways can I use it?

There are a wide variety of ways to incorporate Mentimeter within a teaching session using a range of question types (see Appendix) or by using Reactions on content slides for quick feedback, eg. Thumbs up, hearts, etc.

- **Icebreaker**
  Start off a session with a fun yet insightful question about the students' experience so far, their expectations for the teaching session(s), their confidence about the topic being taught.

- **Knowledge**
  Testing knowledge is a valuable way for you to know how well your students understand your teaching content, and it also helps students self-assess and plan further learning.
  This could be a diagnostic question near the start of a lecture to gauge current knowledge, or key questions throughout the lecture to check that students are following you, or a summary question at the end to test knowledge retention.

- **Evaluation**
  To gather in questions from students such as what's still unclear, or ask students to respond letting you know if there are any elements they want you to explain further.

- **Discussion**
  Mentimeter is a useful tool for initiating peer and class wide instructions. For instance you could provide the question without answers and allow the students to briefly discuss with their neighbour before allowing them to vote on the answers.
  Another technique is to hide the correct answer and allow students to share reasons for their answer with their neighbour before you then provide the explanation.

Mentimeter and PowerPoint

When combining a Mentimeter presentation with PowerPoint then you have three options:

- Use PowerPoint for your main slides and then switch to Mentimeter for your interactive slides. This is preferred when your slides contain importnat animations or media links such as videos. Using the ALT+TAB keys is a handy way to switch between applications without minimising any windows.

- Import your PowerPoint slides into Mentimeter and run your entire presentation from the web browser. The advantage is that you do not need to switch between applications and you can use reactions on your content slides. The disadvantage is that PowerPoint slides are converted to images which removes any animations and hyperlinks.

- Use the Mentimeter add-in for PowerPoint to incorporate Mentimeter question slides within your PowerPoint presentations. TILT have found the add-in to be somewhat unreliable and therefore don't recommend this method without thorough testing in advance on the teaching computer.

Agile Teaching

A key aspect for using Mentimeter to successfully engage students is how you respond to the answers students provide to your questions.

For example, if most students answer correctly then you would confirm the students' understanding, and then briefly discuss the other answer choices.

However if two or more choices are popular then you could use this as an opportunity to allow students to have a quick discussion with their neighbour before you provide the explanation.

If most students answer incorrectly then you could provide a few hints and allow students to vote on the question again.

Another consideration is whether you want to hide results until voting closes so that students are not influenced by their peer's responses, or would you prefer students to view the bar charts changing in real time during the voting period?

Sharing a Mentimeter presentation

If you are unsure whether your Mentimeter account uses an NHS or UoD email address then contact TILT before your teaching session to ensure that you can sign-in to the correct Mentimeter account from the teaching computer. If you don't have a UoD account and are using a visitor account to login to the teaching computer then TILT can help create duplicates of the presentation for use with this account.
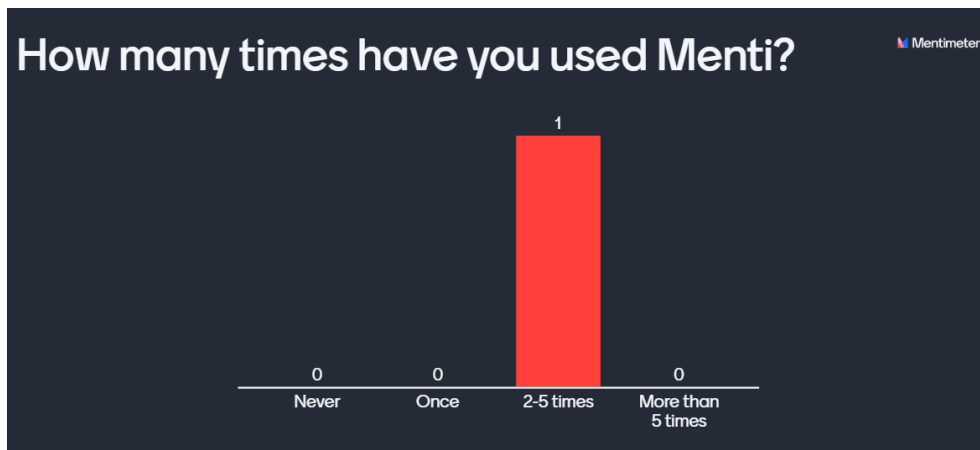
You may be part of a teaching team and wish them to have a copy of the presentation to use in a different teaching session. You can duplicate your presentation and use the Share feature to provide colleagues with a copy.

Please consider providing a PDF version of the presentation for students so that they can take effective notes during your lecture. Share your Mentimeter presentation with a member of TILT using their specific email address (**not** tilt@dundee.ac.uk). Then they can download a PDF version of the presentation without the interactive questions & answers for uploading to Moodle.
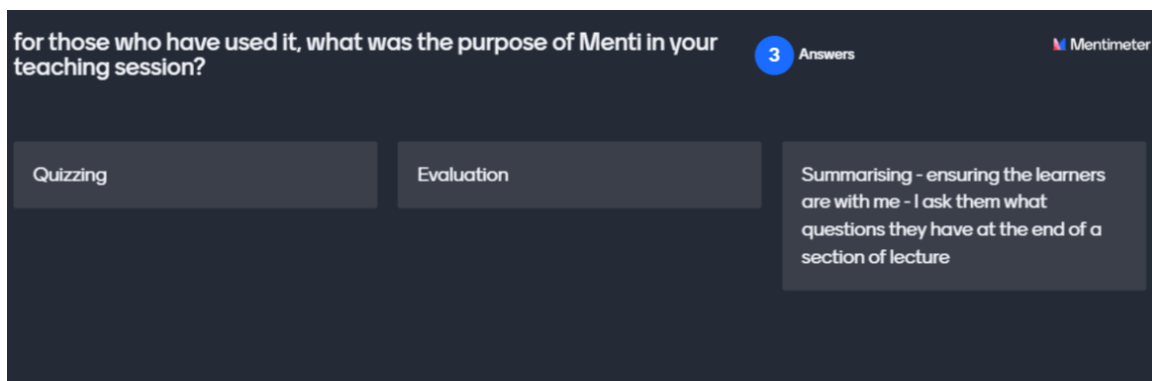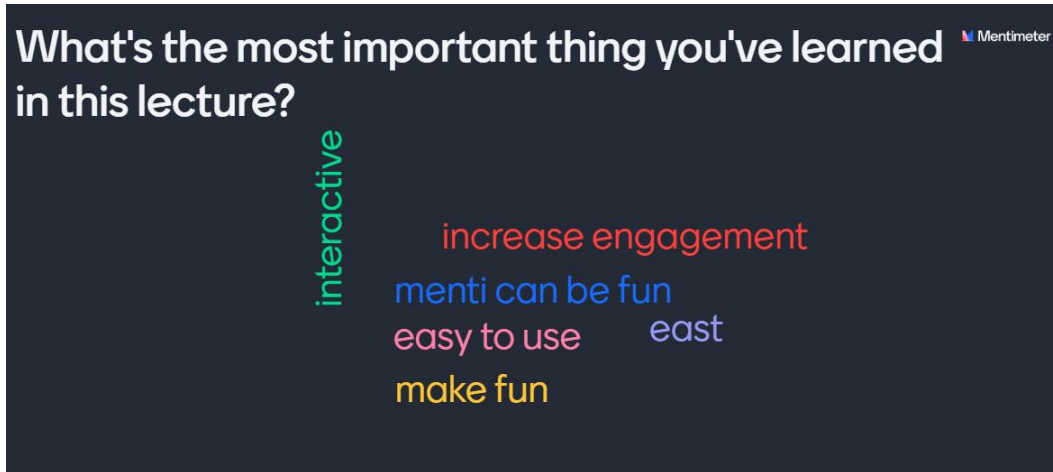
Frequently Used Question Types
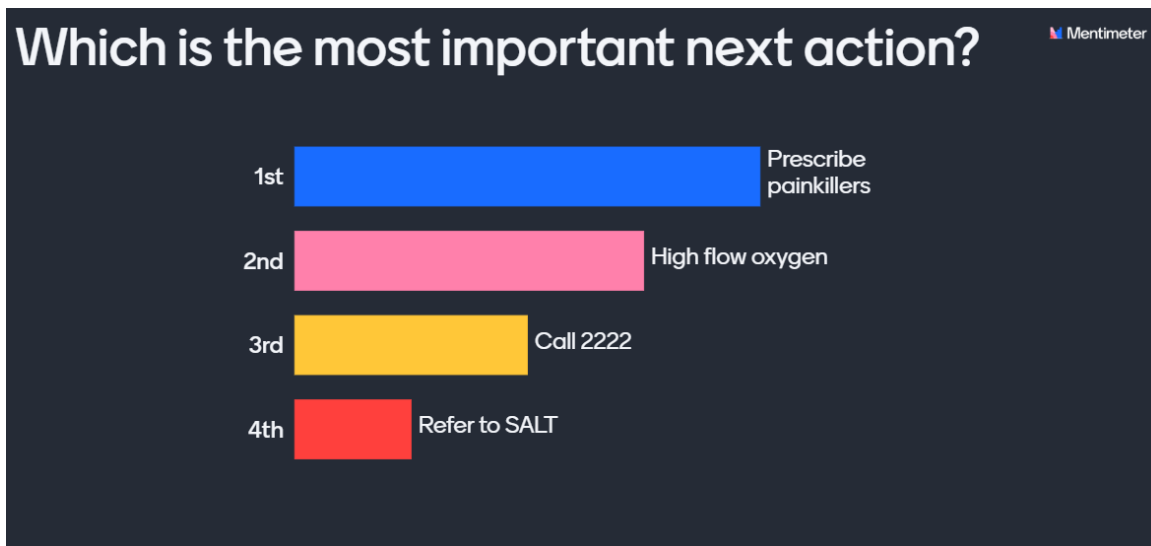
- **Multiple Choice**

- **Open ended**

- **Wordcloud**

- **Ranking**

- **This or that**

- **Scales**