Test Item Analysis in Blackboard

What is it?
This tool provides an easy-to-use review of the items (questions) in an online test based on the results from a cohort of students’ attempts.

Why should I use it?
It allows you to refine your test for future re-use. It can also identify questions that may have been too easy, misleading, or perhaps had incorrect answers set. You can amend the test if necessary and the new scores will flow automatically to the Grade Centre.

How do I find it?
Use the drop down contextual menu from a completed test in a content area, the Tests page (Image 1), or a Grade Centre column and Run the Item Analysis (Image 2)

When analysis is complete, open the report (Image 3)

What is important in the output?
‘Test Summary’ shows the number of completed attempts, average score and average time taken. It also summarises questions on scales of Difficulty and Discrimination. Difficulty relates to the percentage of students who got the item correct. Discrimination is a measure of how well results on that particular item relate to overall performance.

‘Question Statistics’ gives details for each question in the test, identifying potential problems with a red dot. You need to look more closely at these to consider possible changes.

Where can I find more information?
Full functional details are available at the Blackboard Help site https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_10_and_SP_11/Instructor/070_Tests_Surveys_Pools/112_Running_Item_Analysis_on_a_Test

If you want to know more about test theory, a good introduction is Crocker, L M & Algina, J, 2008, *Introduction to classical and modern test theory*, Cengage Learning, Mason, Ohio.

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