PeerWise is an online program that allows students to create multiple choice questions and give feedback on the questions of others. Why would a teacher make you do this? Because it:

- Forces you to think about the lecture material when you create a question
- Gives you practice answering good and bad exam-type questions
- Helps teach you the difference between simple regurgitation-style questions and those that require integrating lecture material or applying the material to a new situation
- Allows YOU the STUDENT to write a question for the class exams.

The pages after this one will give you great instructions on how to navigate the site. Here are the instructions that are specific to Bio 9G:

1. Go to your MyEEE and find the Bio 9G gradebook called “PeerWise Codes.” There are no grades in this gradebook, but look in the comment section of the one “grade” to get YOUR access code. It will be a funky letter-number combination like “5m66JDNrKi.” Write this code down.

2. Write down THIS Bio 9G course ID also: 2018


4. Register yourself using the course ID and your access code. Create whatever username you want.

5. Three times during the quarter, you will log in and create a single, EXCELLENT multiple choice question on the topic I provide. You will also provide an explanation for the right and wrong answers to go with the question.

6. You also have the opportunity to “take” other students’ questions. Do this at least once for full credit, but you can do it as often as you want to practice lecture material.

What is an EXCELLENT multiple choice question? I’m glad you asked. Here is what I am looking for:

- A question that goes beyond simple definitions
- A question that combines information from different lectures
- Does NOT use “all of the above” or “none of the above”
- Does NOT use “a and b” or “a, b and c”
- Might use information from current events.
- May use an image you find on the internet (for instance, what heart chamber is the arrow pointing at?)

The due dates for the questions are at 10pm on the following days:

1. Heart question Apr. 16
2. Nerve question May 7
3. Muscle/ cardio question June 2
Welcome
This guide provides a simple overview of the main features of PeerWise. PeerWise is an online tool, so to begin, navigate your browser to the following URL:

http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/

Logging in
If you already have a PeerWise account, simply use your existing user name and password. If you are new to PeerWise, your instructor will have provided you with the "Course ID" and "Your key". Using this information, you can create a new account by following the "Registration" process.

Main menu
After logging in and selecting your course, you will be shown the “Main” menu for that course. The “Main” menu is divided into the following areas:

- Questions you have contributed
- Questions you have answered
- All the questions you have not yet answered
- The questions from authors you are “following”
Answering a question

You might like to start by answering a few of the questions that have already been contributed by other students. You can select a question to answer from the "Unanswered questions" table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>SUITABILITY</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>CREATED</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
<th>RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 View</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>4:21pm, 01 Jun</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>4.0548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 View</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>1:08pm, 01 Jun</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>3.6324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 View</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>easy/medium</td>
<td>4:25pm, 03 Jun</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>2.7377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have answered a question, you will be given feedback on the response you selected, and you will be shown an explanation of the answer.

You will then be given an opportunity to select the difficulty level you think best matches the question and to give the question a rating, which you should think about very carefully.

When rating a question, you should be judging two things:

- whether you think the question is of a high enough quality that it could appear in the final exam
- whether you think the explanation provided with the question is sufficient so that if someone answered the question incorrectly the explanation would help them to understand what they have done wrong

Other things to keep in mind:

- you should not rate questions differently based on their difficulty – an easy question is just as useful and just as likely to appear in the exam as a hard question
- be fair with your ratings – you should justify a poor rating with a comment to the author of the question, or by agreement with a previously written comment
- make sure any comments you provide are constructive – you are rating questions written by your peers so provide the kind of feedback that you would find useful and encouraging yourself
- to encourage everyone to participate equally, all activity on PeerWise is anonymous (however your instructor is able to track contributions)


**Contributing a new question**

Once you have answered a few questions, you may be ready to contribute a new question of your own. You will need to:

- Provide the question text
  - make sure the question is very clear, and not likely to be ambiguous
  - use professional language, and avoid slang or spelling mistakes
- Provide the correct answer
  - there must be only one
- Provide the "distractors"
  - you can have up to four
  - all distractors should be plausible
  - ideally, each distractor should correspond to a misconception that other students may have regarding the question
- Provide an explanation
  - this is very important, and will serve to help anyone who answers the question incorrectly to understand what they have done wrong
  - the quality of your explanation is one of the criteria for how your question will be rated
  - you might like to provide an explanation corresponding to each one of the distractors for your question
- Provide the topics
  - you may "tag" your question with certain topics to which it relates. You can either select from a list of current topics, or you can add new topics of your own
  - this may help others to locate questions of interest

**Your questions**

You can view the questions that you have contributed in the "Your questions" table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>SUITABILITY</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>CREATED</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
<th>RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 View</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>11:56am, 24 May</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.8750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 View</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>12:36pm, 22 May</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.8455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 View</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>9:20pm, 20 May</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.8333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The "Suitability" column will display a symbol with one of the following meanings:

- **OK**
  - This indicates that your question is likely to be suitable for revision purposes. Your question will require an average rating greater than or equal to 2, and the answer you have suggested is correct must be the most popular alternative selected.
- **!**
  - This indicates that there may be a problem with your question. Either the average rating will be below 2 (in which case there may be a problem with the question itself), or the most popular alternative selected will not be the one you have suggested is correct (which may indicate that there is something tricky about your question). If there is a valid problem with the question, you should delete it.
- *****
  - This indicates that more responses are needed before the suitability can be determined (at least 5 responses are required).
Answered questions

When answering questions, you should obviously try to get as many correct as possible. However, PeerWise is designed to be used for revision, so it doesn't matter if you make mistakes – as long as you learn from them.

At any stage, you can review the questions you have answered in the "Answered questions" table.

**Answered questions**

You have answered the following questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>ANSWERED</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
<th>RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 View</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>6:08pm, 28 Jun</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>3.4932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 View</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>11:26am, 08 May</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>2.8472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 View</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>10:39am, 28 Jun</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>2.6476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The symbols in the "Result" column have the following meanings:

- ✓: Your selected alternative matches the one the author of the question suggested was correct, and is also the most popular alternative selected. **Particularly if the question is highly rated, it is very likely that this is indeed the correct answer to the question.**
- ✓ ✗: Your selected alternative matches the one the author of the question suggested was correct, but it is not the most popular alternative selected.
- ✓★★★★: Your selected alternative does not match the one the author of the question suggested was correct, however it is the most popular alternative selected.
- ★★★: Your selected alternative matches the one the author of the question suggested was correct, however there have not yet been enough responses to accurately determine which is the most popular alternative.
- ★★★ ✗: Your selected alternative does not match the one the author of the question suggested was correct, however there have not yet been enough responses to accurately determine which is the most popular alternative.
- ✗: Your selected alternative does not match the one the author of the question suggested was correct, which is also the most popular alternative selected. **Particularly if the question is highly rated, it is very likely that you have answered this question incorrectly.**
- ?: The alternative you selected, the alternative the author suggested was correct, and the most popular alternative are all different. It is very likely that there is a problem with this question.
Agreement / disagreement with comments

When rating a question, you may provide a comment about the question, and you may also choose to either agree or disagree with any previously written comment. To agree with a comment, select the star in the “Agree with comment” column, and to disagree with a comment, select the cross in the “Disagree with comment” column. If you would like to submit more than one agreement / disagreement, you can return to this form in the “Answered questions” section.

The level of agreement with the comments determines the order in which they are displayed.

Following authors

If there are many students contributing to PeerWise, there may be a large number of questions available for you to answer. One way to discover good questions is to identify question authors that are writing good quality questions. If you find a question that you particularly like, the author of that question may have also contributed other good questions. You can choose to follow an author at any time, and this will give you access to all of the questions written by that author.

To follow an author, simply click on the “Follow” button when viewing the details of a question in the “Answered questions” section.

Once you have chosen to follow an author, all of their questions that you have not yet answered will appear in the “Followed questions” section.
**Personal tags**

You can assign your own personal tags to any questions that you have answered. Personal tags are not visible to anyone else, but may help you later to locate certain questions again.

To add a personal tag to a question, simply write the tag in the text box and click the “Add tag” button.

![Add tag interface](image)

A list of the personal tags you have assigned to your answered questions will be displayed on the “Answered questions” page. Selecting a tag from this list will display only those questions to which you have assigned that tag.

You can remove all of the personal tags you have assigned to a question by clicking the “Remove all tags” button.

**Leaderboard**

There is also a simple leaderboard, which includes tables such as the top rated questions, and the most popular contributors.

![Leaderboard](image)