11eg Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

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Teaching law in practice: the use of active learning and assessment methods to enhance students’ practical knowledge

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The Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) is being phased in to become the new centralised way to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales. In light of these changes the department of Law & Criminology introduced a programme of six new “Law in Practice” modules this academic year.

This presentation will introduce the aims of these modules in light of these changes and will explore, using illustrative examples, the development of active learning workshops as our mode of delivery and the benefits of this style for teaching practical content and for co-operative staff/ student teaching and learning.

We will discuss the use of legal practice-based scenarios and authentic assessment creation in the form of computer-delivered single best answer questions, which follow the assessment methodology of the first part of the new Solicitors Qualifying Examination. We will consider how we encouraged students to feel comfortable with this method of assessment and our journey towards authentic coursework assessment design.

Lastly, we will reflect on the main challenges we faced with these new practical based modules, overcoming coursework design limitations and outline our aspirations to make the learning and assessment experience more authentic in future years.

