

ITAL0027 Polling Software Comparison

Currently, St. Mary's has five licences with **TurningPoint**, including two sets of clickers held by TEL, and additional clickers purchased by SHAS. Neither TEL set is currently in use, and availability has not been promoted. In the process of researching this comparison, it transpires TurningPoint have recently launched an app which allows students to participate via own devices – to which we currently have access, but which we have not been using.

Elsewhere, teaching and support staff have used free versions of **Mentimeter** and **PollEverywhere** fairly evenly, both to engage students, and for staff training and information-gathering. Last year CTESS initiated contact with both services; this was not followed through. I have picked up from these conversations in putting this together.

Benefits of polling software include:

- Take questions from an audience (including anonymously)
- Monitor attendance (including, when using app/web-based tech, remote students)
- Increase participation and engagement during lectures
- Encourage active learning
- Audit student understanding in-lecture

Jisc identified polling as an area of interactive engagement most institutions could significantly improve upon. (<https://www.jisc.ac.uk/blog/tracking-what-your-students-really-think-about-your-organisations-digital-environment-20-jun-2017>)

In September 2018, Professor Helen Christian of the University of Oxford gave Jisc a highly positive report on her experience of engaging students with polling software. (<http://repository.jisc.ac.uk/7129/6/oxford-uni-mobile-phones-help-students-with-exam-prep-case-study.pdf>)

“The evidence base for the use of in-class polls and voting systems is therefore supported by research literature, within cognitive psychology, which supports both the attentional and memorial benefits to such approaches.” – much of this literature is summarised and integrated in this case for the use of polling in lectures:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4311550/> (McGivern and Coxon, 2015).

Comparative:

	Mentimeter	PollEverywhere	TurningPoint
Powerpoint	No	Yes - but basic	Solely
Single sign-on?	Yes, at 100+ licenses	Yes, via Shibboleth	Yes
Mobile app	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web interface	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clicker	No	No	Yes
Account Management	Dedicated Account Manager at 25+ licences	Dedicated Account Manager	Dedicated Account Manager
Support	Email, Live Chat	Telephone 8am-8pm EST	Telephone 8am-4pm 24/7 email
In class?	Multiple Choice, Image Choice, Word Cloud, Quiz, Scales, Open Ended, Q&A, 100 Points, 2x2, Form, Slides, Reactions	Word Cloud, Survey, Multiple Choice, Q&A, Clickable Image, Open-ended, Ranking	Multiple Choice, Image Choice, Word Cloud, Text Entry, Numeric Response
Outside?	Surveys		Self-paced polls
Moodle	Yes	Yes, LTI	Yes (unclear how)
Admin	Can centrally distribute/redistribute	Centrally controlled	Remotely controlled on request (allocated to emails)
UK Universities using it?	Imperial, , Queen Mary, Hull	Sussex, Brighton, Anglia Ruskin, City, King's	Plymouth, Bath, Exeter, Bournemouth, Bristol, Durham
Active user community	Unknown	UK User Group, next annual event in Liverpool	Annual user conference, last held in Barcelona

Costings

Mentimeter

Based on no. of instructor licenses:

1 year pilot with 10 instructor licenses: £513

1 year with 100 licenses: £8,640

1 year with <250 licences: £15,120

3 years with <250 licences: £12,852

PollEverywhere

Based on active student numbers. Quote for 4,400 students: £12,221 (5% reduction for 2 year signup; 10% reduction for 3 year signup, payable annually)

Single-sign-on integration - £1,500 one-time setup fee.

TurningPoint

Current: 5 licences, 100 seats, 12 months: £2,092 (inc. VAT)

Institutional: £21,000

Contacts and Progress

Mentimeter: Francis Ansah, francis.ansah@mentimeter.com

Sales call initiated, quote acquired, followup expected

Poll Everywhere: Dan Petito, dan@polleverywhere.com

Picked up existing conversation, quote acquired, followup expected

TurningPoint: (incumbent supplier): Mark McManus, mmcmanus@turningpoint.com

Emergency contact from Marcel last August to renew contract; followed up in Feb 2019. Mark suggests site visit in next 3 weeks (March 2019).