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Stealth activities

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Earlier versions of Moodle had a “quirk” that allowed activities (or resources) to be hidden inside “extra” weeks or topics, but still be accessible to students. These were known as “orphaned” activities and allowed Moodle users to achieve particular designs for their courses.

In Moodle 3.3 onwards you can put any activity or resource into “stealth mode” to achieve this same effect in a more officially-supported way.

Stealth Activities In Moodle 3.3



Stealth activities in Moodle 3.3

Enabling stealth activities



From 'Advanced features', administrators may 'Allow stealth activities' in courses. Teachers will then be able to make activities (or resources) available to students but not shown on the course page. This feature is supported in "Weeks", "Topics", "Social" formats and on the front page. Other course formats may or may not implement it.

How stealth activities work: example






A teacher has a course with a number of quizzes. (*1 below*) They make the course page rather long. She would prefer to add the links to the quizzes in a single page (*2 below*) to make her course neater, but if she then hides the quizzes, students will not be able to access them:

Your progress ?

Useful resources

-  Class notices
-  Background reading


Quizzes

-  Revision quiz list
-  Quiz 1
-  Quiz 2
-  Quiz 3
-  Quiz 4




2




1






Discussion forums







 Ask questions about the exam here







She turns on the editing and, from the Edit menu, hides each quiz. Note the blue alert message reminding teachers the activity is hidden.







 **Quizzes** 
Edit 




- 

Revision quiz list


Edit 

- 

Quiz 1


Edit 


- 

Quiz 2


Edit 


- 

Quiz 3


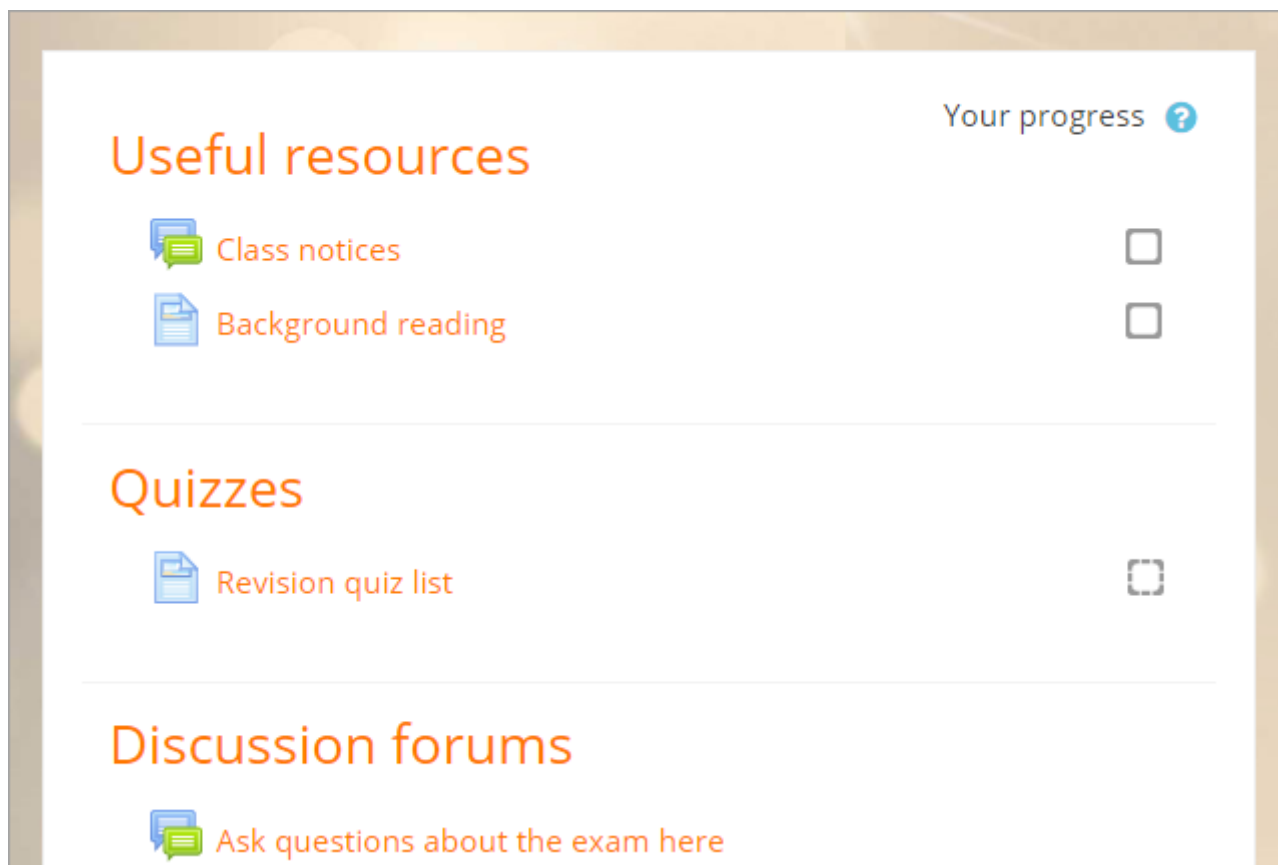
Edit 


- 

Quiz 4


Edit 



She then goes back into the Edit menu and selects the 'Make available' option. Note the blue alert message changes to remind her the activity is available but will not be displayed on the course page to students.

The screenshot displays a Moodle course page with a 'Quizzes' section. The section contains five quiz items: 'Revision quiz list', 'Quiz 1', 'Quiz 2', 'Quiz 3', and 'Quiz 4'. Each quiz item has an 'Edit' dropdown menu and a status icon. A blue alert message 'Available but not shown on course page' is visible for 'Quiz 1' and 'Quiz 2', while 'Quiz 3' and 'Quiz 4' are marked as 'Hidden from students'. A context menu is open over the 'Edit' dropdown for 'Quiz 4', showing options: 'Edit settings', 'Move right', 'Show', 'Make available', and 'Duplicate'. A hand cursor is pointing at the 'Make available' option. Below the quizzes is a 'Discussion forums' section with two forum items: 'Ask questions about the exam here' and 'Problems? Your co-participants are here'. The 'Make available' option is highlighted in the context menu, indicating the user's action.

She will then be able to make the links to those quizzes in her single page and students will be able to see the quizzes, do them and view their results in the gradebook. Students will not see the list of quizzes:



The screenshot shows a Moodle course page with three main sections: 'Useful resources', 'Quizzes', and 'Discussion forums'. Each section has a list of activities with checkboxes for visibility. The 'Useful resources' section includes 'Class notices' and 'Background reading'. The 'Quizzes' section includes 'Revision quiz list'. The 'Discussion forums' section includes 'Ask questions about the exam here'. A 'Your progress' link with a question mark icon is located in the top right corner of the page.

Section	Activity	Visibility
Useful resources	Class notices	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Background reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quizzes	Revision quiz list	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discussion forums	Ask questions about the exam here	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: Activities may be made available but not shown in any topic section, not just the bottom section, as used to be the case for "orphaned activities".

What if the admin setting is disabled?

'Allow stealth activities' is an Advanced feature. If the administrator has not enabled the setting, then it is still possible to make activities available but not shown on the course page.

To make activities (or resources) available but not shown on the course page when 'Allow stealth activities' is disabled:

1. Hide the whole topic which contains (for example) the quizzes. (*1 below*).
2. Make individual activities available from the Edit menu (*2 below*).
3. Ensure that the single page which will contain the quiz links is in a topic where it will be visible to students (*3 below*).

Useful resources

[Edit](#) ▼

			Class notices	Edit ▼		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Background reading	Edit ▼		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Revision quiz list	Edit ▼		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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[+ Add an activity or resource](#)

+ Quizzes

Hidden from students

[Edit](#) ▼

			Quiz 1	Edit ▼		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Available but not shown on course page						
			Quiz 2	Edit ▼		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Available but not shown on course page						
			Quiz 3	Edit ▼		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Available but not shown on course page						
			Quiz 4	Edit ▼		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Available but not shown on course page						

2

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Category: Course

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