Overview of a VLE Area

By default, the homepage of each VLE area has a three-column layout as shown below:

1. The top of the page displays the breadcrumb trail starting with the name of the VLE, study-unit / class code etc. The breadcrumb trail facilitates navigation. Clicking the study-unit / class code in the breadcrumb trail always takes you back to the VLE area homepage.

2. The middle section is where you will put your main study material and activities. This section is typically divided into sub-sections: Weeks or Topics. Each week or topic may contain lecture notes, links to readings, forums, quizzes, assignments etc.

By default, the first block in the middle section is often referred to as the VLE area header block. This contains the Announcements forum (used for class announcements) and other introductory study-unit level information such as a link to the study-unit / class description.
In the above example, the material and activities are organised by type of task, but they can also be organised by weeks.

The left and right columns contain small boxes called **blocks**.

The left column contains three blocks:

1. **Navigation** – contains links to your profile and your VLE areas. This block expands as necessary to provide you with more pages and tools. Under the current VLE area, you will also find the **Participants** link.
2. **Activities** – lists the variety of activities created by the tutor/s in the VLE area. For example, if you would like to view all the Forums in this area, click on the **Forums** link.
3. **Administration** – provides context-sensitive links depending on the type of page being viewed. It includes links such as **Course administration**, **Reports**, and **Switch role to**.

*visible to tutors only

The right column contains the following blocks:

1. **Latest News** – lists the latest items added to the Announcements forum.
2. **Upcoming Events** – lists calendar events created, such as assignment deadlines, change of lecture dates etc.
3. **Calendar** – displays a small version of the current month’s calendar. Events and due dates are colour-coded to distinguish VLE area events from personal (User) events.
4. **Recent Activity** – shows recent changes to the VLE area, including creation of new resources and activities, forum postings, and assignment submissions.