Overview of a VLE Area

By default, the homepage of each VLE area has the layout shown below:

A navigation drawer is available on the left-hand side of the screen to improve navigation within VLE areas. For more screen space, the navigation drawer may be opened and closed by clicking the burger icon .

The navigation drawer includes links to important elements such as Participants, and the topics’ / weekly section links. Further down are links back to your Dashboard and the VLE area’s Calendar. If tutors are accessing the VLE area in editing mode, the option to add additional blocks will also be made available in the navigation drawer.

The gear icon in the upper right-hand corner provides tutors with access to all editing functions. Tutors can click the gear icon to edit the VLE area’s settings or to access other important settings. The More... link directs tutors to the Course administration page, which includes logs, reports and the question bank.

The VLE area header displays the breadcrumb trail starting with the Dashboard, study-unit code etc. The breadcrumb trail facilitates navigation. Clicking the study-unit code in the breadcrumb trail always takes you back to the VLE area homepage.
This is the main content area where tutors put the main study material and activities. This area is typically divided into sections: Weeks or Topics. Each week or topic may contain lecture notes, links to readings, forums, quizzes, assignments etc.

By default, the first section is often referred to as the General section. This contains the Announcements forum (used for class announcements) and may also contain other introductory study-unit level information such as a link to the study-unit description.

In the above example, the material and activities are organised by topics, but they can also be organised by weeks.

On the right-hand side of your screen, you will find the following blocks:

- **Show study-unit to students** - indicates whether the VLE area is visible to students (Shown) or not (Hidden). Tutors can easily make the VLE area visible to students by clicking the Show button.
- **Latest announcements** – lists the latest items added to the Announcements forum.
- **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 an area, click on the Forums link.
- **Upcoming events** – lists calendar events created, such as assignment deadlines, change of lecture dates etc.
- **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.
- **Recent activity** – shows recent changes to the VLE area, including creation of new resources and activities, forum postings, and assignment submissions.

*visible to tutors only*