

Department of Actuarial Studies

Seminar Series

Wednesday, 10 May 2006

Speaker: Associate Professor John Shepherd

Title: Going SOLO on assessment

Date & Time: Wednesday 10 May 2006 at 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: E4A, Seminar Room 623

Abstract: This seminar will describe an application of the SOLO taxonomy in assessment and discuss the outcomes. SOLO was used to evaluate qualitatively students' responses to a writing task.

Biggs and Collis (1982) developed the SOLO (Structure of the Observed Learning Outcome) taxonomy. For a clear description, see Biggs (1999). SOLO provides a systematic way of describing a hierarchy of complexity or sophistication in the learning demonstrated by learners. It describes five levels or stages of understanding (pre-structural, uni-structural, multi-structural, relational and extended abstract). Stage characteristics focus on the extent to which learners recognise the relationships and connections amongst the elements of knowledge they are acquiring.

In this application, SOLO was used in ACST201, a core unit in the BAppFin and BBA (Finance) programs, and a popular elective for accounting, economics and other EFS students.

Your feedback on this experiment will be welcomed. Some samples of students' writing will be provided so that you will be able to experience using the SOLO framework for evaluation.

Biggs, J.B. (1999) *Teaching for Quality Learning at University*, Buckingham: SRHE and Open University Press, Buckingham (p37ff)

Biggs, J.B. and Collis, K.F. (1982) *Evaluating the Quality of Learning: the SOLO Taxonomy*, New York: Academic Press