New Generation Courses Overview

In Summer 2018, Apex Learning will release New Generation Courses to bring forward our proven curriculum to a new learning platform. This platform enhances the experience for both students and teachers with a new look and feel, new tools to support student progress, and an interface that makes it easy to keep students on track.

New Student Experience

The student learning experience features new embedded supports, a streamlined navigation, and a fresh look and feel. Collectively, these enhancements make it even easier for students be successful and stay on track with every minute of their learning.

New embedded supports
New Generation Courses embed multi-language translation and text-to-speech across the entire Course. By embedding these supports into the Course interface, students can use them for every element of their learning experience—from assessments to transcripts to on-page instruction. Furthermore, the new experience introduces closed-captioning for videos and more reader-friendly text throughout each Course. Together, these enhancements offer struggling readers, special education students, and English language learners an additional level of assistance

Streamlined navigation
This interface streamlines the navigation, making it easy for students to see what they have already done and follow the path that maximizes their learning. It introduces a visual—rather than text-based—navigation, so students can easily identify their next step. The improvements introduce visual navigation elements, collapse the outline, center the instruction, and add a persistent progress arrow.

Contemporary and engaging look and feel
The new design presents the curriculum in a modern, more open and distraction-free environment to make it easy for students to find and focus on the material they need. The new design also takes advantage of the whole screen, expanding the Course window to the full size of the student's device.

Same content, new delivery
We're improving what works. Students will continue to get supports and scaffolds the moment they need them, learn by doing every step of the way, and build confidence through regular feedback on their understanding as they progress through each concept. With the new interface and embedded tools, we're enhancing this experience to help all students succeed.

Enhanced Educator Experience

The New Generation Courses introduce a host of enhancements that simplify the teacher and site coordinator's experience of managing and monitoring student progress. These changes include:

- **Visual progress and urgent action indicators**, so it's easy to see which students need immediate attention and what steps have been taken to enable their progress
- **Enhanced grade book interface**, so it's easier to manage student progress
- **Improved course window experience**, which simplify the course customization, assessment review, and printing process
- **More insight into student progress** through reports that capture additional student activity

FAQs

What's Changing?

How do the New Generation Courses compare to the current courses?

New Generation Courses offer the same, highly effective course content, but in a new learning platform. This new learning platform strengthens the learning experience, simplifies the staff experience, and offers access to the full Course catalog.

- The **new student experience** introduces three improvements: a streamlined navigation, a fresh, look and feel, and new embedded supports including multi-language translation and text-to-speech
- The **new educator experience** makes it easier to manage and monitor student progress, while improving many aspects of the look and feel in the grade book and Course window.
- Furthermore, **newly developed Courses** will only be available as New Generation Courses. This includes all middle school and career technical education Courses releasing in Summer 2018.
- And districts still get the same, **proven Course content and instruction**.

Which of my current Courses will be offered as New Generation Courses?

The most recent version of *all* Courses will be offered as New Generation Courses. This includes the newest version of every Foundation, Prescriptive, Core, and AP® Course, including all state-specific Courses. The only exception is for Honors Courses, which will remain available, but not as New Generation Courses.

Are any aspects of the student or teacher experience going away?

The Course content, student dashboards, grade book, settings, etc. will offer everything they offered before. In many instances, we have added *more* functionality. That said, select functionality will not be available for the very beginning of the 2018-19 school year. This functionality includes the mentor role, coach reports, discussion boards, Appendix A (e.g. study tips, compiled key term lists, and compiled materials lists), Appendix B (the ability to add custom assignments), and closed captions. This functionality will become available in New Generation Courses during the 2018-19 school year.

Furthermore, beginning in 2018 it will no longer be possible to access Diagnostic reports, to submit assignments by fax, or to disable answer randomization. Diagnostics have been replaced by prescriptive pretests in all Foundations Courses, online assignment submission is the preferred alternative to fax, and answer randomization is essential to deterring cheating.

How does the translation tool work?

To use the translation tool, simply highlight the text to translate and select the translate button. To translate an entire page, simply select the translate button without highlighting any text. This tool is embedded on pages and can be used for instruction and assessments for any text contained on-page, in rollovers and support cards, and in pop-out windows (such as study sheets, transcripts, and many interactive activities).

How does the text-to-speech tool work?

To use the text-to-speech tool, simply highlight the text to read aloud and select the text-to-speech button. To read aloud an entire page, simply select the text-to-speech button without highlighting any text. This tool is embedded on pages and can be used for instruction and assessments for any text contained on-page, in rollovers and support cards, and in pop-out windows (such as study sheets, transcripts, and many interactive activities).

What do these changes look like?

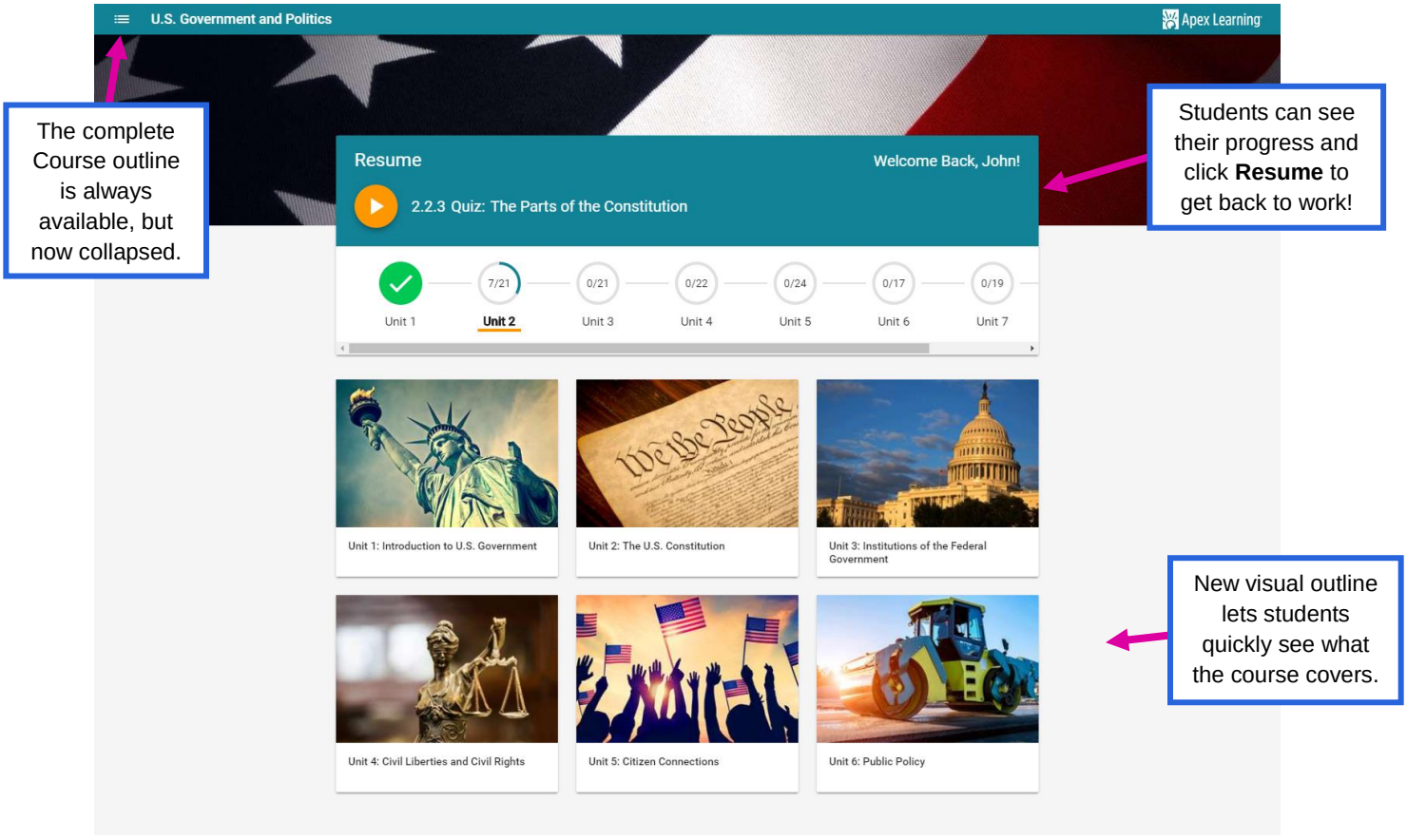
See the following pages for a comparison of the current and new student experience. The new student experience is in the final development stage, so the final design may reflect minor adjustments from these previews.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE: COURSE OVERVIEW PAGE

When students access a Course, this is the type of page they'll see. Instead of organizing the Course in a text-based outline, it does so in a visual outline. It gives students the option to get started by selecting their unit or simply selecting "Start."

Here's what to look for:

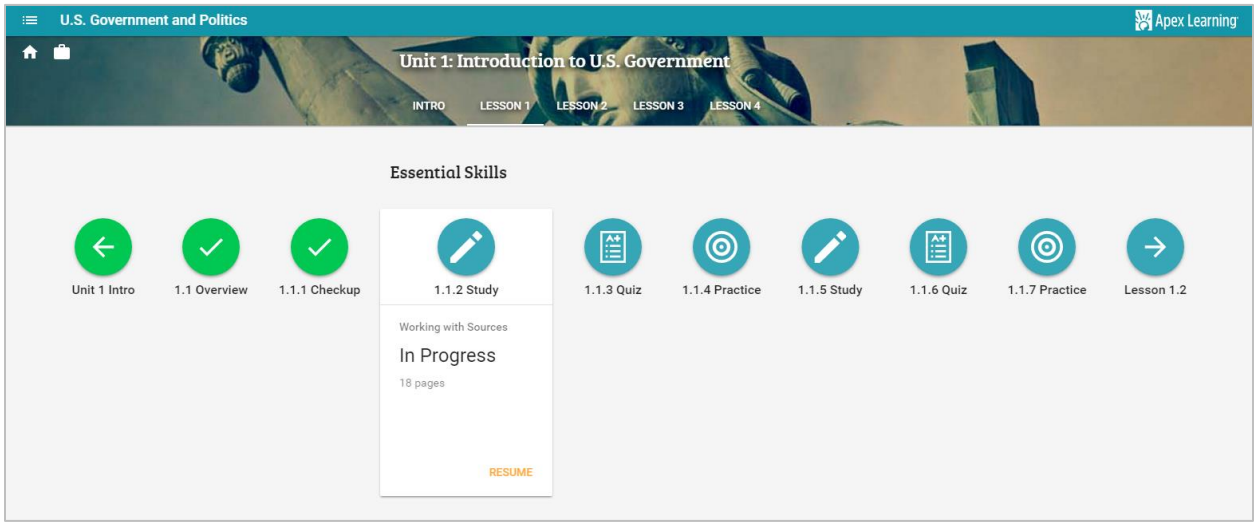
1. The new visual outline lets students quickly identify the right starting point.
2. Students can simply select "START" to begin or pick up where they left off.
3. The complete Course outline is always available, but collapsed. To expand it, students can select the outline icon in the upper-left corner.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE: COURSE NAVIGATOR

The new experience introduces a simple, intuitive way of navigating throughout Courses. It replaces the persistent left outline with a navigator that students see when they move between units, lessons, and activities. The navigator is designed to guide students to the next appropriate activity, putting it front and center in the activity carousel. Once an activity is completed the carousel will automatically advance to the next activity for the student. In this case, the student's next activity would be the Study.

If a student has completed or tested out of an activity, their progress will be clearly marked on each activity icon. When mastery-based learning is enabled, students will only be able to access activities they have unlocked.

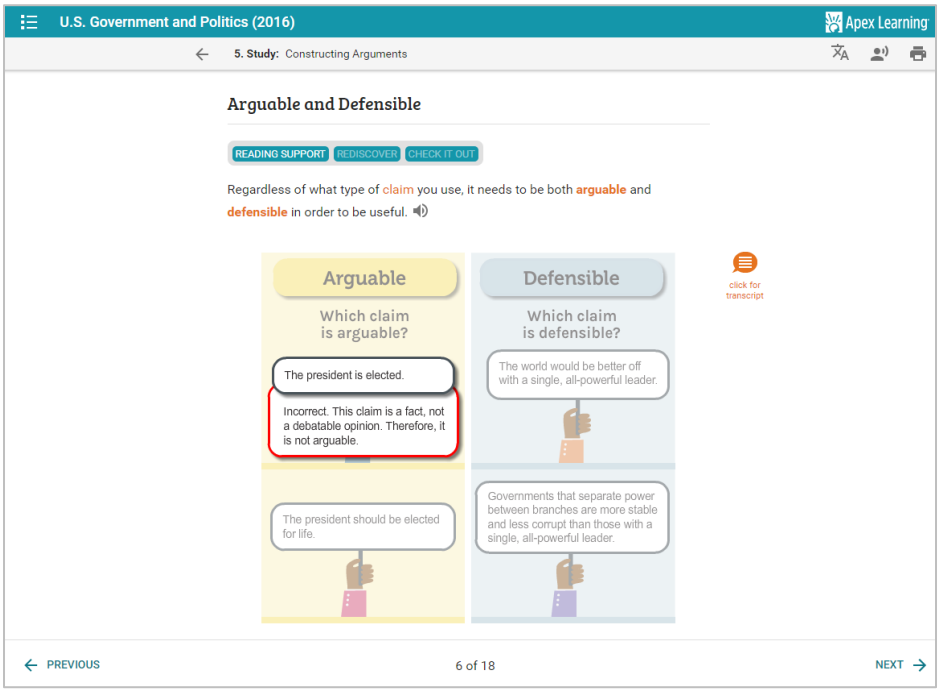


STUDENT EXPERIENCE: COURSE PAGES

Course pages feature a simplified design to focus student attention on what they need to learn. Students are always guided to select “Next” to the next page or activity, but may use the top navigation bar to advance directly to any lesson or return to the Course overview page.

Here’s what to look for:

1. By hiding the Course outline and dedicating the entire screen to learning, students see more of what they need to master. Students can expect less scrolling, less distraction, and more learning.
2. Translation ( ) and text-to-speech ( ) are embedded on every page. To use them, simply highlight the text to translate or read aloud, then select the appropriate icon.
3. Students can no longer skip to the end of a Study by typing in the page number. If Answer Reveal is enabled, this means you can now be sure that students will see every page of instruction before displaying answers in the Study Sheets.

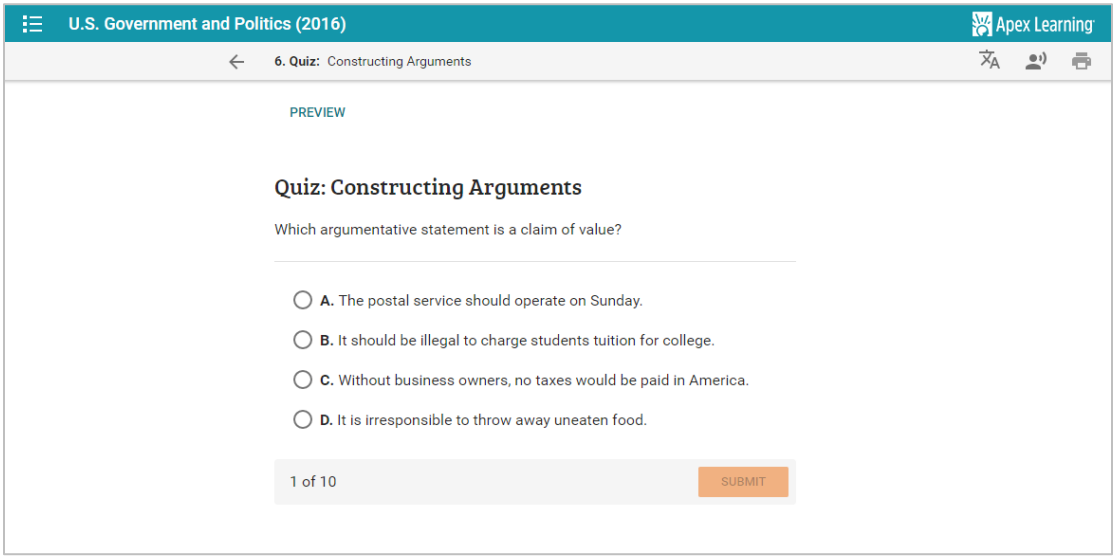


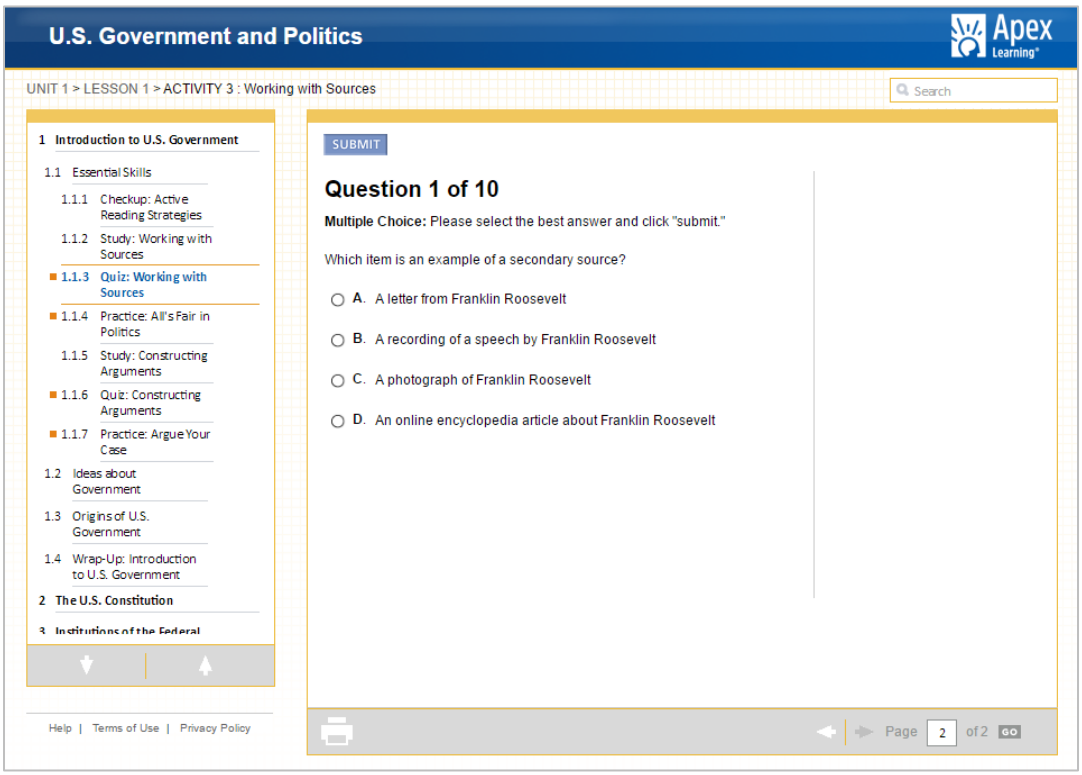
STUDENT EXPERIENCE: COMPUTER-SCORED ASSESSMENTS

Once students have answered an assessment question, they simply select the “Submit” button that’s consistently located in the bottom-right corner of the question.

Here’s what to look for:

1. Translation ( ) and text-to-speech ( ) are embedded in assessments, just like they are in instructional pages. To use them, simply highlight the text to translate or read aloud, then select the appropriate icon.
2. By removing the outline, students aren’t tempted to leave the Quiz until they’re finished.



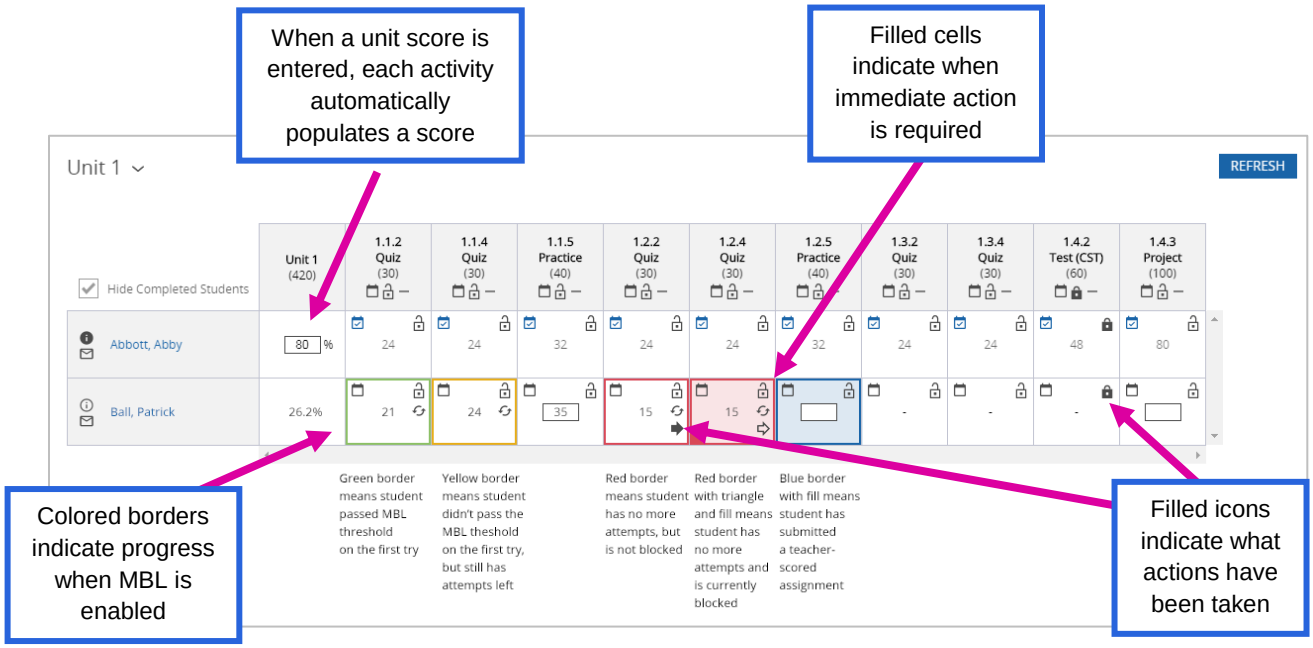


STAFF EXPERIENCE: GRADE BOOK

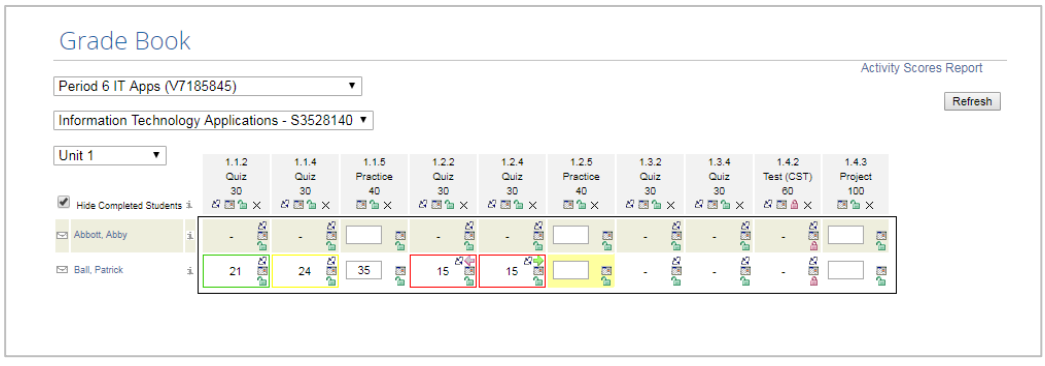
The new grade book experience adds a series of visual indicators to simplify the process of managing and monitoring student progress. It also improves the process for adding activity due dates and for saving changes.

Grade Book: Visual Indicators

- **Immediate action indicator**–Filled cells tell a teacher when immediate action is required. A cell with red fill indicates that a student cannot progress without teacher assistance. A cell with blue fill indicates that the student has submitted work that has not been graded.
- **MBL progress indicators** –When mastery-based learning is enabled, colored borders around each activity cell indicate whether a student met the mastery threshold (green border), hasn't yet met the mastery threshold but has attempts remaining (yellow border), or hasn't yet met the mastery threshold and has no attempts remaining (red border).
- **"Action taken" indicators**–Icons throughout the grade book are filled in when they have been activated. The calendar icon fills in when due dates have been set, the forward arrow icon fills in when progress has been permitted, the reset icon fills in when a student's activity has been reset, the lock icon fills in when an activity has been locked, and the Inotes icon fills in when notes have been added for a student.
- **Unit test out**–Unit test out is now located in the first column of each unit. When a teacher enters a grade for the entire unit, teachers will see scores automatically populate for each of the activities within that unit.



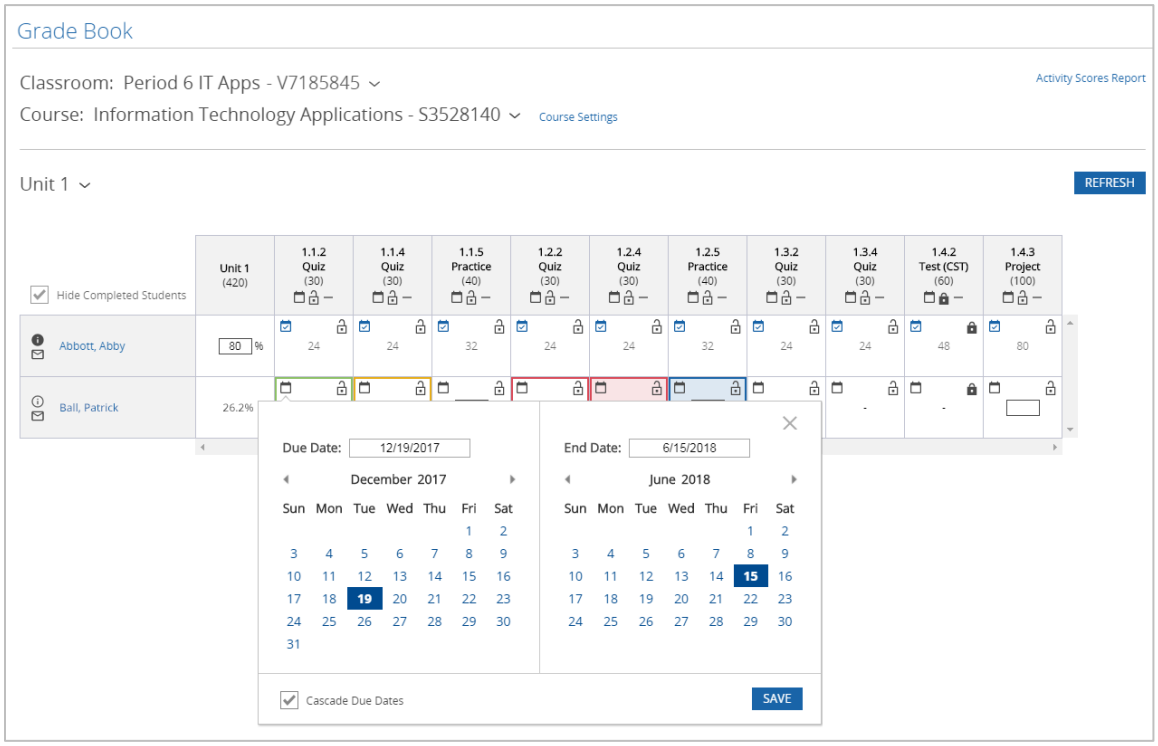
In the current grade book, no such visual indicators exist.



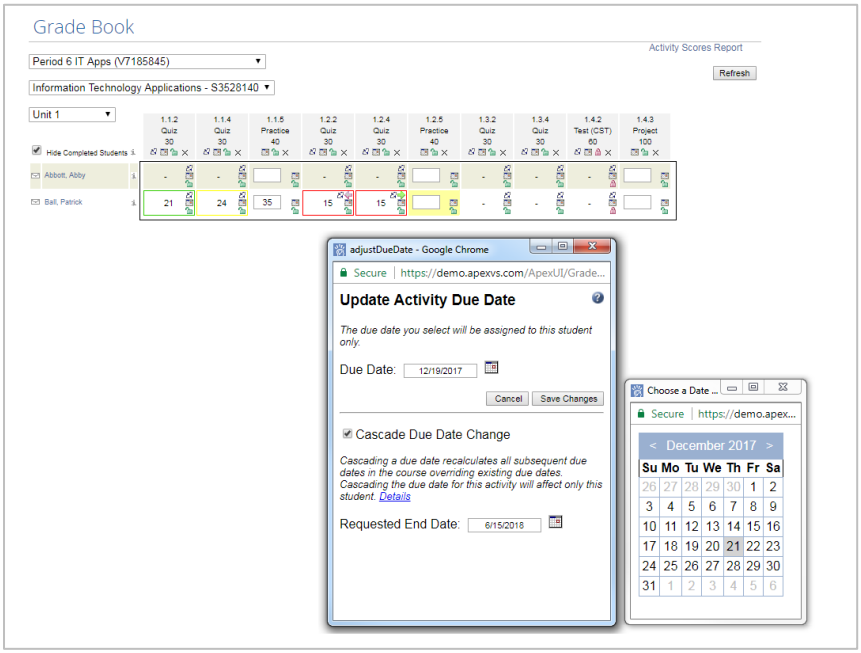
In addition to the visual indicators, the new grade book improves the process for adding due dates.

Grade Book: Due Dates

When teachers click on the calendar icon to set a due date, a due date interface instantly appears in the same window. If they choose to cascade due dates, the modal expands to allow teachers to set the end date. Once they click save, they can visually see at a glance which activities have a due date assigned to them.



Current experience:

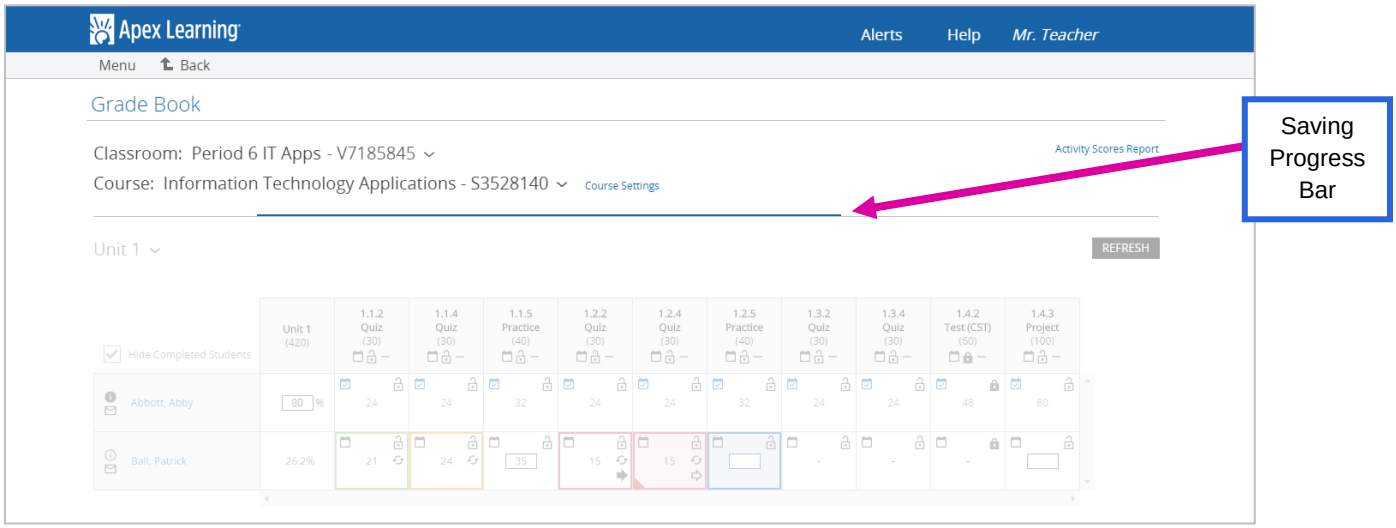


STAFF EXPERIENCE: GRADE BOOK (continued)

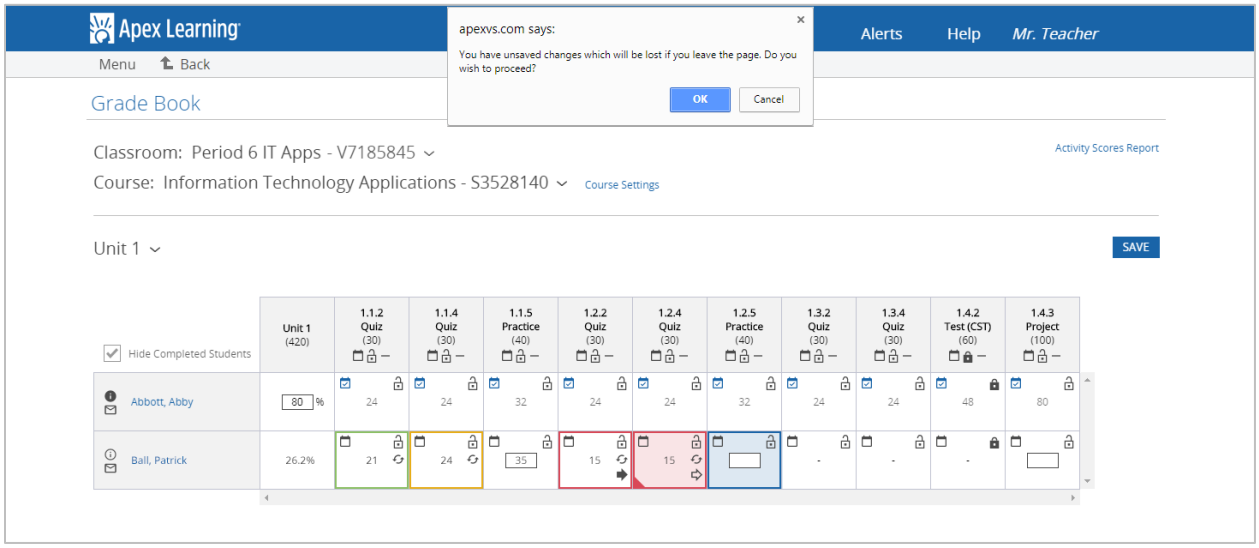
Lastly, the new grade book improves the process for saving changes.

Grade Book: Saving Changes

The new grade book helps save teachers' work. It shows a "saving in progress" screen when the grade book is saving changes. It also adds a notification that alerts teachers when they're about to navigate away from the grade book without saving changes.



'Saving in Progress' Screen with Saving Progress Bar



Unsaved Changes Notification

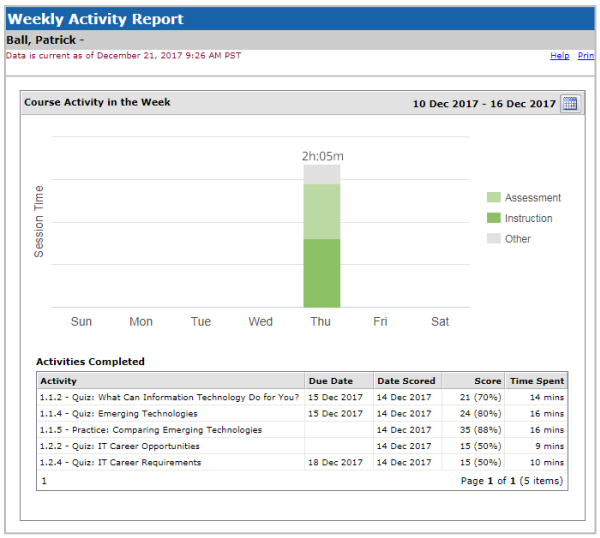
STAFF EXPERIENCE: REPORTS

New Generation Courses bring two updates to reporting. The Weekly Activity Report adds an “other” category and the Course Activity Scores Report adds a “submitted” status.

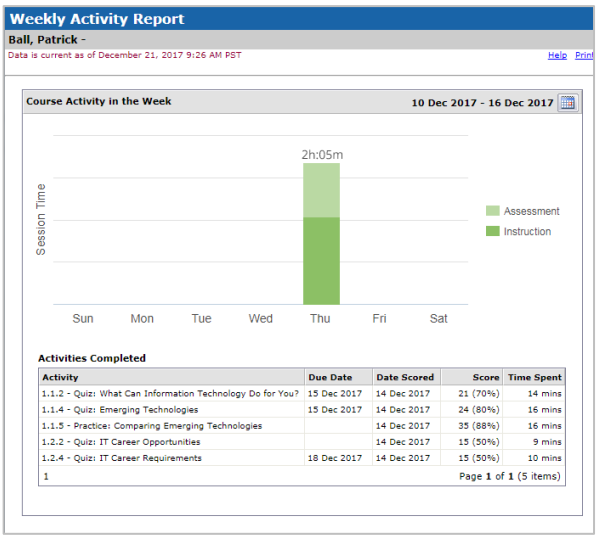
Weekly Activity Report

The “other” category captures student time spent outside of instruction or assessment, such as on the Course landing or navigational pages.

New Generation Weekly Activity Report

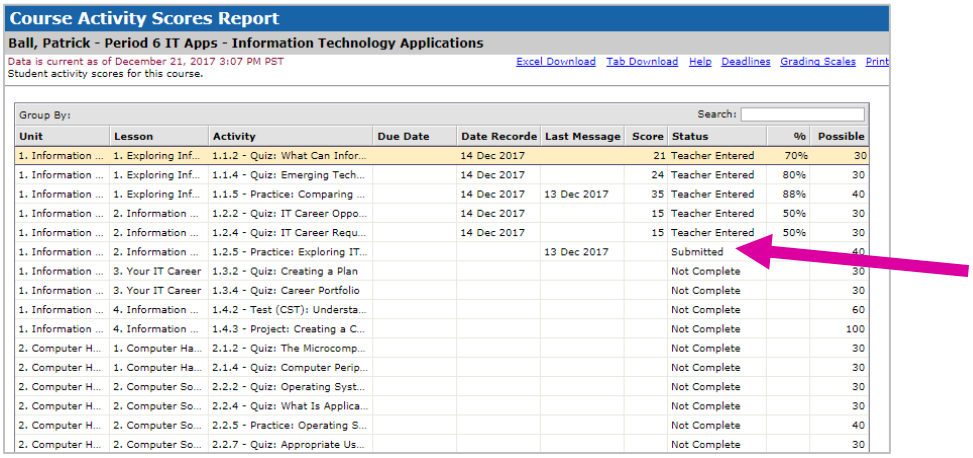


Current Weekly Activity Report (no “other”)



Course Activity Scores Report

The status column now includes an option for “submitted,” which designates an activity that has been submitted online for which no grade has been recorded.

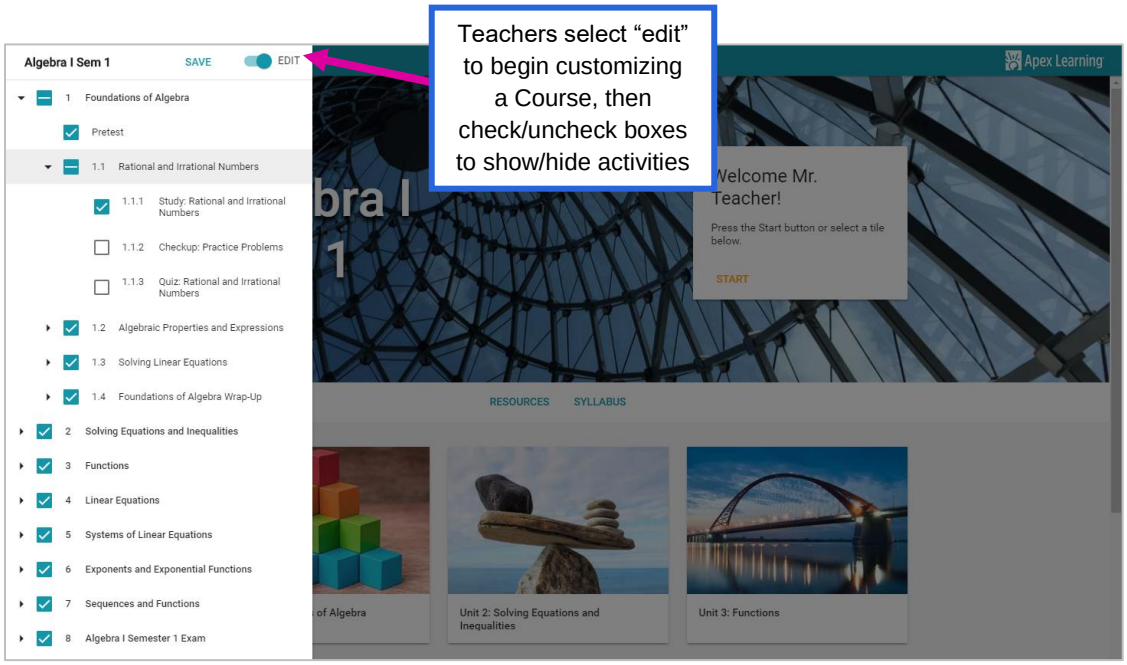


STAFF EXPERIENCE: COURSE WINDOW

As with the student experience, staff-only components of the Course window will get a new simple, intuitive look and feel. These components include the outline manager, the assessment preview, and the activity print menu. The print menu will also add new functionality that allows teachers to print all Course activities at once, in order.

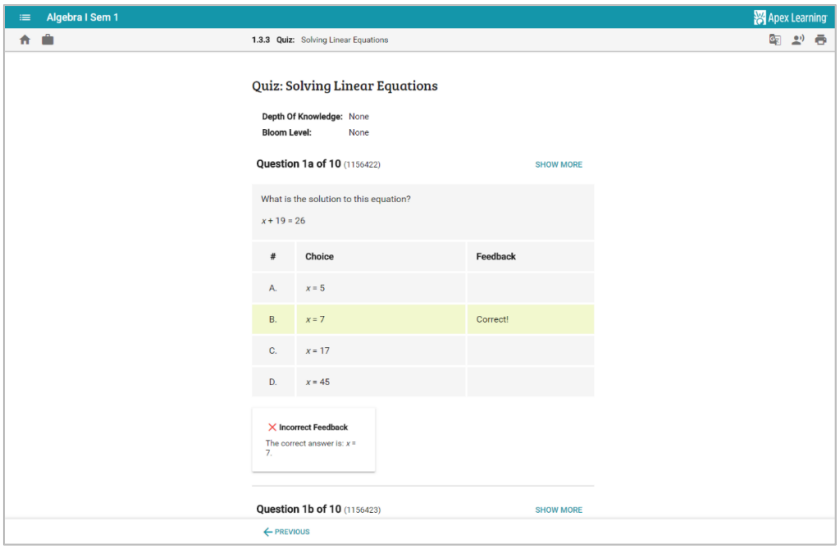
Outline Manager

Teachers can customize each Course simply by clicking the “edit” toggle in the Course outline.



Assessment Preview

The preview for computer-scored assessments now features a new look and feel to match the new student experience.



Download and Print Menu

The download and print menu now allows teachers to download and print all activities at once, in order.

How Do We Get New Generation Courses?

When will New Generation Courses be available?

New Generation Courses will be available in July 2018.

When it's available, how do we get it?

New Generation Courses will be released as brand new Courses. To take advantage of them, simply enroll your students in the new Courses. The new experience will not automatically be applied to the Courses your students are enrolled in now.

New Generation Courses will only be available for ClassTools Virtual (CTV) Courses, not ClassTools Achieve (CTA) Courses. If you are still using CTA Courses, contact your Success Manager or Account Executive about getting a free upgrade to CTV Courses.

If we customized the outline of our current Courses, will we need to do it again for the new ones?

Yes. If you want the outline of your new Course to be customized like your current one, you will need to use the Outline Management tool to customize it.

What happens to our students' data when I switch Courses?

Switching from a current CTV Course to a New Generation Course will be comparable to any other switch within your Course bundle. Archived data will remain available.

Will we need to switch Courses for future changes like this?

No, we do not expect you will need to switch Courses like this in the foreseeable future, except as updated versions of individual Courses to reflect new standards are released.

Can I see more?

Absolutely. Ask Apex Learning Support for more information! You can reach the Support Team at support@apexlearning.com or 1-800-435-1454.

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