

Short Answer

Last Modified on 04/26/2016 11:26 am EDT

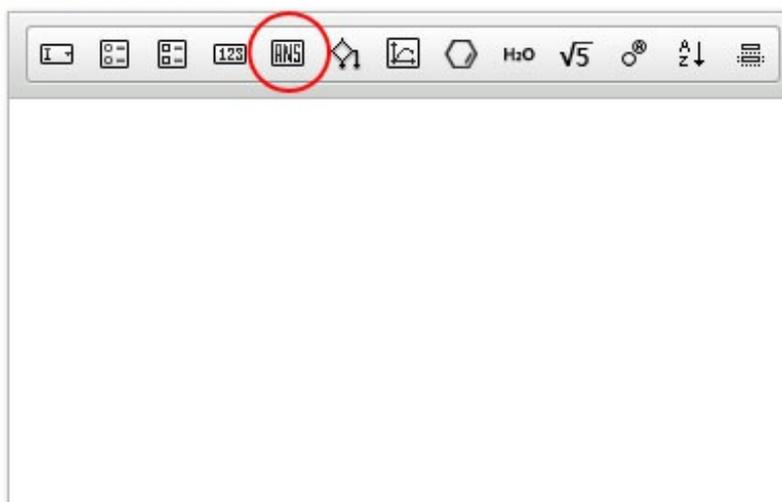
The Short Answer Module is used in questions that require students to give short phrases as answers.

Hide All Answers

Getting Started

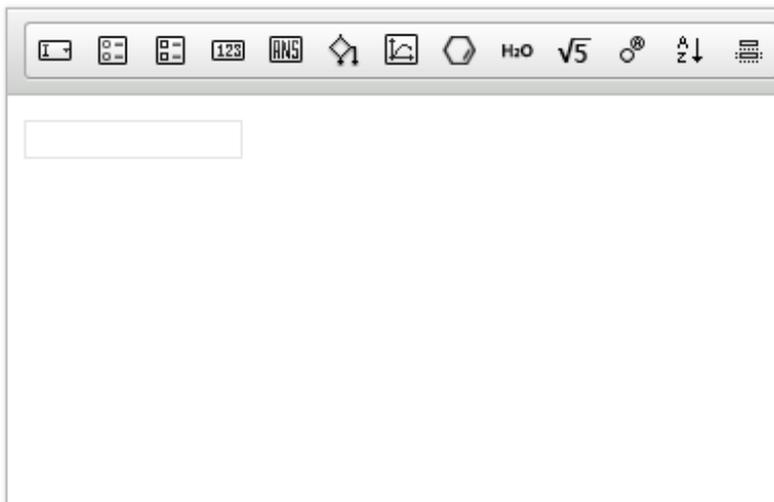
1. To insert the Short Answer Module in to the Question Text section, click the short answer button in the Question Type Palette. The symbol on this button is rectangle that contains letters ANS.

Question Text*



2. Once inserted into the Question text section, the module will always appear as a blank rectangle, as exemplified in the screenshot below:

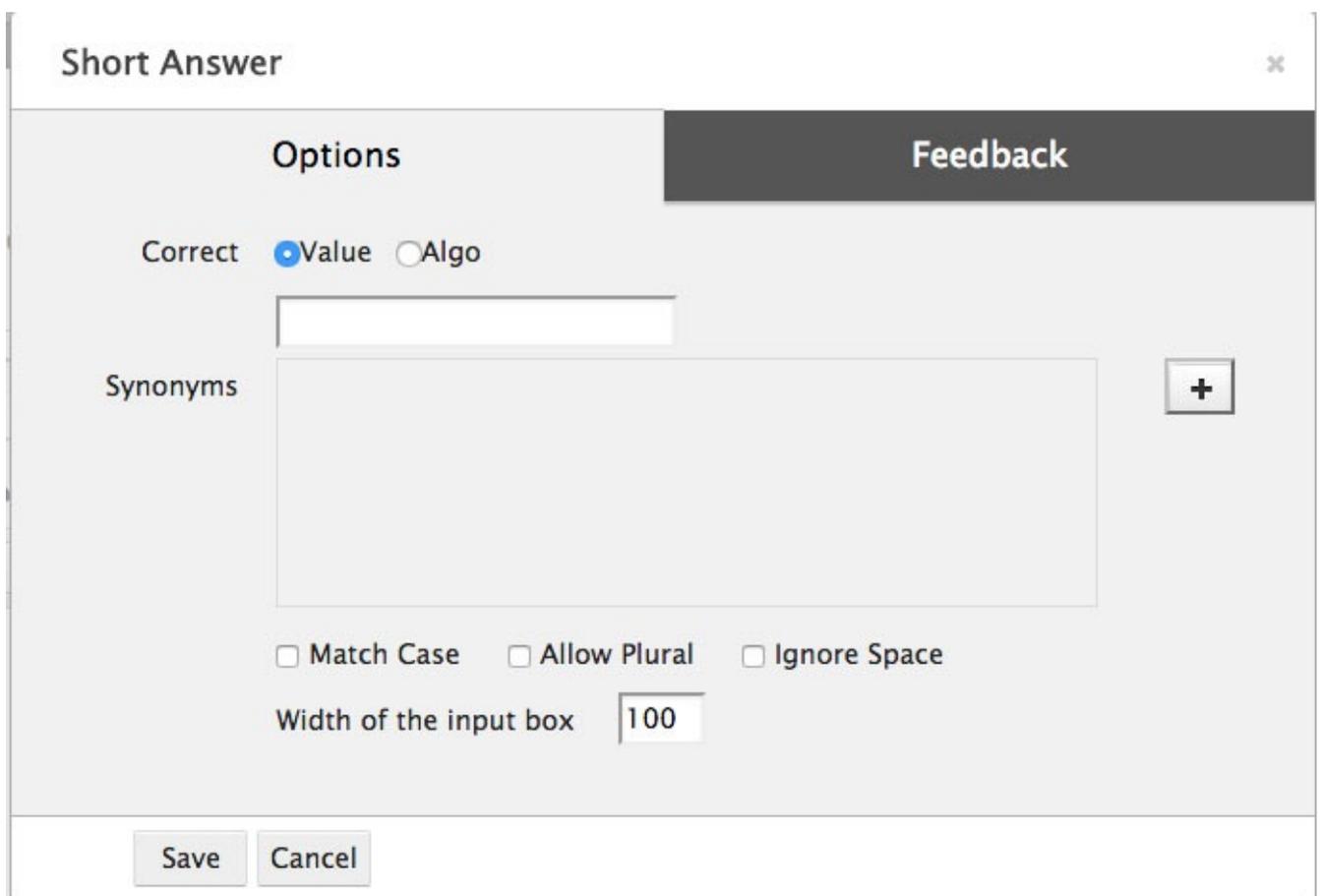
Question Text*



The image shows a 'Question Text*' editor interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with various icons for text formatting and mathematical symbols, including a text box, a table, a list, a number, a subscript, a superscript, a fraction, a square root, a degree symbol, a plus-minus symbol, and a list of symbols. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text input area for entering the question text.

3. To open the Short Answer Module editor, double click on the module.

The Short Answer Module Editor consists of two tabs: an Options tab, in which you define the correct answer, and a Feedback tab, in which you write the feedback students will see when they enter in the correct answer and incorrect answers.



The image shows the 'Short Answer' editor interface. It has two tabs: 'Options' and 'Feedback'. The 'Options' tab is currently selected. In the 'Options' tab, there is a 'Correct' section with two radio buttons: 'Value' (selected) and 'Algo'. Below this is a text input field for the correct answer. There is also a 'Synonyms' section with a large text area and a '+' button to add synonyms. At the bottom of the 'Options' tab, there are three checkboxes: 'Match Case', 'Allow Plural', and 'Ignore Space'. Below these is a 'Width of the input box' section with a text input field containing the value '100'. At the bottom of the editor, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

The Short Answer Editor also has a Save button, which you can use to save your work and exit the module, and a Cancel button, which allows you to exit the module without saving.

Setting Up the Question

The Options tab allows you to set the correct answer for the question. On this tab, you can also tell the system to accept certain synonyms as correct.

To set the correct answer, do the following:

1. Select whether you want the correct answer to be a specific word(s), or an algorithm. If you want your correct answer to be a specific word(s), select “Value”; if you want your correct answer to be an algorithm, select “Algo.” For an in-depth look at how to create algorithms, please refer to the “Algorithm” documentation.
2. If you want your correct answer to be a “Value,” type out your correct answer in the editable text field. If you want your correct answer to be an “Algo,” select the algorithm you want to use as your correct answer in the dropdown menu.
 - a. If you select “Value” the system will allow you to type as many characters or words as you would like, but it is good practice to keep your answer to no more than a few words. Check with your editor for best practices.
 - b. If you select “Algo,” the system will only allow you to select String Algorithms from the dropdown menu. For more information about String Algos, please refer to the “Algorithm” documentation. **Although the system supports Algorithmic Variables in the Short Answer Module, many editors prefer that authors do not use this feature. Please check with your editor for best practices.**
3. Add additional synonyms you want the system to accept as correct by clicking on the button with the plus sign. Type the synonym into the text field that appears.
 - a. You may add as many synonyms you want; however, check with your editor for best practices.
 - b. You can edit existing synonyms by clicking on the synonym text, which reopens the editable text field.
 - c. Delete synonyms by clicking on the trash can next to the synonym you want to delete.

Short Answer Correct answer ✕

Options Feedback

Correct Value Algo

Synonyms

Fourth Reform Act	
Type synonym here	

Click here to add synonyms

Match Case Allow Plural Ignore Space

4. Determine the other circumstances under which the system should accept an answer as correct by checking “Match Case,” “Allow Plural,” or “Ignore Space.” These options do the following:

Short Answer ✕

Options

Correct Value Algo

Representation of the People

Synonyms

Fourth Reform Act	🗑️
Representation of the People Act of 1918	🗑️
The Representation of the People Act (1918)	🗑️

Match Case Allow Plural Ignore Space

Width of the input box

Feedback

- a. **Match Case** – This tells the system that, when typing in the correct answer, students must match the case of each word exactly as typed on the Options tab. In this example, the student must type “Representation of the People Act (1918),” with a capital R, A, and P, in order for the answer to be considered correct. Students who do not capitalize these letters will have their answers marked incorrect. This is a more restrictive setting.
- b. **Allow Plural** – This tells the system that it should accept a student’s answer as correct if she types an additional “-s” at the end of the correct answer. This is a less restrictive setting.
- c. **Ignore Space** – This tells the system to accept a student’s answer as correct if she fails to add the exact number of spaces as what is typed in the Options tab. For example, if “Ignore Space” were checked, the student could type “Representation of the PeopleAct(1919)” and still have the system recognize the answer as correct. This is a less restrictive setting.

5. Adjust the width of the box into which students will type their answer in the “Width

of the input box” section. The width will always be measured in pixels.

Short Answer ✕

Options **Feedback**

Correct Value Algo

Representation of the People

Synonyms

Fourth Reform Act	🗑️
Representation of the People Act of 1918	🗑️
The Representation of the People Act (1918)	🗑️

Match Case Allow Plural Ignore Space

Width of the input box **Here you can adjust the width of the Short Answer box students will see**

Question Text*

Question Text*

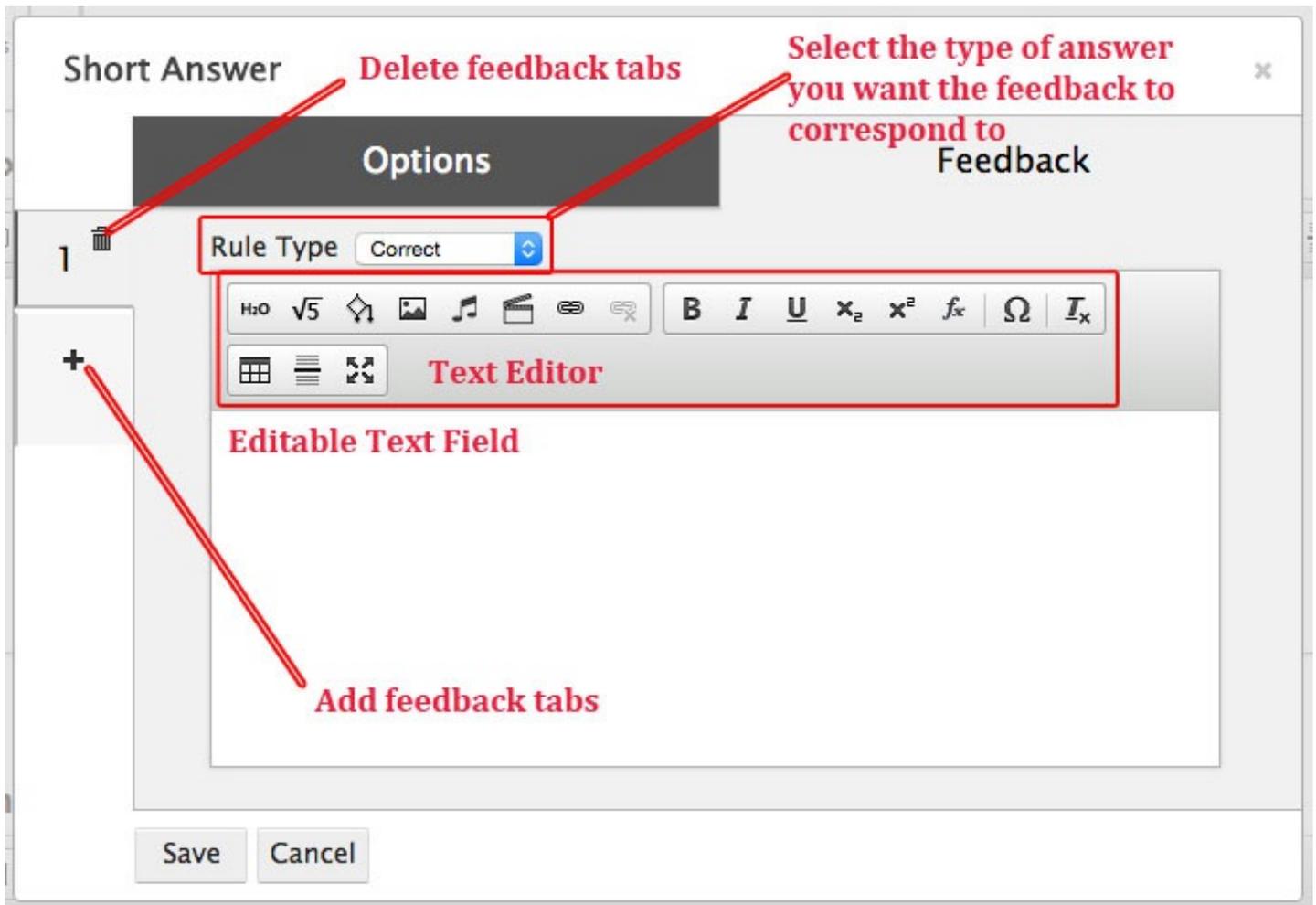
In the United Kingdom, which Act of Parliament the First World War? Be sure to include the year

This is what the Short Answer input box looks like with an adjusted width of 250 pixels

6. Save the module.

Creating Feedback

The Feedback tab allows you to write feedback that students will see when they select an answer choice.



You can create Correct feedback, which a student will see when she types out the correct answer, and Default feedback, which a student will see when she types out an unspecific incorrect answer. Additionally, you can create feedback for specific incorrect answers.

You do not have to set Specific Incorrect feedback if you set Default feedback. However, check with your editor for best practices.

Furthermore, it is good practice to set the Correct feedback and Default feedback first.

Text Editor

Each Feedback tab contains a text editor, which allows you to add text and other multimedia to the answer options.

Important Note: Copying and pasting text from a Word Document into Smartwork5 could insert formatting that will corrupt the module. Please enter the text directly into the Text Editor, or copy and paste from a plain text document.

The Media Palette allows you to insert multimedia as answer options.



From left to right, the Media Palette allows you to do the following:

- Insert chemical equations
- Insert a symbolic (math) equation
- Insert algorithmic variables
- Insert image files
- Insert music files
- Insert video files
- Insert hyperlinks
- Remove hyperlinks

The Text Formatting Palette allows you to format text, as well as add special characters.



From left to right, the Text Formatting Palette allows you to do the following:

- Bold text
- Italicize text
- Underline text
- Insert subscripts
- Insert superscripts
- Insert math formulas *This button is being phased out. To insert math formulas, use the symbolic equation editor.
- Insert special characters
- Remove any formatting applied to the text

Furthermore, the Feedback Formatting Palette allows you to do the following:



- Insert tables
- Insert line breaks
- Edit text in full screen mode

Correct and Default Feedback

To set Correct Feedback, do the following:

1st attempt

Feedback ✕

1st attempt ✓ Correct

Correct! The Representation of the People Act (1918) expanded the vote to British women over 30 who owned property. This was done, in part, because of their service on the home front during WWI. Whereas before citizenship was solely tied to property ownership in the public mindset, people now began to think of citizenship as tied to public service.

To set Default feedback, do the following:

1. In the Rule Type section of one of the feedback tabs, select “Default” from the Rule Type dropdown menu.
2. In the text field, type what you want the student to see when the student gives an incorrect answer. Add any media you see fit using the palettes in the Text Editor.

Short Answer

✕

Options **Feedback**

1 Rule Type

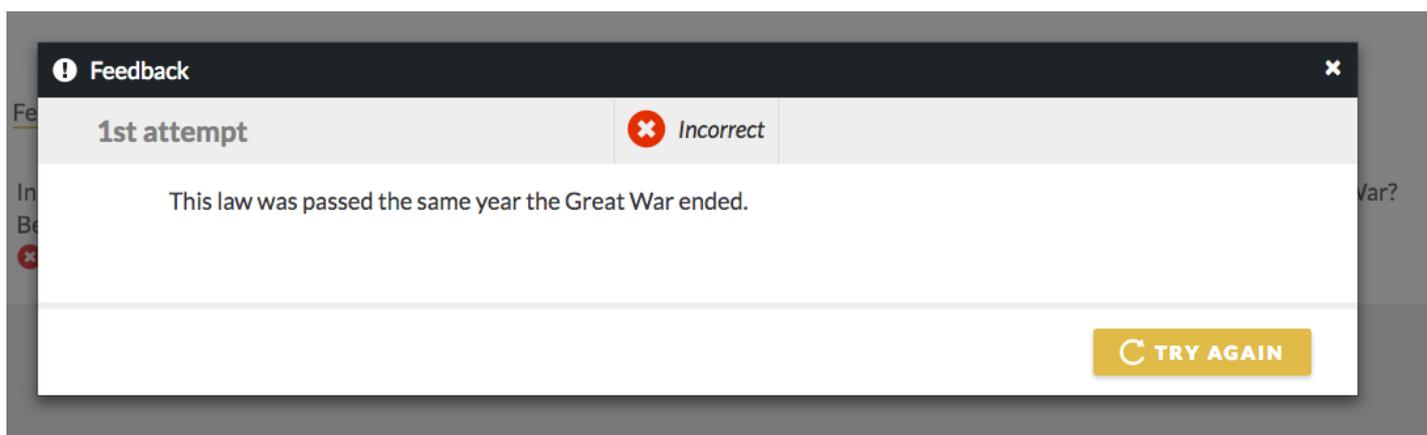
2 

3 This law was passed the same year the Great War ended.

This is what the student will see if she gives an incorrect answer.

3. Save the module.

4. Go to preview mode in the question editor. Check to see that the feedback is working correctly by inserting an incorrect answer in the preview window.



Specific Incorrect Feedback

You can also create feedback for specific incorrect answers, allowing you to trap for specific mistakes a student may make.

To create Incorrect feedback for specific answers, do the following:

1. In the Rule Type section of one of the feedback tabs, select “Incorrect” from the Rule Type dropdown menu.
2. In the feedback tab, determine if you want the incorrect answer for which you are trapping to be a value or an algorithm.
3. Type out the incorrect answer if you chose value. If your incorrect answer is an algorithm, select your incorrect answer from the dropdown of algorithm variables.
Be sure that your incorrect answer is not also synonym for your correct answer.
4. Add additional synonyms for your incorrect answer.
5. Determine if you want the system to Match Case, Allow Plurals, or Ignore Spaces for your incorrect Answer.
6. Type out the feedback you want the student to see when she triggers this incorrect answer in the editable text field. Format your feedback as desired.

Short Answer Type out the incorrect answer here. ✕

Options

Feedback

1 Rule Type Incorrect Value Algo Sex Disqualification Ac

2 Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919 ✕

3 Sex Disqualification Act (1919) ✕

Add synonyms for your incorrect answer here.

Match Case Allow Plurals Ignore Spaces

H₂O √5 **B** *I* U x₂ x² f_x | Ω | I_x

Type out the specific incorrect feedback here.

The Sex Disqualification Act of 1919 lifted restrictions that prohibited women from serving on juries and entering into certain professions. However, it did not give them the right to vote.

Save Cancel

7. Save the module.
8. Go to preview mode in the question editor. Check to see that the feedback is working correctly by typing out the specific incorrect answer in the preview window. **If you told the system to accept synonyms as incorrect, or if you told the system to Match Case, Allow Plural, or Allow Space, you should also check to see if those answers trigger the incorrect feedback.**

1st attempt ✕

Feedback ✕

1st attempt ✕ Incorrect

The Sex Disqualification Act of 1919 lifted restrictions that prohibited women from serving on juries and entering into certain professions. However, it did not give them the right to vote.

TRY AGAIN