

Criteria for Evaluating Educational Websites

Name: IXL Learning

IXL Learning is a subscription based online service that provides leveled standards-based curriculum. It is used to assign practice that is linked to specific standards. It is also used to evaluate mastery of specific skills and is a valuable diagnostic tool for multiple subjects beginning with pre-K and going through 12th-grade. Skills practiced can be kept track of from the previous year.

URL of website:

<https://www.ixl.com/>

Type “Yes” or “No” next to each question.

A. ORIGIN -What is the website's origin?

Paul Mishkin created IXL in 1998 to provide online educational opportunities for students. It was originally designed so that teachers could create and share lessons.

1. The organization providing the site is clearly indicated. **Yes**
2. There is information about the site's authors (About Us, Our Objectives, Modus Operandi, Mission Statement, etc.) **Yes**
3. The site's creators have provided their credentials (if need be). **Yes**
4. The site's creators have indicated the source of their materials where it is necessary to do so. **Yes**
5. There is an address made available for further information and questions concerning the site's information and content. **Yes / Email addresses, physical addresses, and phone numbers are provided for further inquiries as well as a help and support page.**

B. DESIGN -Is the website well designed?

The IXL website is well designed and easy for both teachers and students of various age ranges to navigate. It has bright colors and icons without being distracting for focused learners. It offers student badges, incentives, and the option to personalize avatars but not frivolous games.

1. The site's general appearance is appealing to its intended audience (colors, graphics, layout). **Yes**
2. It is easy to navigate through the site -links are clearly marked and self-explanatory making navigation intuitive. **Yes**
3. The links appearing on the site work (take the user to a new page). **Yes**
4. Supporting pages have a link back to the site's main page. **Yes**
5. The text on the site is easily readable (font, size, color scheme). **Yes**
6. The graphics on the site serve a purpose and are not too big. **Yes**
7. The site is not cluttered with advertising -overshadowing its content. **Yes**

8. The site is interactive -there is something to DO on the site (game, fill-out forms, chat, newsgroup/message board, etc.). **Yes**
9. The site's design and added features (graphics, sounds, video, databases, Active X, Shockwave, CGI, JavaScript and Java Applets) do not hinder the enjoyability of the site but enhance it. **Yes**

C. CONTENT -Is the website's content meaningful in terms of its educational value?

The content on IXL Learning correlates to state and common core standards.

1. The title of the site is indicative of its content. **No**
2. The language is developmentally appropriate for its targeted audience. **Yes**
3. The use of text and graphics as links is appropriate to level of understanding of targeted audience. **Yes**
4. The targeted audience has required skills to comprehend content. **Yes**
5. The targeted audience has required skills to navigate with ease through the site. **Yes**
6. The site is free of spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, syntax errors, or typos. **Yes**
7. The site promotes equal and just representations of racial, gender, and religious issues. **Yes**
8. The content is informative. **Yes**
9. The site contains a wealth of information and deserves more than one visit. **Yes**
10. The site has links to other websites relevant to the same topic. **No, the student website does not have links to other websites. The teacher website has links to affiliate products.**

D. ACCESSIBILITY -Is the website accessible?

Yes, the website is accessible to students with varying skill levels. There are no common loading errors, problems logging in, or distracting ads.

1. The site does not take a long time to load. **Yes**
2. The site provides a "help feature" or instructions on its use. **Yes**
3. The site does not require special "plug-ins" or other types of special viewing helpers. If it does, this is clearly indicated. **Yes**
4. The site does not require usage fees to be paid. **Yes**
5. The site has rules to its use. **Yes**
6. The site requires a registration or password to access and use it. **Yes**

E. CURRENCY -Is the website current?

IXL is an evolving website that reflects current standards and improves on its content regularly.

1. The site has been recently updated. **Yes**
2. The information recently updated is highlighted for the user. **Yes, the teacher version highlights new skills and updates. The student version does not emphasize changes.**
3. There is a statement pledging to current updates. **Yes**

Taken from:

<http://pages.infinet.net/seguind/criteria.htm>