

Getting started with SURE • Q.

System requirements

	Minimum	Recommended
CPU	266 MHz	400 MHz
OS	Win98/Mac OS 10.2	Win98/Win2000/WinXP/Mac OS 10.3
Memory	64 Mb (128 Mb Mac)	128 Mb (256 Mb Mac)
HD Space	100 Mb	100 Mb
Resolution	800x600	1024x768

Installation

PC If you have a CD, insert the CD and the install process will begin automatically if your system's Autoplay feature is enabled. If not, browse to the CD and double-click on the **Install** icon. If you downloaded the software double-click on the **Install** icon. After installation you can start the software from the windows **start** menu.

Mac If you have a CD, insert the CD and then drag the **SURE Q.zip** icon to a convenient location, for example your desktop or Applications folder. You may need to unzip SURE Q.zip by double clicking on it. You can then run the software by double clicking on the SURE Q icon.

Network instructions are in network readme.htm in the CD's documentation folder.

What is it?

SURE • Q. is software that asks the user questions and gives immediate constructive feedback to their answers. It is based on the principles commonly referred to as formative assessment or assessment for learning. An answer log allows the user to see which kinds of mistake they most commonly make and where their performance could be improved. Multiple user tracking is available for classroom use and answer logs can be imported and exported for homework. Question packs can be purchased for individual subject specifications from www.countingthoughts.com.

How can it be used?

as a revision aid — the software allows a subject to be reviewed and knowledge to be tested by answering sets of questions from the available question packs according to a user set difficulty rating and topic specification.

as a learning tool — immediate constructive feedback is provided to every answer given by the student. If a correct answer is given a model answer is displayed. Otherwise the tool gives feedback appropriate to the sorts of errors being made. After three attempts the model answer becomes available and the student scores zero for that question. The student learns actively by engaging with the subject rather than being a passive recipient of information.

as an assessment tool — an answer log gives not just the users' but categorises the incorrect answers to highlight areas of difficulty. The users' current score is displayed at all times. Multiple users can be tracked making this a useful classroom tool.

Features

The main features of the software are:

contents page — question sets are launched from this screen. In **shuffle** mode, the subject, topic and difficulty are selected and the software then creates a set of 10 questions for the user to complete. New sets can be launched until all the available questions in the pack are completed. In **select mode** you can freely create any set of questions.

question — questions are displayed with an area in the centre of the panel where the answer is to be typed. Multiple choice questions simply require an option to be selected. The user scores 3 points for a correct answer on their first attempt, 2 for a correct answer on their second, and 1 for a correct answer on their third, after which no points will be added to their score for that question. Their score is always displayed at the bottom of the screen as a proportion of the maximum possible score they could have achieved at any given point in their progress. Each answer attempt generates instant appropriate constructive feedback.

answer log — every answer is logged according to a system of error categories which allows the pupil and the teacher to immediately see which aspects of the subject are causing difficulty and require targeted intervention. The answer log can be viewed at any time and multiple answer logs are maintained for multiple users. Answer logs can be imported and exported allowing pupils to work either at school or at home.

Documentation

SURE . Q . has detailed documentation that can be found in the **Help** menu of the software. This documentation can also be viewed and printed out from your web browser by opening **help.htm** in the **documentation** folder under the SURE Q folder.

Uninstalling

PC To uninstall the software press the windows **Start** button, then select **Control Panel**. On some versions of windows the **Control Panel** is under the **Settings** menu. Then double-click on **Add or remove programs** and then click on **SURE Q**. You can then uninstall the software by clicking on the **Remove** button. Any files created after installation cannot be removed by the uninstaller. You can however remove such files and directories manually.

Mac Drag the SURE Q icon to the trash can.

Feedback

We welcome all forms of constructive feedback (positive or negative!) and are eager to continue developing our software to keep up to date with the needs of teachers and their students. If you have any comments please email them to

info@countingthoughts.com

or contact us by regular mail at the address at the foot of the page.

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