A Program for Use in Classics

An Honors Thesis (ID 499)

by

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It is sometimes difficult to encourage additional study by students. The CAI (Computer Assisted Instruction) program that I wrote in DAL (Dimension Authoring Language) is designed to help in the process of encouraging students to learn and it challenges them to use the knowledge that they have gained in their reading and by attending class lectures. It attempts to encourage the use of already acquired knowledge by challenging them to use it in a game-like situation where knowledge of Roman history not only events, but also people and societal values are necessary to do well.

This program begins by asking the student two factual questions that deal with a specific subject. If the two questions are correctly answered, the student gains access to the third question where points can be gained. These points add to the student's total for a particular area of expertise. In its final form, the program will assign a student a particular goal such as the election of Pompey as dictator and the student's final scores will determine whether or not the attempt was successful.

The following program contains the basic scoring, the built in commands to check on the scores, etc. It also contains two different question areas for the testing. The areas deal with schooling and religion.
LESSON ROMAN_TIMES
DEFINE QUEST[10,5]:STRING
DEFINE PNAME:STRING,RESTART
DEFINE TOT,REL,WEA,INA,SOC,MAN,RHE:INTEGER,RESTART
DEFINE A,C:REAL
DEFINE B,D,E,I,J,ANSNUM:INTEGER
DEFINE ANSWER,RELI,SCH:INTEGER
DEFINE FOUND:BOOLEAN
WHEN STRING,"=QUIT",QUITU
WHEN STRING,"=S",SHSTRS
WHEN STRING,"=H",HELP
SEED
FCOLOR WHITE
SLIDE "ROMANTEMPLE2.PIC"
PAUSE ELAPSED,1.5
ERASE
CCOLOR WHITE
FCOLOR BLUE
BCOLOR DARK
BRANCH GOAL=2,$GOAL2
BRANCH GOAL=3,$GOAL3
ASSIGN GOAL := 1
DO INTRO **PERFORM THE INTRODUCTION UNIT
DO STRENGTHS **PERFORM THE UNIT TO ASSIGN STRENGTH POINTS
    ;
    $GOAL2
    DO QUESTIONS1 **ASK THE FIRST SET OF QUESTIONS
    $GOAL3
    DO QUESTIONS2 **ASK THE SECOND SET OF QUESTIONS
    DO PSEC
UNIT INTRO
FCOLOR BLUE
AT 410
WRITE "YOU ARE A YOUNG ROMAN NOBLE. YOU ARE JUST STARTING TO TAKE YOUR PLACE IN ROMAN POLITICS. THE TIME PERIOD IS A FEW YEARS PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST TRIUMVIRATE.
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO BE CALLED?"
INPUT 1210
ASSIGN PNAME := RESPONSE **ASSIGN THEIR CHARACTERS NAME TO PNAME
    ;
SLIDE "PRTC.PIC"
ITALICS 0
PAUSE
ERASE
AT 410
WRITE IF YOU WISH TO LOOK AT THE COMMANDS TYPE ">=H" AND IT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE COMMANDS.
SIZE 2
UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE, WHEN YOU ARE ASKED A QUESTION, TYPE IN THE ANSWER USING THE DELETE KEY TO MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS, AND THEN ENTER THE ANSWER BY HITTING THE RETURN KEY.

YOU HAVE 50 STRENGTH POINTS TO DISTRIBUTE FOR YOUR CHARACTER. THERE ARE SIX CATEGORIES FOR WHICH YOU MUST ASSIGN STRENGTH VALUES. YOUR TOTAL MUST BE 50, IF IT IS NOT 50 YOU WILL HAVE TO DISTRIBUTE THE POINTS AGAIN. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, ASSIGN 0 POINTS TO A CATEGORY, BUT THE POINT VALUES MUST BE WHOLE NUMBERS AND CANNOT BE DECIMALS.

THE CATEGORIES ARE:

(1) RELIGIOUS/ETHICAL
(2) WEALTH/ECONOMIC/PRACTICAL
(3) INTELLIGENCE/AESTHETICS
(4) SOCIAL/POLITICAL
(5) MANAGERIAL
(6) RHETORICAL POWER

TYPE IN THE NUMBER OF STRENGTH POINTS TO BE ASSIGNED TO CATEGORY 1.

$$ACCEPT THEIR INPUT AND ASSIGN IT TO A VARIABLE$$

TYPE IN THE NUMBER OF STRENGTH POINTS TO BE ASSIGNED TO CATEGORY 6.

DO IT AGAIN.

DO SHSTRS
UNIT SHSTRS
; THIS UNIT SHOWS THE STUDENT HOW MANY STRENGTH POINTS THEY HAVE
; IN EACH CATEGORY
FCOLOR BLUE
ERASE

AT 220
WRITE YOUR CURRENT DISTRIBUTION OF POINTS IS:

RELIGIOUS/ETHICAL <<S,REL>>
WEALTH/ECONOMIC/PRACTICAL <<S,WEA>>
INTELLIGENCE/AESTHETICS <<S,INA>>
SOCIAL/POLITICAL <<S,SOC>>
MANAGERIAL <<S,MAN>>
RHETORICAL POWER <<S,RHE>>

SLIDE "PRTC.PIC"
ITALICS 0
PAUSE
ERASE
FCOLOR RED

UNIT QUESTIONS1
FCOLOR RED
; OPEN THE FILE OR ASSIGN THE QUESTIONS
OPEN "SCHOOL.TXT",3,READ
FOR E:=1,10
ENDFOR
;
CLOSE 3
;
ASSIGN E := 0
ASSIGN A := RANDOMU(1,11)
ASSIGN B := INT(A)
ASSIGN C := RANDOMU(1,11)
ASSIGN D := INT(C)
ERASE
ASSIGN ANSNUM := 3
AT 210
WRITE YOU ARE TALKING TO YOUR NEW SLAVE LUCUS WHO DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE DUTIES OF A YOUNG ROMAN NOBLE OR THE SCHOOLING THAT YOU HAVE UNDERGONE. THIS IS BECAUSE LUCUS HAS JUST RECENTLY ARRIVED IN R AND WAS BOUGHT SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL TO BE YOUR PERSONAL SLA LUCUS IS CURIOUS AND ABOUT YOUR LIFE AND ASKS YOU :

IF B = D
ELSE
ENDIF
; E IS A NUMERICAL COUNTER THAT IS INCREMENTED BY RIGHT ANSWERS
IF E = 2
ENDIF
ERASE
ASSIGN GOAL := GOAL + 1
UNIT QUESTA1
WRITC «S,QUEST[B,1]>>
«S,QUEST[B,2]>>

INPUT
ASSIGN FOUND := FALSE
ASSIGN I := 1

LOOP
    I <= ANSNUM
    OUTLOOP (FOUND = TRUE)
ENDLOOP
PAUSE ELAPSED,2

UNIT QUESTB1
WRITC «S,QUEST[D,1]>>
«S,QUEST[D,2]>>

INPUT
ASSIGN FOUND := FALSE
ASSIGN I := 1
LOOP
    I <= ANSNUM
    "DUTY AS A ROMAN CITIZEN","CORRUPT MONEY PRACTICES"
    OUTLOOP SCH = 5
ENDLOOP
DELIMIT %015
ERASE

UNIT QUESTIONS2
FCOLOR RED
;OPEN THE FILE OR ASSIGN THE QUESTIONS
OPEN "RELIGION.TXT",1,READ
FOR E:=1,10
ENDFOR;
CLOSE 1;

ASSIGN E := 0
ASSIGN A := RANDOMU(1,11)
ASSIGN B := INT(A)
ASSIGN C := RANDOMU(1,11)
ASSIGN D := INT(C)
ERASE
ASSIGN ANSNUM := 2
AT 210
WRITE YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO THE FORUM WHEN YOU COME ACROSS TWO MEN ARGUING OVER THE STATE RELIGION. ONE IS AN OLDER MAN WHO IS A CLIENT OF FATHER'S NAMED GAIUS. THE OTHER MAN IS AROUND 20 YEARS OLD AND ARGUING WITH GAIUS OVER RELIGION, TELLING GAIUS THAT IT IS OUTDATED NONSENSE THAT NO ONE PAYS ATTENTION TO ANYMORE. GAIUS SEES YOU TURN TO YOU, POINTS AT YOU AND SAYS: "THIS YOUNG MAN, «S,PNAME WILL PROVE THAT YOU ARE WRONG. HE RESPECTS THE GODS. «S,PNAME B = D
IF ELSE
ENDIF
;E IS A NUMERICAL COUNTER THAT IS INCREMENTED BY RIGHT ANSWERS
IF E = 2
ENDIF
ASSIGN GOAL := GOAL + 1
;
;
ASSIGN GOAL := 2
DO QUITU2

UNIT QUESTC2
ERASE AT WRITE GAIUS THEN SAYS TO YOU: "TELL HIM, \textless \textless , \textgreater \textgreater , HOW IMPORTANT REVERENCE FOR THE GODS IS."
(USE THE RETURN KEY AS YOU WOULD ON A TYPEWRITER AND HIT A / WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED.)
DELIMIT ASCII("/",1)
INPUT 810
ASSIGN I := 1
LOOP I <= 10

"DUTY","REVERENCE","REVER","DUTY TO MY ANCESTORS "RESPECT FOR THE GODS", "RESPECT"
ASSIGN I := I + 1
OUTLOOP RELI = 5
ENDLOOP
DELIMIT %015
ERASE

UNIT QUITU
ERASE AT SIZE WRITE SEE YOU LATER
STOP

UNIT QUITU2
ERASE AT SIZE WRITE GOODBYE
STOP

UNIT HELP
FCOLOR BLUE
DELIMIT %015
ERASE AT 410
WRITE IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE, PRESS RETURN.
IF YOU WISH TO SEE YOUR STRENGTH POINTS, TYPE ":=S".
IF YOU WISH TO EXIT THE PROGRAM, TYPE "=QUIT".
INPUT 810
ERASE
FCOLOR RED

UNIT PSEC
ERASE
FCOLOR BLUE
AT 410
WRITE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR POINT DISTRIBUTION BEFORE YOU LEAVE? (Y/N)
PROMPT "-"
INPUT *
IF RESPONSE = "Y"
ENDIF
PROMPT ">
FCOLOR RED

;
ENDLESSON
APPENDIX

CONTAINS THE TEXT FILES:

1) ROMANTEMPEL2.PIC
2) RELIGION.TXT
3) SCHOOL.TXT

THESE FILES ARE USED WITHIN THE DAL LESSON.
WHAT GOD GUARDS THE DOORWAY OF OUR CITY?

JANUS

WHO ARE THE PRIESTESSES WHO GUARD THE COMMUNITY HEARTH FIRES?
VESTAL VIRGINS

WHO IS THE RULER OF THE GODS?

JUPITER

WHO IS THE GODDESS OF WISDOM WORSHIPPED BY ROMANS?
MINERVA

WHO IS THE GODDESS OF GRAIN?
CERES

WHO IS THE GOD OF WINE?
LIBER

WHAT IS THE CHIEF PRIEST’S TITLE?
PONTIFEX MAXIMUS

WHAT IS THE TITLE GIVEN TO ANY ONE OF THE 15 PRIESTS IN CHARGE OF VARIOUS CULTS?
FLAMINES

WHO ARE THE GODS WHO PRESIDE OVER THE PANTRY?

PENATES

WHAT KIND OF GOD IS WORSHIPPED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PATERFAMILIAS?
GENIUS
YOU SAY ORATORY IS IMPORTANT, WHO IS THE BEST ORATOR IN ROME?

CICERO

WHAT IS CICERO'S MOST FAMOUS PROSECUTION TO DATE?

VERRES

WHAT SUBJECT HAVE YOU STUDIED THAT WILL BE OF THE MOST USE IN POLITICS?

RHETORIC

WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL DOES ONE ATTEND TO STUDY RHETORIC IN DETAIL?

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO GO IF YOU WANT TO STUDY IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY?

ATHENS GREECE

WHAT WAS ONE SUBJECT THAT YOU STUDIED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

READING

WHAT IS THE TERM USED WHEN A YOUNG MAN ATTACHES HIMSELF TO AN OLDER MAN FOR A TIME TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IN A CERTAIN AREA?

APPRENTICE

WHAT SCHOOL REQUIRED THAT YOU MEMORIZE THE TWELVE TABLES?

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHAT IS THE TERM FOR THE SLAVE WHO ACCOMPANIED YOU WHEN YOU WENT TO SCHOOL?

PAEDAGOGUS

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COURSE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?