

## Appendix D Independent Variables - Learning Challenges

<i>Student characteristics</i>	<i>Type of variable</i>	<i>Name</i>
Prior qualification at degree level	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY HQ
Ability*	continuous	Mean Exam
Previous experience studying Economics	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY Previous study
Age	continuous	Age
Gender	dummy, 1 = male, 2 = female	DUMMY Gender
First language English	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY English
Sensing-intuitive learning style	interval scale, 1 – 12	Sensing-intuitive
Active-reflective learning style	interval scale, 1 – 12	Active-reflective
Visual-verbal learning style	interval scale, 1 – 12	Visual-verbal
Sequential-global learning style	interval scale, 1 – 12	Sequential-global
Region:		
North America	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY N AMERICA
Africa	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY AFRICA
Trinidad & Tobago	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY T AND T
Rest of World	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY ROW
Employment status – employed full or part-time	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY Employed
Passed Economics exam first time	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY Pass 1 <sup>st</sup> Time
<i>Online distance learning study context (challenges experienced) variables:</i>		
Working on your own	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Working on your own
Maintaining your motivation	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Maintaining your motivation
Managing your time	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Managing your time
Building a sense of belonging to EBS	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Building a sense of belonging
Interacting with EBS faculty	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Interacting with EBS faculty
Networking with other students	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Networking with other students

*Course situation variable:*

Satisfaction with EBS Economics Course Materials (in relation to relevant learning challenge) ordinal scale, 1 – 5 Satisfaction

\* based on exam score across core course modules on the MBA programme, excluding Economics  
Independent Variables – Performance Outcomes

*Student characteristics*

*Type of variable*

*Name*

Prior qualification at degree level	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY HQ
Ability*	continuous	Mean Exam
Previous experience studying Economics	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY
Age	continuous	Age
Gender	dummy, 1 = male, 2 = female	DUMMY Gender
First language English	dummy, 1 = Yes, 2 = No	DUMMY English
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*Online distance learning study context (challenges experienced) variables:*

Working on your own	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Working on your own
Maintaining your motivation	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Maintaining your motivation
Managing your time	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Managing your time
Building a sense of belonging to EBS	ordinal scale, 1 – 5	Building a sense of belonging

Interacting with EBS faculty                      ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
Networking with other students                  ordinal scale, 1 – 5

Interacting with EBS faculty  
Networking with other students

*Learning challenges variables:*

Building up your knowledge of Economics      ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
Understanding theory and concepts              ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
Understanding numerical calculations            ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
Applying theory to business problems          ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
Understanding relevance of theory to the real world    ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
Linking different theories together              ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
Applying skills to specific business problems      ordinal scale, 1 – 5  
  
Solving complex business problems              ordinal scale, 1 – 5

Building up your knowledge of Economics  
Understanding theory and concepts  
Understanding numerical calculations  
Applying theory to business problems  
Understanding relevance of theory  
Linking different theories together  
Applying skills to  
specific business problems  
Solving complex business problems

\* proxy for IQ is exam score across core course modules on the MBA programme, excluding Economics