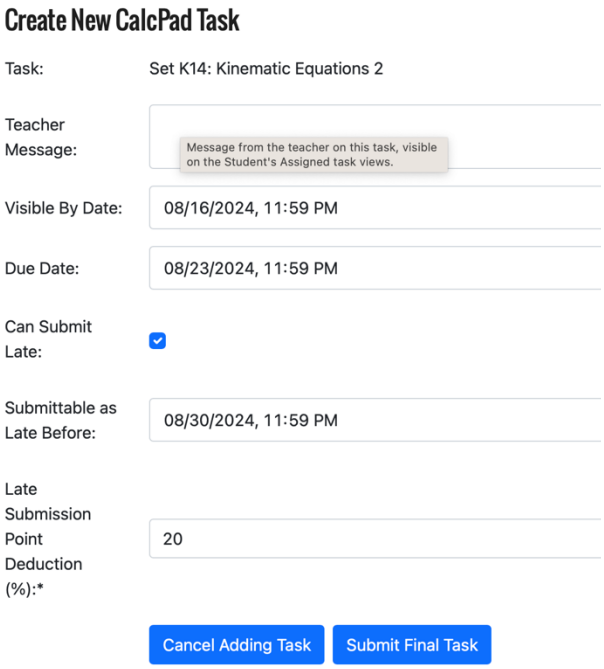
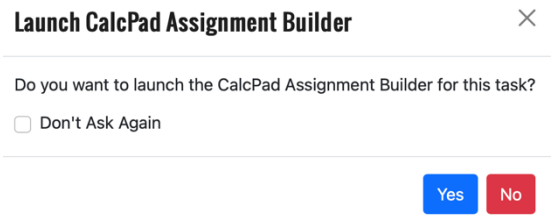
Configuring a CalcPad Problem Set

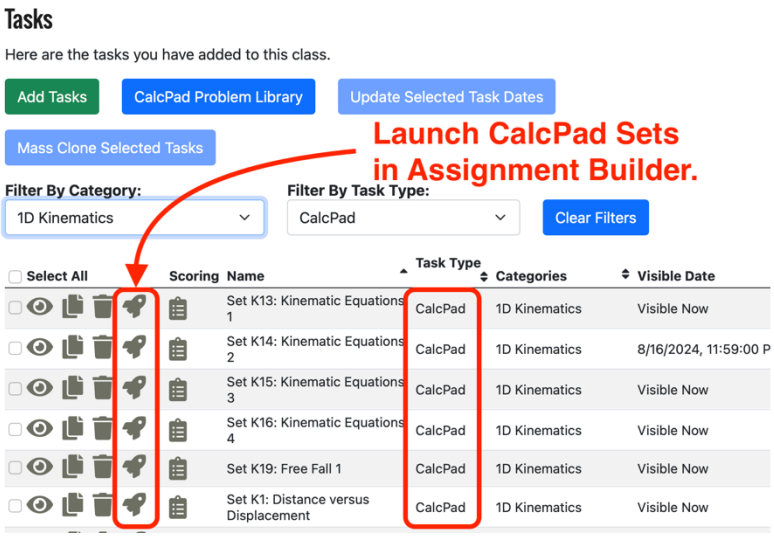
When compared to our other Task Tracker features, CalcPad assignments are a bit unique in a number of ways. CalcPad is the Task Tracker feature that allows teachers the most flexibility. While a CalcPad problem set can be used as is, CalcPad also allows teachers to customize a problem set, combine problems from different sets to create their own CalcPad set, and even write their own CalcPad problems using our Problem Builder.

Unlike our other features, when you assign a CalcPad problem set, you do not immediately set up scoring. You only indicate date information. See screenshot at right. Configuring the scoring for a CalcPad problem set is done by launching the problem set in the **Assignment Builder**. After you submit date information for a CalcPad problem set, you are prompted with the option to launch the CalcPad problem set in the Assignment Builder in order to configure the scoring. See screenshot below.



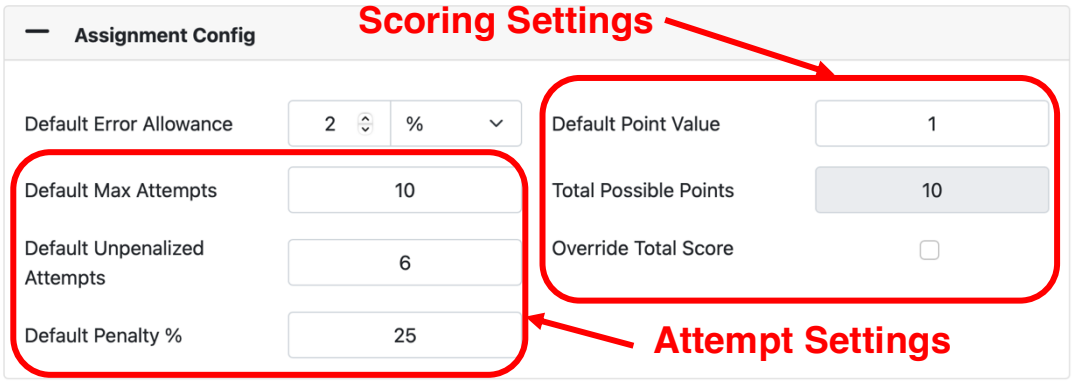


If you decline to configure the scoring and tap on the **No** option, then you can do the problem set configuration at a later time. To do so, you will have to launch the problem set in the **Assignment Builder**. This is done by tapping on the **Launch** button (🚀) displayed to the left of the Problem Set name in the **Task Table**. Tapping the **Launch** button opens all the questions of the problem set in the Assignment Builder. Once opened, you can begin configuring the problem set. This includes setting default scoring rules that apply to all problems, setting the allowed number of attempts (both unpenalized and penalized attempts) for all problems, and setting penalties for wrong answers. You can also set score and attempt over-rides for individual problems within the problem set. Here's what you need to know to configure a problem set in the **Assignment Builder**.



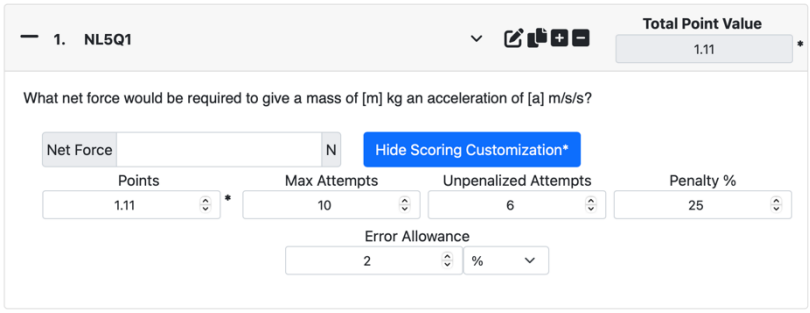
The Assignment Configuration Panel

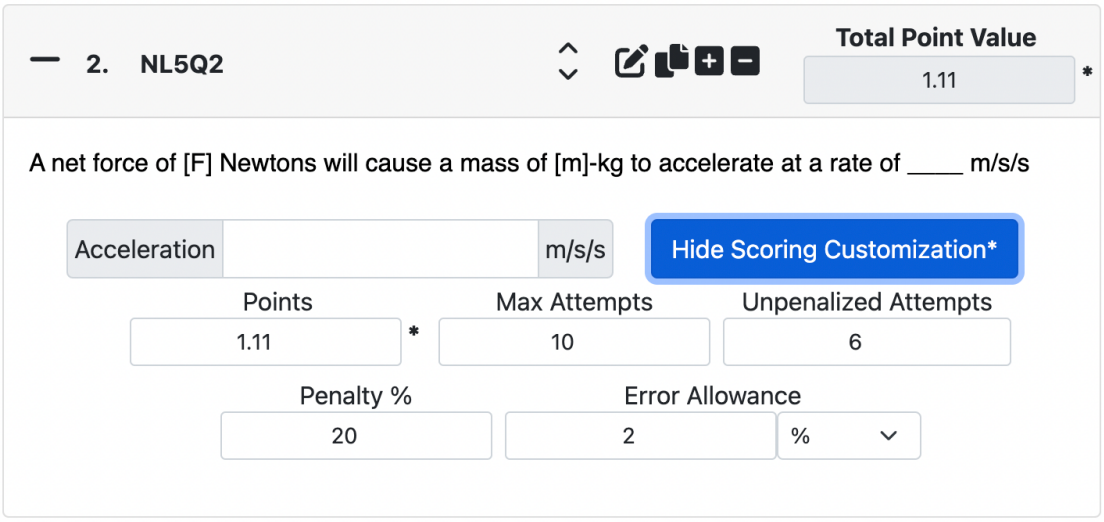
1. **Assignment Configuration** controls are located near the top of the **Assignment Builder**. Use these controls to set scoring and allowed attempts information. Students' submitted answers are correct if they are within 2% of the *keyed* answer. This is called the **Default Error Allowance**. You are welcome to change this. But we don't recommend lowering it below 1% or much above 2%.
2. There are a couple of settings that determines how CalcPad will score the various problems. The **Default Point Value** is the number of points that each answer is worth. Some problems are multi-part problems and require two or more answers. CalcPad treats these parts as being of equal point value. And a two-part problem will be worth twice the points as a one-part problem. When you first open a CalcPad assignment in the **Assignment Builder**, the number of total points for the assignment is the total number of answer parts multiplied by 1 point/answer. Changing the **Default Point Value** will change the **Total Possible Points**. You could also opt to over-ride the 1-point-per-answer point value by tapping on the **Override Total Score** checkbox. When you do you will be prompted to enter a value for the **Total Possible Points** for the assignment. For instance, if you wish a 9-part problem set to be worth a nice, even 10 points, then you can use the Override function.



3. The final adjustments to be made pertain to the number of attempts. There are lots of configuration options. To deter students from random guessing, we recommend selecting a value for the **Default Max Attempts**. This is the number of allowed attempts on the problem. (If you wish there to be no penalty for a missed answer, then set the **Default Unpenalized Attempts** field to the same value.) All attempts made by the student past this unpenalized attempts value will be penalized by a certain percentage determined by the field **Default Penalty %**. In the above example, a student's first six attempts will not be penalized. But the remaining four attempts will be penalized by 25%. If a student gets the answer correct on the 8th attempt, then the students score will be 50% of the point value of that answer part.

4. Values entered into the **Assignment Configuration** panel apply to all individual problems and their parts. Each part is treated equally. That's why all the settings are referred to as the *default* settings. If you want a problem or a problem part to be an exception to the default values, then you can do that on a per-answer part basis. To do so, tap on the **Show Scoring Customization** button for any problem part in the problem set. This will open the customization controls for that particular problem part and allow you to over-ride the default values for that problem part. As shown below, you can customize the number of points for each problem part. You can also customize the number of allowed attempts, the number of unpenalized attempts, and the penalty percentage for each penalized attempt. Finally, you can customize the error allowance for any problem part. Changing any of these settings using the customization controls only changes them for the given part.





5. Once you have configured the scoring and attempts to your liking, tap on the **Save Assignment** button at the top of the **Assignment Builder**. You can Preview the assignment using the **Preview Assignment** button or tap the **Close** button displayed in the breadcrumbs at the top of the page (or simply close the browser tab).