Customer story
English testing to benchmark teacher proficiency in Thailand

VERSANT®

The Office of the Basic Education Commission Thailand

Finding and supporting great teachers is key to improving outcomes

The Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC) is responsible for the strategy and oversight of primary through to high school education in Thailand under the auspices of the Ministry of Education (MOE). The core mission of OBEC is to provide the highest quality of formal education, benchmarked to international standards, in order to increase opportunities for Thai people to fulfill their potential and deliver improved outcomes for the economy and society as a whole.

In today's globalized world, English language skills are central to economic success, and so raising standards of English language proficiency amongst school age learners has long been a focus for OBEC. As more schools and learners are given opportunities to access English language programs, and the expectations of progress in these programs increases, the need for suitably qualified and able English-speaking teachers has become acute.

CHALLENGE

Easily baseline 4-skills proficiency at a national level

In order to define a strategy to raise the quality of English in schools, OBEC needed to know the current capabilities of everyone involved in implementing English policy across the country, from government staff, to regional supervisors, to classroom teachers. They needed a computer-based solution to deliver four-skills language testing in OBEC testing centers and a test delivery partner with the ability and experience to rapidly and securely scale the solution across Thailand.

SOLUTION

AI-scored 4-skills assessment for actionable insights

OBEC selected the *Versant English Placement Test* as their testing solution. Leveraging patented AI scoring technology, Versant provides the ability to test large groups simultaneously in multiple locations and get instant GSE and CEFR-correlated results on spoken and written proficiency in general English –making it easy to quickly identify patterns in performance. Establishing a baseline for teacher competency in this way has helped OBEC to more systematically address teacher and supervisor training needs in each region.

RESULTS

Versant helps inform and deliver policy on raising standards in English

In the first year of implementation, over 4,000 OBEC District Education Supervisors and Directors participated in an English proficiency evaluation project using Versant. Being able to see capabilities by region and test center is helping OBEC to better target their support and pave the way for the benchmarking and training of over 15,000 language teachers in Thailand. The efficacy of training interventions is also being objectively measured using Versant for pre/post testing.

4,000+   District Education Supervisors and Directors tested onsite

93   OBEC Test Centers across 5 regions of Thailand

69%   Of Supervisors improved their skills post training

27%   Of supervisors scored in CEFR A2 range (GSE 30) or higher post training

VERSANT®

Automated language tests for benchmarking English proficiency

Backed by over 25 years of research, Versant tests help governments set and implement strategies on upskilling English to align with their economic plans.

Using advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technology and an integrated skills approach to language testing, Versant tests provide near instant results to accurately and reliably measure candidates' **real** communication skills, anytime anywhere.

Accurate
0.97 correlation to human raters ensures confidence in test results

Fast
Fully automated scoring means 95% of test results returned within 5 minutes

Data-rich
Detailed diagnostics and correlations to international standards

Global
1.6m tests delivered every year in over 100 countries

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