

Onscreen Assessment for International GCSE/A Level

*Exams that work
the way students do*

“
The overwhelming response
from students is that they
really enjoyed taking their
exams onscreen.”

Samantha Roden, Head of English,
Qatar International School

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR STUDENTS

Onscreen assessment is the natural evolution in a world where so much teaching and learning is onscreen. Students love sitting their exams in a format that is familiar to them.

Offering students the choice to sit either onscreen or paper exams ensures the best possible outcomes, preparing them for the workplace and further education.



Students love it

90% of students who sat their exams onscreen in 2022 said they wanted their school to offer more onscreen exams in the future.

- ✓ "I had more time to plan"
- ✓ "I could write more"
- ✓ "I felt more confident in the exam"



If I had the choice to take an exam onscreen or on paper, I would definitely choose to take it onscreen because I personally feel like I have much more time to plan and get my thoughts straight. And that makes my outcome of a much better quality."

Maya Almoataz,
Year 11 Student,
British School of Bahrain



Teachers love it

100% of teachers who registered students for onscreen exams in 2022 have registered students for the 2023 onscreen exam series too.

- ✓ Easy to organise and manage
- ✓ Boosts student confidence
- ✓ Excellent support from Pearson



It's been a fantastic experience for us as a school and also for our students, who were absolutely delighted to work in a way that felt most comfortable to them."

Wayne Ridgway,
Head of Senior School,
British School of Bahrain

> [pearsoninternational-schools.com/
OnscreenAssessment](https://pearsoninternational-schools.com/OnscreenAssessment)



YOUR TRIED AND TRUSTED PARTNER IN ONSCREEN ASSESSMENT

Pearson is proud to be leading the way in onscreen assessment. We are the first awarding body to offer onscreen International GCSE/A Level exams alongside traditional paper-based exams.

Deliver with confidence

The technology, processes, and tools used, stem from the successful worldwide delivery of millions of onscreen assessments in the last 10 years, in more than 115 countries.

What started as a pilot in 2020, became a reality in 2022 when students sat their Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Language exams onscreen for the first time.

Since 2022, we have seen more and more students choosing to take their exams onscreen. In 2024, this has been a fivefold increase in students choosing onscreen assessment to take their high stakes International GCSE and International A Level exams.

A rich heritage in onscreen assessment

Our rich heritage and experience of developing and delivering onscreen assessments at scale with the Pearson Test of English, the Egyptian Ministry of Education and our GCSE Computer Science qualification, have ensured our onscreen platform is tried and tested.

It's a platform you can trust.

“

To another teacher I would say trust the process and trust that Pearson will support you.”

Michael Merrick,
Associate Head of
Secondary, Qatar
International School



> [pearsoninternational-schools.com/
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HOW IT WORKS

Pearson's secure onscreen assessments are the same as the paper-based assessments. The same questions are answered but the method of responding is different onscreen as candidates type their responses. Candidates will take their assessments at a centre, under exam conditions, working on devices.

Select exam

English Language A - Component 1: Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing (SAMs)

Assessment start window closes 0 seconds from now.

Wed, 15 March 2023, 2:45 pm Practice assessment

English Language A - Component 1: Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing (SAMs)

30 hours 0 minutes

Start assessment

English Language A - Component 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing

Assessment start window closes 0 seconds from now.

Wed, 15 March 2023, 2:45 pm Practice assessment

English Language A - Component 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing

30 hours 0 minutes

Start assessment

English Literature - Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose (SAMs)

Assessment start window closes 0 seconds from now.

Wed, 15 March 2023, 2:45 pm Practice assessment

English Literature - Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose (SAMs)

30 hours 0 minutes

Begin exam

Pearson International GCSE

Sample assessment material for first teaching September 2016

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper Reference: 4EA1/02

English Language A

Component 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing

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Pearson

Start

SECTION A: Reading

Answer the question in this section.
You should spend about 45 on this section.

Remind yourself of this passage taken from the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.

Whistle and I'll Come to You (from *The Woman in Black*)

During the night the wind rose. As I had lain reading I had become aware of the stronger gusts that blew every so often against the casements. But when I awoke abruptly in the early hours it had increased greatly in force. The house felt like a ship at sea, battered by the gale that came roaring across the open marsh. Windows were rattling everywhere and there was the sound of moaning down all the chimneys of the house and whistling through every nook and cranny.

At first I was alarmed. Then, as I lay still, gathering my wits, I reflected on how long Eel Marsh House had stood here, steady as a lighthouse, quite alone and exposed, bearing the brunt of winter after winter of gales and driving rain and sleet and spray. It was unlikely to blow away tonight. And then, those memories of childhood began to be stirred again and I dwelt nostalgically upon all those nights when I had lain in the warm and snug safety of my bed in the nursery at the top of our family house in Sussex, hearing the wind rage round like a lion, howling at the doors and beating upon the windows but powerless to reach me. I lay back and slipped into that pleasant, trance-like state somewhere between sleeping and waking, recalling the past and all its emotions and impressions vividly, until I felt I was a small boy again.

Then from somewhere, out of that howling darkness, a cry came to my ears, catapulting me back into the present and banishing all tranquillity.

I listened hard. Nothing. The tumult of the wind, like a banshee, and the banging and rattling of the window in its old, ill-fitting frame. Then yes, again, a cry, that familiar cry of desperation and anguish, a cry for help from a child somewhere out on the marsh.

There was no child. I knew that. How could there be? Yet how could I lie here and ignore even the crying of some long-dead ghost?

'Rest in peace,' I thought, but this poor one did not, could not.

After a few moments I got up. I would go down into the kitchen and make myself a drink, stir up the fire a little and sit beside it trying, trying to shut out that calling voice for which I could do nothing, and no one had been able to do anything for... how many years?

As I went out onto the landing, Spider the dog following me at once, two things happened together. I had the impression of someone who had just that very second passed me on their way from the top of the stairs to one of the other rooms, a tremendous blast of wind hit the house so that it felt as if it but seemed to rock at the lights went out. I had not bothered to pick up my torch from the bedside as I stood in the pitch blackness, unsure for a moment of my bearings.

erson who had gone by, and who was now in this house with me? I had seen nothing. There had been no movement, no brush of a sleeve against mine, no of the air. I had not even heard a footstep. I had simply the absolutely certain mation just having passed close to me and gone away down the corridor, hort narrow corridor that led to the nursery whose door had been so firmly then, inexplicably, opened.

Question 1

How does the writer create feelings of isolation in 'Whistle and I'll Come to You'?

In your answer, you should write about:

- the weather and setting
- the effect of the writer's childhood memories
- the use of language and structure.

You should support your answer with close reference to the passage, including brief quotations.

(30 marks)

Answer the question in the box provided.

0 Words

Next

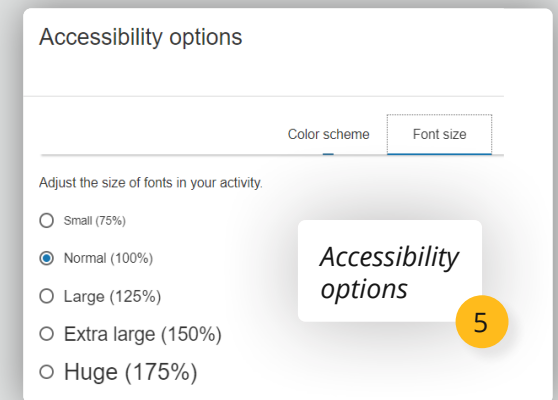
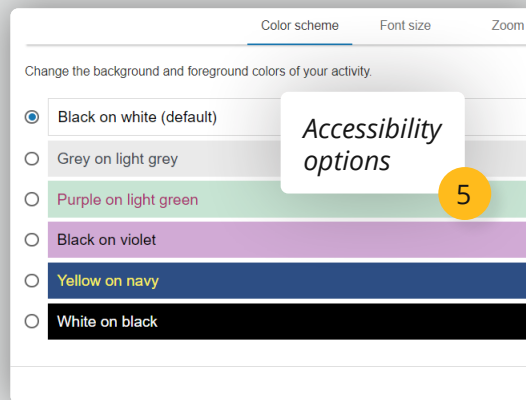
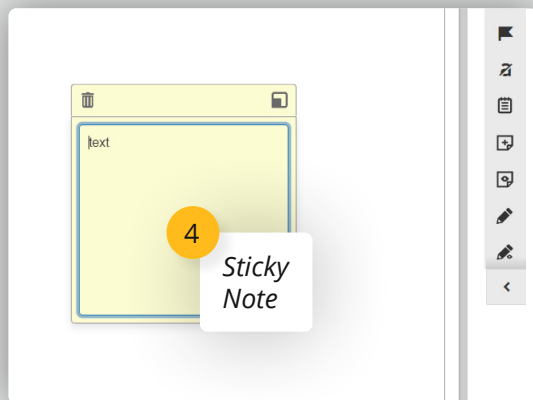
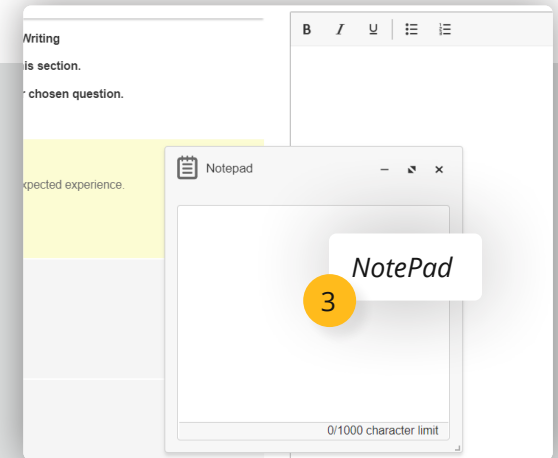
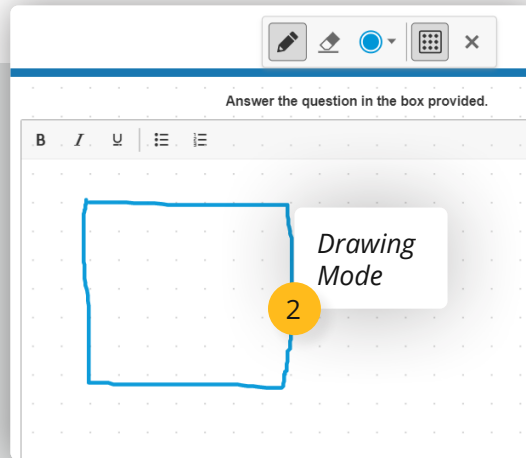
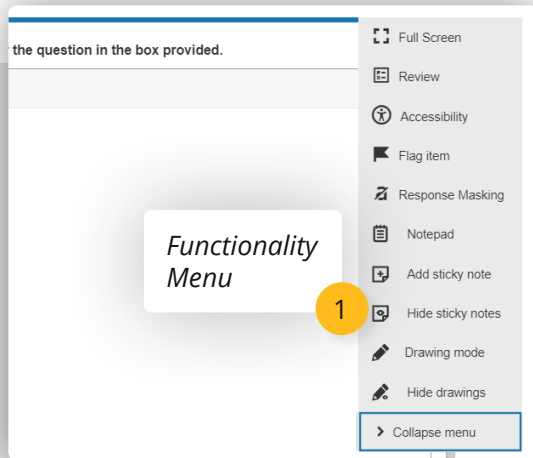
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The onscreen platform is intuitive and easy to use with a range of functionality tools and accessibility options.

It ran so smoothly, the students had no issues and the online invigilator platform worked fantastically well"

Samantha Roden, Head of English,
Qatar International School

Functionality tools & Accessibility options



ONSCREEN ASSESSMENT IS AVAILABLE NOW

Pearson Edexcel onscreen examinations are available for students to sit in the following International GCSE and International A Level (IAL®) subjects:

Onscreen Exams Timetable

Onscreen exams are available in the following subjects for first assessment from:

2022	• International GCSE Business
2023	• International GCSE Economics
2024	• International GCSE English Language A • International GCSE English Literature • International GCSE History • International A Level English Literature • International A Level English Language
2025	• International GCSE Geography • International GCSE Global Citizenship • International GCSE Islamic Studies • International GCSE Pakistan Studies
2026	• International A Level Business • International A Level Economics • International A Level History

More qualifications coming every year!

“

They were so excited when they came out of the exam. They really enjoyed the experience of doing it online. They felt they could access the texts and work with them in a way that they couldn't do on paper.”

Samantha Roden, Head of English,
Qatar International School

Our success in onscreen assessment led to us becoming a 2023 BETT Award Finalist for Transformational Impact.



> pearsoninternational-schools.com/OnscreenAssessment

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between onscreen and paper-based exams?

The exam papers are exactly the same. The only difference is that one is onscreen and the other on paper.

Can I run a blend of onscreen and paper exams?

You can choose to run onscreen and paper exams together and how you run this is your choice. You may decide to run paper-based exams in a hall and onscreen in the computer lab or everyone in the hall with some candidates on laptops.

How will onscreen and paper-based exams be awarded?

Both paper-based and onscreen follow the normal awarding process. Measures are in place to ensure fairness and consistency so that no student is advantaged or disadvantaged as a result of the medium they choose to take the exam in.

What are the technology requirements for International GCSE and A Level onscreen assessments?

Onscreen assessment is a highly secure, browser-based system. It is compatible and tested with multiple browsers and operating systems. Onscreen Windows and Mac devices can be centre or candidate owned.



Comprehensive FAQs are available on the website:
pearsoninternational-schools.com/OnscreenAssessment

> pearsoninternational-schools.com/OnscreenAssessment

START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY

We understand that you and your students need to feel prepared and confident with the shift to a different mode of assessment.

Our promise to you

Whether you are already a Pearson centre, or completely new to Pearson, we are on hand to support you every step of the way as you embark on your journey to onscreen assessment with us.

It's easier than you think

- ✓ Simple, flexible hardware requirements
- ✓ A highly secure and stable system
- ✓ Full support and guidance on setting up
- ✓ Plenty of opportunities to practice using the onscreen platform

"The team [at Pearson] are always incredibly supportive. Everything was really easy to follow and set up"

Katie Templar, Head of Curriculum at Qatar International School

NEXT STEPS

- 1 Visit pearsoninternational-schools.com/OnscreenAssessment
- 2 Sign-up for onscreen news via the website to keep up with the latest information.
- 3 Register your interest for onscreen exams via our website and we will support you every step of the way to deliver onscreen exams in your school.