

Our onscreen assessment journey and advice for other international schools



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The British International School of Marbella started using onscreen assessment for International GCSE English Language A and English Literature in the summer exam series in 2023. Amy Ladds at the school explains why they chose onscreen assessment from Pearson.

We decided to make the move to onscreen assessment as we had some candidates who preferred using a word processor, because their handwriting is very difficult to read, and they felt their typing speed was much quicker than their writing speed. This led to us having a blend of onscreen assessment and paper-based assessment for the exams.

A blended approach

To manage the blended approach to the sitting of the exams, we had the onscreen assessment students in a different room to the paper-based assessment students with each room having their own invigilators.

We made sure our IT specialist was on hand and we had practised logging onto the platform prior to the exam. The students had also completed the mock exams online which also helped with the functionalities of the platform.

Parents and students

The parents are very supportive and also know what is best for their children. The students were given the choice and had one-to-one consultations with the Head of English and their mentors to agree which was the best option for them.

Some of the students were very happy to be able to take onscreen assessment while others were happy to know that they were still able to take the paper-based exams.

Thinking of moving to onscreen assessment?

For other schools thinking of moving to onscreen assessment, I would give the following advice:

- Complete the mock exam series onscreen
- Ensure the same candidate numbers are used for both mocks and high-stakes exams
- Trial the student and invigilator logins before the mock and high-stake exams
- Make sure that you have disabled Spelling and Grammar correctors
- If students are using their own devices to sit onscreen assessment, there may be problems with accessing the software needed, so test this beforehand to eliminate issues on the day.

Future

We are looking to add International GCSE Business and History for both onscreen mock exams and onscreen assessment for the high-stake exams.

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Interested in learning more about how onscreen assessment can meet your school's needs? Find out more at www.pearson.com/international-schools/onscreen-assessment