



Q&A from Webinar

Are Onscreen exams for International GCSEs and A Levels available to students all around the world?

Yes, is the short answer. We are able to offer Onscreen exams from wherever you are in the world.

We do R-papers in Economics and History. Will R-papers also be available onscreen?

Yes – R papers were available for International GCSE English qualifications in 2023 and will also be available in Summer 2024 for Economics, Business and History.

Are there any word limits imposed on answers?

No – there's no limit on the number of words for students.

Are papers returned in a different way for onscreen assessment?

For 2023 series, we returned the papers via secure file transfer. Going forward we are building this in, so you go through the normal access to scripts route. We will advise centres as we get closer to the series.

Are we talking onscreen exams within a secure school environment or remote onscreen exams in a third-party location?

Currently, onscreen assessments are only offered within a secure school environment.

Are students able to sit exams at home?

Currently students are not able to sit their exams at home. Onscreen assessment is only offered in a secure school environment.

Is it possible to have access to past papers through onscreen assessment?



When you register for onscreen assessment, you are able to make bookings for your students to sit past papers onscreen, which you and your colleagues are then able to download and mark.

You are also able to register for the [Onscreen Mocks Service](#) which provides the opportunity for students to sit past papers onscreen, and for these to be marked by our expert examiners, which results visible in Results Plus.

Can we see a sample onscreen assessment to see if suitable for our students before going ahead with onscreen assessment?

You can experience our Sample Assessment Materials through our [sandbox environment](#).

How can we access the testlet free resources for 4AE1? Any link for reference?

You can get access to the testlet free resources by completing this [short form](#) and our team can then assign access across to your centre.

What about Mathematics? When will this be offered as onscreen assessment?

We continue to work alongside students and teachers to understand the use of digital technologies in teaching and learning mathematics. It is so important to us that onscreen assessment is offered as an option where it provides students with an intuitive way of demonstrating their skills, knowledge and understanding of a subject in a high stakes assessment – and that it is a comparable experience to paper.

Digital tools for Maths are improving all the time – but it's vital that our approach to onscreen maths assesses Maths skills and knowledge – and that the technology does not build in any barriers. Please do get in touch if you'd like to be part of future panels to explore onscreen assessment in Maths.

What is the reasoning behind your choice of subjects for onscreen assessment?

There are a number of factors that we have considered when establishing the roadmap for onscreen assessment. The first is customer voice – our research in 2021 and 2022 provided clear preferences from teachers and school leaders in terms of subjects in which



technology was being used regularly in teaching, learning and formative assessment – and for which the content and the assessment model lends itself to onscreen assessment.

What's also important to us is that onscreen assessment in a subject allows students to demonstrate what they know and can do, without the technology being a barrier. In subjects like Maths and Science, it's vital that the onscreen tools are fit for purpose and that we are assessing students' skills and knowledge, not their ability to graph using a mouse. We continue to explore with teachers and students in a number of subject areas and we'd love to hear from you if there are particular subjects you would like to see.

In which year will Pearson conduct on screen paper for Pakistan Studies?

Pakistan Studies will be available for first assessment in 2025.

Are onscreen assessments available on flexible dates or still they are conducted on specific dates and times?

They are currently scheduled at the same time as the paper-based windows to maintain security of content, as the assessments are the same.

Are the topics on the onscreen exam same or similar to paper-based exam?

As we are offering students and teachers the opportunity to choose either a paper or onscreen route through the assessments, the content of the assessment is the same. This 'lift and shift' or 'paper behind glass' approach ensures parity for students, regardless of the mode of assessment they choose.

Will students hand-write or type their answers in the sandbox environment?

From accessing the [Sandbox](#) you will see that students can type all of their responses. Whilst the user experience mirrors the high-stakes platform It's important to note that any solution submitted through the Sandbox by students will not be saved.

Where do students access their exams (high-stakes and mocks) and any familiarisation material?



Students access their exams (high-stakes and mocks) as well as any familiarisation material through the Assessment Player App in a secure internet browser. Currently Chromebooks must be centre owned but Windows laptops or Macbooks can be either centre or student owned.

We are a Google Classroom School where all students have Chromebooks - are we able to use Chromebooks for onscreen assessment and how is this possible?

When a school has Chromebooks whether they are student owned or centre owned, they come with a Chrome education upgrade which is essentially a management license for the devices. This management license allows you to upload the settings but crucially when it comes to exams you can choose to automatically launch a website such as the Pearson URL for Onscreen Assessment in what's called a secure kiosk mode when you are to deliver these exams. Google has created full guidance for centres to deliver this which was built in collaboration with Pearson. So, just before the exam move the devices that the students are going to be using into a pre-configured organisation unit that will auto launch the kiosk application and it means the students can't do anything else except the exam on their Chromebooks and then when the exam is finished you just simply move the devices back into the original organisation unit and the students can then sign in and use them normally.

Can a student owned device be put into secure Kiosk mode?

Providing the device is managed by the school using a Chrome Education Upgrade, the device can be placed in a secure Kiosk mode. If it is student owned, but not managed, unfortunately it can't be configured securely.

Are invigilators able to monitor onscreen assessments on a device?

Yes, invigilators are able to monitor onscreen assessments on a device and see whether students have started the exam, are progressing or whether they have completed it.

What are the measures that are in place to prevent academic dishonesty?

So, for Windows laptops and Macbooks, a Safe Exam Browser (SEB) is installed onto each device which prevents access to other websites or programs on those devices being used for the assessment.

For Chromebooks, these will need to be put into kiosk-mode (see question on Google Classroom above).



What happens when there is a loss of internet connection or power cut during the exam?

If the internet drops out during the assessment, candidates should continue with their exam as their work will be saved locally to their device. As soon as the internet connection is restored all their answers will be saved onto the system.

If the internet connection does not get restored, we will work with you on retrieving the candidate's work from their device so that it can be sent on to our examiners for marking but no matter what happens, should you need any support you can reach out to us and we will do our best to resolve any situation that may occur.

[Mocks](#)

Do we get a copy of the students completed mock papers as these are a really valuable resource for the teachers?

You can go into the booking app of the platform and access a tab called 'Access to Scripts' which allows you to download them.

Can the system be used for internal mock exams?

Yes, the system that is used for onscreen mock exams mirrors the onscreen assessment platform.

Are there past papers available on the system so that pupils can familiarise themselves with it in advance?

Students can access past papers in the Sandbox environment so they can familiarise themselves with the system. Whilst the user experience mirrors the high-stakes platform It's important to note that any solution submitted through the Sandbox by students will not be saved.

Can we select questions from a bank of questions to create our own onscreen mock exams and who marks them and does this have to be done online or can they be printed?

The mock exams are already pre-set as a whole exam paper.

If you choose to use Pearson Mocks Service, these are marked by Pearson approved examiners and results are provided within 14 days of receipt of the papers.



These can also be teacher-marked by accessing the scripts through the Booking App of the platform.

For International GCSE onscreen mocks, when we used the mocks service, we just got the raw marks back. With International A Level literature/language, is there any way to get a bit more feedback, perhaps annotations on the student's writing.

We currently do not provide more feedback but recommend centres review the Principal Examiners report for that series to gain further insight into what examiners are looking for in terms of writing and answer response.