Onscreen Assessment: Ask Us Anything
Webinar questions and answers

Technical requirements

What hardware/software requirements would need to be in place?
The operating system and browser compatibility details can be found within our FAQs on our website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/english/onscreen-assessment.html

Currently the assessments are suitable for delivery on centre/student owned Windows or Mac laptops as well as centre owned Chromebooks. Our customer engagement team will be in contact with your centre to ensure the necessary requirements are met.

Whilst Chromebooks do not require the secure browser to be installed, for Windows and Mac laptops, guidance about installing this will be provided to centres ahead of the live assessments.

What is the contingency for losing the internet connection?
There are a couple of scenarios we thought would be helpful to mention in response to this. The way the onscreen assessment platform works is the assessment is downloaded onto each device at the start of the exam. As the whole assessment is then available, if connection is lost during the test, the candidate can continue to progress through the paper. The timer will continue to count down and the test will end once time is up. When internet connection is restored, the responses will be uploaded to us.

If connection is lost during the exam and the device does not reconnect in order to upload responses, there are ways in which we can guide customers through downloading a local save of the candidates responses to send to us, for us to mark.

In order to start the test, a connection is required to download the assessment. In this scenario we would be able to work with the centre to delay the start of the test to give time for connection and also make the paper available should the paper-based version be required.

What functionality is available within the onscreen platform?
The video linked here will demonstrate the wide range of functionality and accessibility tools that are currently available within our onscreen platform: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEpQCsZjehU&t=1s

By accessing our Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) within the Sandbox environment you and your students will be able to try out the functionality of the onscreen platform for yourself.

You can register for Sandbox by going to our website: https://assessment.mod.pearson.com/sandbox

Click on "Don't have an account"
Enter your email address as your UserID
Wait for an automatic email to confirm your email address
Proceed to log in

Delivery

Are the paper-based assessments the same as the onscreen assessments?
The onscreen assessments are essentially the same as the paper-based assessments. The same questions are answered but the method of responding is different onscreen.

Which of the 3 components are available for onscreen assessment?
Our onscreen assessments are available for Paper 1 and Paper 2 for both English Language A (4EA1) and English Literature (4ET1). The coursework component remains the same for both papers.

Is it possible for our cohort to be a mix of paper-based and onscreen delivery?
We understand that centres will have different circumstances. While we expect that many centres will be keen for all students to enter for onscreen assessment, others may choose to split their entry between paper-based and onscreen assessment. A reminder that the mock service will be free of charge only for those learners entered for onscreen assessment.

How will the onscreen assessments be marked?
Our onscreen assessments will be marked with the same rigour that paper-based is marked in that all our expert examiners will have been standardised on the assessments and continual monitoring of marking will take place.

Are on screen assessments due to replace written exams and in what time scale?
We are at the beginning of the journey with onscreen assessment and understanding the appetite and opportunities for further subjects to transition to onscreen assessment. In the medium term, it's likely that onscreen assessment will be offered alongside paper-based assessment to provide schools with choice in this area. We're keen for schools to work with us as we develop our future roadmap and approach across secondary subjects, and if you would like to be part of our Onscreen Innovation Panel, please do complete this form.

Security

How is identity verified? How is cheating prevented?
This information will be shared within the Instructions for Conducting Examinations (ICE) document that will be available to centres ahead of the live assessments, but each candidate will have their own unique exam password information generated ahead of the exam. This must be stored securely and only given to candidates at the time of the exam.

The invigilator is responsible for verifying the identity of each candidate and ensuring that the correct user ID, school ID and password are issued. The candidate is responsible for inputting their user ID, school ID and password, and ensuring that the name of the exam and their details are correct. If the information presented to the candidate is incorrect, they must notify the invigilator and cancel out of the exam before starting.

The arrangement of workstations and the position of the invigilator's desk must facilitate detection of any unauthorised activity by candidates, for example communication with others or use of unauthorised reference material.

Mock Service

What is included within the free mock?
All schools adopting the onscreen assessment delivery for International GCSE English Language A (4EA1) and/or English Literature (4ET1) will get one free set of mock exams per student for the first year that the centre delivers the onscreen assessment for. This includes the marking of the mock being carried out by our expert marking team and results being made available through our Results Plus platform.

Would we be eligible for the free mock if we were to trial onscreen assessments this year and enter our cohort for the May/June 2024 series?
The free mock service is only available for the academic year of entry, but our onscreen mock service is available as a paid for service throughout the year. You can find more information on our website.

Entries

What subjects are currently available as onscreen assessments?
Currently, as onscreen mocks, we are offering:
International GCSE Mathematics A (Foundation and Higher)
International GCSE English Language A (Paper 1 and 2)
International GCSE English Language B (Paper 1)
International GCSE English Literature (Paper 1 and 2)

For the May/June 2023 series, we are offering:
International GCSE English Language A (Paper 1 and 2)
International GCSE English Literature (Paper 1 and 2)

When is English Language B (4EB1) going to be piloted?
There are no plans for the International GCSE English Language B (4EB1) to be piloted for the live onscreen assessments currently, but we do offer this qualification through our onscreen mock service.

Will the regional papers (R papers) be offered onscreen?
Yes - we will be offering both the 'Home/Main' and 'Regional' papers for onscreen delivery.

Support

Is there access to onscreen practice papers?
Our Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) for both the English Language A and English Literature assessments can be accessed via our Sandbox environment. This environment mirrors the onscreen experience that candidates will have when taking the live assessments.

You can access our Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) within the Sandbox environment. You can register for Sandbox by going to our website: https://assessment.mod.pearson.com/sandbox
Click on "Don't have an account"
Enter your email address as your UserID
Wait for an automatic email to confirm your email address
Proceed to log in.

Our Onscreen Mocks Service also offer assessments for English Language A and English Literature with the Summer 2022 papers currently being available during the Autumn term and the January 2023 papers being available from 6th March.

Where can I find the qualification information for the onscreen English assessments?
The onscreen assessments are essentially the same as the paper-based assessments. The same questions are answered but the method of responding is different onscreen. All the qualification information for our onscreen assessments is the same as that for paper-based assessments and can be found on our website:
International GCSE English Lang A (4EA1)
International GCSE English Literature (4ET1)
Further information regarding onscreen delivery of English assessments can be found on our website.

Will there be any difference between the trial and online exams now in terms of support?
We are committed to supporting centres through their onscreen assessment journey and know that during the first year of delivery there will be lot of questions. Alexa and Julie, as Customer Engagement Leads, are available to contact through our dedicated inbox, internationalonscreen@pearson.com with any queries or concerns throughout. They can arrange a conversation with you if preferred. Our sales and regional teams are also available for support and have access to internal teams should there be any in- depth questions raised.