



ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

HMRC

## How Aberdeen College is progressing with making e-Assessment part of mainstream business

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### Where to begin

- E-Assessment covers a wide spectrum, eg
  - Computer marked
  - Electronic submission
  - E-portfolios
- The College has to date mainly, but not exclusively, concentrated on the use of online computer marked assessment for both formative and summative assessment



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### How to move forward

- E-Assessment implementation plan drafted in June 2007
  - Some formative and summative assessment to be included in all courses
  - Tools to be made available to assist
  - Staff development to support staff



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### Developing of the use of online assessment

- Factors influencing the progress
  - Availability of software for the creation of online computer marked tests
  - Ensuring support for staff
  - Exploring exam bodies offering online assessment
    - What was already available externally?
    - Could we use it?
    - Could we get accredited to offer it?
    - Did we have the facilities (rooms, hardware, software) to cater for it?
    - Did we have the IT back-up to support it?
  - Facilities
  - How to spread the word
  - Evaluation of use

### Software available for formative assessment

- Blackboard
- Questionmark™
- COLEG
  - Staff have access to COLEG Moodle to view; VLE support team converts for use in Blackboard
- InQuizitor
  - Formative quiz and games software
- Wimba Create (Course Genie)
- Respondus StudyMate
- Miscellaneous online tools, eg:
  - For creating Crosswords, Word Searches, Flash driven drag and drop tests

### Software available for summative assessment

- Blackboard
- Questionmark™
- SOLAR
- GOLA
- Other exam body software

### Support for staff

- Workshops/training sessions offered covering
  - Online Assessment Overview
  - InQuizitor
  - Blackboard
  - Guidance on Writing Selected Response questions
  - SOLAR exam scheduling and administration software
  - City & Guilds GOLA invigilator and administration training
  - Plagiarism Detection software
- Content Development Team
  - 2 dedicated developers assist with the creation of both formative and summative online questions and assessments
- Senior Lecturers (VLE)
  - 2 Lecturers advise and assist

### Working with awarding bodies

- Process of becoming accredited to offer external online exams
  - Application
  - Inspection of facilities
  - Dealing with the contract
  - Installation of exam software/web links
  - Invigilator training
  - Ensuring policies and procedures in place

### External online exams delivered

- The portfolio has been increasing and presently includes
  - British Computer Society: ECDL
  - City & Guilds (GOLA)
  - SQA SOLAR
  - Test VQ
  - Microsoft: Specialist and Certification Exams, Internet and Computing Core (IC<sup>3</sup>)
  - Construction Skills: Health and Safety Tests
  - British Institute of Inn-keepers awarding body: Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders
  - Association of Accounting Technicians: Level 2 award in book-keeping

### Trends in use of online computer marked exams

Exam	06/07	07/08	08/09
CS (Construction Skills) Health & Safety Test	0	30	250
BI/AB (British Institute of Inn-keepers Awarding Body) SCPLH exam (Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders)	0	50	192
AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) Level 2 Award in book-keeping	0	0	63
BCS (British Computer Society) ECDL	2728	2098	2345
City & Guilds GOLA for CII (Chartered Institute of Insurers)	55	83	110
Microsoft Office Specialist (via IT Academy)	49	38	32
Certiport - ICS (Internet and Computing Core) (via IT Academy)	257	58	70
MCSE (MCDUST exams via IT Academy)	0	77	57
SQA SOLAR	0	852	1199
GOLA (tests taken too numerous to list)			
TEST VQ (tests taken too numerous to list)			

### Curriculum areas using SQA SOLAR exams

- Started in Academic Year 07/08
  - Computing
  - TAPS
- Increased in Academic Year 08/09
  - Sport
  - Health and social Care
  - Internet Safety
- Is increasing again in Academic Year 09/10
  - PC Passport
  - Music Industry
  - Interactive Media
  - Early Years Care

### Curriculum areas using GOLA and Test VQ

- City & Guilds GOLA exams for Chartered Institute of Insurers
- City & Guilds GOLA exams for all VQ classes in
  - Motor Vehicle Repair
  - Hairdressing
  - Beauty Therapy
  - IT Practitioners Levels 2 and 3
    - These cover underpinning knowledge and end tests
- Test VQ is used for all NVQ Professional Cookery level 3 classes

### Curriculum areas using Questionmark™

- Used for both formative (majority) and summative purposes
  - Computing\* (S/F)
  - Engineering\* (F)
  - Art and Design (S)
  - Health Care (S)
  - Hospitality (S/F)
  - Sport (F)
  - Service Engineering\* (S)
  - Social Sciences (F)
  - Visual Communication (F/S)
    - \*Biggest users of QMP
- Some statistics to date
  - over the last 12-18 months
    - Questions created = 4809
    - Assessments created = 381

### Facilities

- The need for more dedicated facilities came with the growth in the use of online exams
  - The College has had an Assessment Centre for over 8 years
    - Capacity - 10 PCs
    - In Academic Year 07/08 moved to bigger 20 seat capacity
  - In Academic Year 07-08 a new facility was created
    - Capacity - 27
  - In Academic Year 08-09 another new facility was created
    - Capacity - 38
  - Yet another new facility catering for 38 will open for use in Academic Year 10-11 in our Altens Centre (at present there is a temporary facility)
- All rooms have
  - Desks spaced to meet exam body requirements
  - Up-to-date PCs
  - Facilities to cater for access to assessment candidates
  - Privacy filters
  - Questionmark™ Secure for closed book exams

### Spreading the word

- Staff are kept informed of
  - Available tools
  - Guides, workshops, staff development sessions available for using the tools
- Details of support available is provided by
  - E-mail
  - Team briefing documents
  - College updates
- Knowledge base areas on College Intranet for
  - Online assessment
  - Plagiarism detection
- Online assessment overview included in induction for new staff
- Work with curriculum areas to support their move forward with online assessment
- Case Studies
  - Curriculum areas using online assessment give their views/comments to try to encourage other areas
- Providing examples of online assessments

## Evaluations

- Evaluations have been made of SOLAR and GOLA use by staff and students
  - Extracts from the evaluations are produced in the next few slides showing the likes, dislikes, advantages, disadvantages
  - The message is clear - the majority of both staff and students like online computer marked assessment
    - A good reason to continue!

## Evaluations

- **Using SOLAR - what students like best**
  - Immediate results
  - Simple/quick/easy to use
  - Easier than handwriting
  - Less pressure/more relaxed
  - Multiple choice
  - Layout
  - No waiting for someone to mark
  - More environmentally friendly
- **Using GOLA – what students like best**
  - Easy/quick/plenty of time
  - No writing
  - Results at end
  - Multiple choice
  - Less stressful
  - Less paper

## Evaluations

- **Using SOLAR - what students like least**
  - No feedback
  - (Possible)/technical problems
  - Clarity/wording of questions
  - Questions not working
  - Anxious about computer skills
  - Submitting for marking
  - Nervous
  - Boring
- **Using GOLA – what students like least**
  - Wording of questions
  - Trust in computer marking
  - (Possible)/technical difficulties
  - Anxious about computer skills
  - Boring
  - Nervous
  - Sore eyes

## Evaluations

- **Using SOLAR - what staff see as advantages**
  - Time saving
  - Instant results/reports
  - Prior verification
  - Easy to schedule
  - Reduces marking load
  - User friendly
  - Less stressful
  - Consistency of marking
  - Confidence in system
- **Using GOLA – what staff see as advantages**
  - Reduced marking time
  - Students get immediate results
  - Better use of time
  - Speed of candidate feedback

## Evaluations

- **Using SOLAR - what staff see as disadvantages**

- Nothing
- No feedback facility
- Time taken up invigilating
- Technical difficulties

- **Using GOLA – what staff see as disadvantages**

- Nothing
- Having to trust the computer

## Where are we now?

- Over the last 2+ years staff in the College have willingly adopted "ready made" computer marked online summative assessment
- The general rule is: if online exams are available they are used
- There has been a lot of formative online assessment activity
- Work is ongoing to encourage the "in-house" conversion of assessments to being marked online

## Where are we now?

- But . . . it's not all about computer marked online assessment
  - For assessments which cannot be computer marked students are encouraged to submit work electronically
    - via the Blackboard digital drop box
    - via Plagiarism Detection software
  - The submission of work to e-portfolios is also being used in some areas
  - The use of voting systems has been introduced

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