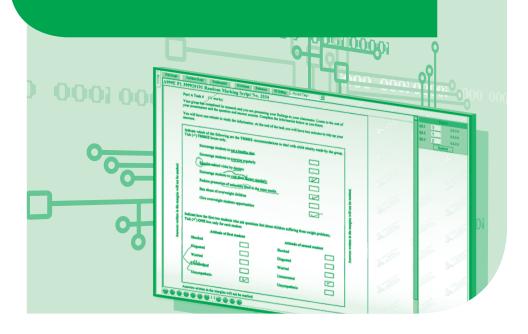
Onscreen Marking System

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Introduction

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) is committed to providing valid, reliable and equitable examinations and assessment services for Hong Kong. Each year, the HKEAA appoints more than 4,000 markers, most of whom are qualified full-time teachers. They are responsible for marking over a million examination scripts. Onscreen Marking (OSM) has been adopted since 2007 to enhance the quality and efficiency of marking.

Onscreen Marking

In the past, markers were required to collect the original scripts from the HKEAA and marked them at home, in school or at other appropriate venues. They then returned the marked scripts to the HKEAA for checking and data capture before the final results were processed and released.

With the introduction of OSM, the answer scripts are scanned after they are collected from the examination centres and the images are saved and retained in a secure database for recordkeeping. The images of the answer scripts are then distributed to markers via a secure intranet system for marking. Markers mark the scripts at assessment centres and need not collect or return the answer scripts to the HKEAA.

Below is the OSM workflow:

Examinations completed by candidates

Examination scripts collected from examination centres

Examination scripts scanned and images saved

Images of examination scripts distributed to markers for marking via a secure intranet system

Marks and annotations by markers captured by the OSM system



Benefits of Onscreen Marking

Security

- Secure storage of scanned images of scripts
- Elimination of the movement of scripts between markers and checkmarkers, and between markers and HKEAA premises

Marking quality

- Real-time monitoring of marking progress, marking consistency and quality control of marking
- Marking irregularities identified and remedied as soon as possible
- Flexible allocation of questions to specialist markers
- Robust checkmarking functions and marking statistics available for controlling marking quality

Efficiency

- More efficient and flexible script management processes
- · Higher efficiency in mark calculation
- Immediate distribution of scripts to two markers for double marking

Accuracy

- Reduction of errors arising from mark entries
- Elimination of errors associated with manual mark calculation and recording processes

Data availability

- More detailed analysis of candidates' performance
- More information on responses to individual questions and better feedback regarding candidates' performance
- Easy retrieval of scripts for appeal processing and research

Development of Onscreen Marking

OSM was first adopted in 2007 for the marking of Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) English Language and Chinese Language papers. Since then, OSM has been extended to more HKCEE and Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) subjects, as well as the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT) and the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA). All Category A Senior Secondary subjects of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) are marked onscreen. Every year, over 4,000 markers are appointed for the marking of around one million scripts.

The OSM system has earned several awards, including the Best Change Management (Government) Award of the 2008 MIS Asia IT Excellence Awards and the Best Business (Application) Certificate of Merit of the Hong Kong ICT Awards in 2007. It was one of the four finalists in the Information Security Award category in the 2007 Government Technology Award.

Assessment Centres

Various assessment centres have been set up across Hong Kong, including some on-campus assessment centres. These centres provide about 1,500 workstations in total for onscreen marking. They are also used for the delivery of computer-based examinations and for the administration and marking of other tests, as well as for the training of examiners, markers, teachers and other examination personnel.

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