

## Case study: Monash University - spreadsheet as a form (2017)

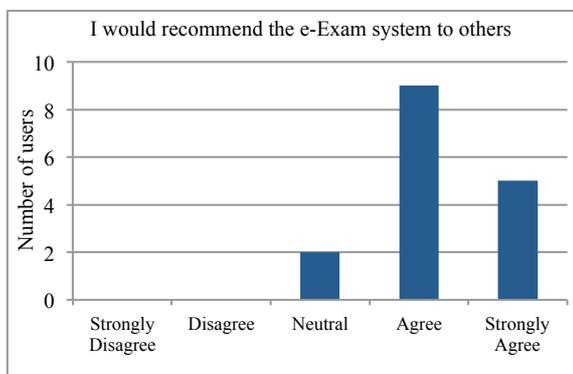
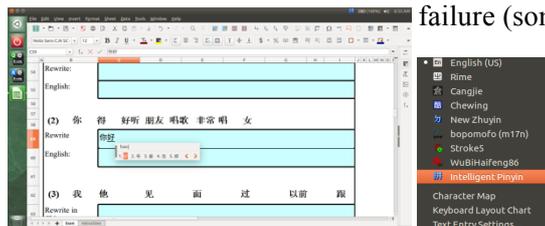
### Summary

The e-Exam trial was carried out as part of a mid-semester, in-class test. It accounted for 16% of the total mark for a beginner level unit in Chinese language. The unit had 73 students enrolled, a limited pilot of 16 typed the test. The test had previously been a paper based and invigilated. A range of question types were used including multiple choice, true/false, gap-fill and short text responses involving translation (Chinese to English and English to Chinese).

A practice session was conducted a week prior to the exam, which proved to be valuable. The e-Exam was conducted using a specially designed set of spreadsheet files, one file for response collection that was given to students and another grade book file held by staff. This separation enabled security to be maintained because there were no 'hidden' answers in the files given to students. The separate grade book spreadsheet allowed automatic marking of selected and convergent responses against a marking key. Short response translation questions were marked manually. There was no network connection was used during the exam event.

Discipline	Chinese Language
School	Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
Institution	Monash University
Level	Undergraduate, First year
Class size	73 students enrolled; 16 typed and 57 handwrote.
Mode	On campus with average four class hours and two hours online activities per week.
e-Exam	In-class, typing optional. Spreadsheet as a 'form'. BYO and university laptops. Partial automatic marking.
Assessment	One hour examination worth 16%. Mix of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the blank questions and short text responses.

Challenges encountered were: allaying students' fears of the 'unknown' particularly relating to possible technology failure (something that was much reduced following use) and students' lack of PinYin knowledge to correctly input Chinese characters. Setting up the spreadsheet for the first time involved a learning curve for both the lead academic and the project team, in particular ensuring that formatting and images used for Chinese characters worked within the e-Exam Libre Office spreadsheet software. There was an iterative process of establishing the marking keys in the separate grade book spreadsheet.



Surveys following both the practice and actual exams showed that students who used the e-Exam system felt that it is easy to use. The majority said that they would like to use it again in the future, that it was safe against cheating and that they would recommend it to others (see chart). Some doubts remained regarding the reliability of using their own laptops for an exam.

Continued work on integrating Moodle in a standalone (off-line) mode was seen as the preferred option for the future e-exams however further development of the Excel spreadsheet capability was also desired.

Key features of this case study include:

- Chinese language exam with PinYin input tool.
- Spreadsheet used as a 'form' with partial post-exam automated marking using a separate grade book file.

### Acknowledgements

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Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The views expressed in this project do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Further information about the e-Exams project is available from TransformingExams.com. Further detail on this case is available: Hillier, M., Grant, S. (2018) Do-it-yourself e-Exams, Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education conference, 25-28 Nov, Geelong, Australia pp. 123-132

