

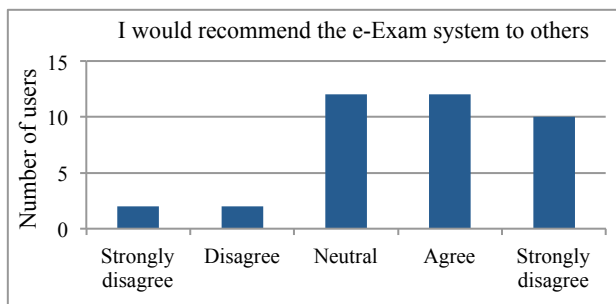
Case study: University of Tasmania multisite post-paper (2017)

Summary

The trial was conducted in three Tasmanian campuses and multiple offsite venues in Tasmania and mainland Australia in semester 1 2017 for Digital Technologies (in Education). The e-exam was run off-line via e-Exams system USB sticks. The e-Exam incorporated word-processing of responses, multimedia, chemistry molecular modeling software, and a visual programming environment (Scratch).

A total of 91 Education students participated with no option to handwrite except in the case of equipment malfunction (which 3 used). All students completed the exam successfully and reported good levels of satisfaction via the post-exam survey with most prepared to recommend the e-Exam process to others (see chart). The student surveys also showed a lessening of anxiety about equipment reliability. 94% strongly agreed, agreed or were neutral that “I would like to use a computer for exams in the future”.

Discipline	Education
School	Education
Institution	University of Tasmania
Level	Undergraduate, Fourth year
Class size	91 students enrolled; 88 typed (incl. 4 with learning access plans)
Mode	Once a week, face-to-face mode on two campuses and multiple offsite locations by distance education.
e-Exam	Compulsory typing. BYO laptops. Administered by UTAS exams office in exam halls at multiple campuses and offsite venues. Post-paper exam with word document, multimedia and software tools.
Assessment	Two hour, final exam examination worth 46.5% of the final grade. Short text, long text questions and Scratch programming task file submission.



Some challenges experienced include: exam spread over multiple sites; communication between examination, technical and academic staff; disputed need for technical support during the e-exam.

Overall the trial was very successful. The e-exam preparation process that included a laptop 'compliance certificate' and contingent practice process proved very helpful in ensuring that students were ready for the e-exam. A backup paper exam was used by only three

off-site students. The trial successfully demonstrated that an e-exam can be run alongside conventional handwritten, paper-based exams in large-scale on-campus venues.

Marking was expedited by the readability and digital format of the response files. Batches were e-mailed to tutors in Devonport and Queensland, with marks entered directly into the LMS. Duplicate copies of digital files also made moderation faster and more reliable.

It was recommended that: 1) there should be no more than 30 e-exam students per session at any Tasmanian campus venue until after July 2018; (2) following current practice, units adopting e-exam should initially use 'paper- replacement' mode (give students a choice of typing or hand-writing) before transitioning to 'post-paper' mode where all must type.

Key features of this case study include:

- Post-paper word document centric, including multimedia and programming, making typing compulsory.
- Multi-campus, multi-offsite, centrally administered e-exam.
- Collaboration and communication between academics, examination office and technical staff.

Acknowledgements

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