

June 2007

Education and Skills Committee - Testing and Assessment Inquiry: Additional Response

Details

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Introduction to ResultsPlus

In 2007, Edexcel will roll out a programme to help schools raise exam attainment and meet the personalised learning agenda. This may be of interest to the Committee as part of its inquiry into testing and assessment.

The programme, called ResultsPlus, will provide personalised information on exam performance to GCSE and A Level students, and to their teachers and head teachers. This has major implications as it will empower students and teachers with a new range of transparent and accessible information.

ResultsPlus represents a leap forward in personalised learning in the UK. This is made possible because Edexcel's digital ePen technology, which allows completed exam papers to be marked by trained markers on screen, is also able to produce a range of data based on exam performance.

ResultsPlus comprises four IT products:

- ResultsPlus Direct
- ResultsPlus Analysis
- ResultsPlus Skills
- ResultsPlus Progress

ResultsPlus Direct

In summer 2007, all students of Edexcel GCSE and A Levels will be able to receive their results online for the first time via ResultsPlus Direct.

The results will feature a Gradeometer which will show students how close they were to the next grade up or down. This information provides transparency in the exam process and allows students and their parents to make informed choices about applying for the exam to be re-marked, or re-sitting.

This system was successfully piloted in 2006, when Edexcel provided 2,000 GCSE Maths students with their results online.

ResultsPlus Direct will allow students to go online from wherever they are in the world on results day and access their results using a unique PIN number.

In the traditional process, schools and colleges post lists of results on a notice board. With a secure online system, each student will see only their own results. Market research shows that 74 per cent of people think that exam results should be available via the Internet.

ResultsPlus Analysis

In summer 2007, Edexcel will offer head teachers and school management teams a new resource, ResultsPlus Analysis.

It will provide analysis of results and performance at a cohort and individual student level. It will allow teachers to produce comprehensive reports to ascertain how the syllabus is being delivered and achieved against. If a group of students have not performed well in an area of the syllabus, ResultsPlus Analysis will highlight the problem and teachers will be able to adjust their teaching accordingly.

Edexcel will provide access to results information down to individual question level, as well as providing links to the examination papers, mark schemes and chief examiners' reports. This enables centres to compare their results against the national average, compare results by type of centre, download results data onto a spreadsheet and sort results by teaching group or gender and make detailed observations about students' performance.

This builds on Edexcel's Results Analysis service (RAS), which already allows schools and colleges to access their results at question level online.

ResultsPlus Skills

In addition to the performance information offered in ResultsPlus Analysis, ResultsPlus Skills will provide skills maps, so teachers will be able to see at a glance which topics and skills are causing their students problems.

By putting performance data into context, the skills maps will enable teachers to alter teaching programmes to raise attainment. For students who need to re-sit exams, their skills map can form the basis of a revision plan.

ResultsPlus Skills will be available when Edexcel's GCSE Maths and Science results are delivered in August 2007.

ResultsPlus Progress

ResultsPlus Progress will be introduced in autumn 2007 as online tests that will allow teachers to check the progress of their students' learning and identify areas of weakness that may require further teaching or revision.

Test results will be provided with skills maps for each candidate, tailored to identify their own strengths and weaknesses. This will help students plan their own revision and help teachers plan lessons more effectively and concentrate on weak areas. Using individual performance information to guide individual progress is at the heart of the personalised learning agenda.

ResultsPlus Progress will be available for Edexcel's Key Stage 3 Mathematics, GCSE Mathematics and 360 Science subjects from the start of the 2007 academic year.