



Pedagogical Assessment of:
 Modern Tool Rating: 4.5
 Website: www.digitalasses.com



Usage

Digital Asses is an Adaptive Comparative Judgement tool, aiming to generate reliable results for educational assessment and is hence an alternative to traditional exam script marking. Judges are presented with pairs of student work and are then asked to choose which work is completed to a higher standard. A scaled distribution of student work can then be obtained without reference to criteria.

This software offers 5 different types of digital assessment (annotate, measure, collaborate and manage) that can help both the student and the educator. It is designed to let assessors gain a deeper understanding of learners' capabilities and their level of understanding (low-high level thinking skills). Digital access enables the teacher to capture evidence of milestones using in-built digital features or learners' own mobile devices. The resulting work is presented as a storyboard-style digital portfolio.

Digital Access provides learners with an opportunity to demonstrate every facet of newly acquired knowledge through project work, collaboration and evidence gathering. Educators and assessors can add marks and contextual comments to any file format, alongside proof of where the learner has met assessment criteria. They see a complete learning process, not just a snapshot at the end of term.

Ease of Access

Digital Assess is a multiplatform tool meant to be implanted at an institutional level, not by individual teachers or students. It has been adopted by many, mainly British, higher education and vocational training institutions.

Although there is a FAQ page, manuals or online technical support for this tool are not currently available.

Pedagogical Assessment

There are many uses for this tool in pedagogical activities. For instance, the 'Annotate' feature can be located as an integral part of a Moodle platform to support assessment for qualifications. Also, their Adaptive Comparative Judgement feature can be used to support research with the Curriculum and Standards Authority into the assessment of various performance-based qualifications. In addition, it can be used as an assessment tool to provide an efficient and easy to use way for evidencing practical skills and abilities; often an area of difficulty in VET or FE colleges.

Reviews

"Current approaches towards assessment remain poor at measuring and capturing vocational abilities, as well as a broader array of soft skills.... Companies like Digital Assess have put a lot of thought behind developing an approach to overcome this challenge. As a result, many organisations and institutions will now be able to benefit from a more efficient, practical and reliable way to assess the skills of the future."- Professor Richard Kimbell. Assistant Principal of Learning and Development. Director of the Technology Education Research Unit at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

<http://bit.ly/2derAqY>

Advantages

- Offers five different types of assessments.
- Secured data storage.
- Provides a more reliable way to assess the skills.
- It can be integrated in some LMS such as Moodle

Disadvantages

- Assessments need to be carefully planned and specific to ensure they are effectively testing a learners understanding of a skill/topic.

Conclusion

Digital Access is a multi-platform tool that can be used widely by both students and assessors. Digital Assess provides a variety of tools that ensure a level playing field for the assessing the collective work of students as well as providing a platform for students the opportunity to self asses and review the work of other student demonstrating every facet of applied knowledge. This proves to be a useful tool that can increase the interest of the students and teachers.