Student Survey - Digital Media and Classical Studies Level 1 Pilots 2016

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Information on the Survey and Participants

The student survey was designed to measure students' self-reported satisfaction and experience of the digital examinations, including establishing whether the students regularly use electronic devices at home and at school.

Of the 305 students who participated in the Media Studies and Classical Studies Level 1 Digital Pilot examinations, 100 (33%) completed the online survey. Not all the students answered all the questions in the survey. Of the 100 responses received, 83 out of a total of 234 Media Studies students participated in the survey, with 17 out of a total of 71 Classical Studies student participants.

The survey was made available to students within the assessment solution, directly after they submitted their exam. The survey consisted of 13 questions. Some of them were open ended questions. The survey was designed to take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Below is a summary of the main findings. Appendix 1 contains a count of responses for each closed ended question. Appendix 2 is a full list of the survey questions.

Main findings

Overall satisfaction

The students who participated were generally satisfied with the digital examination, with most of the respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that they found undertaking the examination digitally to be a positive experience.

> *"Overall I really enjoyed being able to type out my exam, it was a lot faster and easier than doing it all by hand in a booklet".*

> *"This is a good way to do assessments like this, media studies. That's just because there is a lot of writing involved so it just makes things quick and easy."*

> *"It was very good, but it was sometimes confusing and to log on we started later than the time we should have because of trying to find our way into it."*

Most responses to the question 'What did you like most about completing the exam digitally' included that it was easier and faster to type than to handwrite, and that essay answers could be easily reviewed and edited and looked much neater than handwritten answers. Some students also mentioned that they were more confident using a keyboard, that they liked the word count and timer, and that the instructions were easy to understand.

> *"Not having to write with a pen because it hurts my hand after 3 hours. That I could delete writing without it taking up space on the page. That it was new and a trial, which made me feel excited."*

"The digital examination was easy to navigate through and it was relatively faster to complete than by using pen and paper. The user interface was relatively friendly and easy to use."

"No need to hand write
Simple instructions
Easier process of exam"

The most common response to the question 'What did you dislike most about completing the exam digitally?' was that the sound of other students typing was distracting and noisy. Other dislikes included:

- using the school rather than their own keyboard
- time to set up and log on
- eye strain
- no spelling check
- that the font and text boxes were too small and required constant scrolling
- worrying about doing something wrong, and
- warning boxes appearing too quickly.

The digital examination experience

Exam preparation

70 out of 93 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they found the sample assessments very useful in preparing for the digital examination. 11 out of 93 respondents reported not being aware of the existence of the sample assessments.

63 out of 89 students disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'I spent more time preparing for this digital exam than I would have if I had been doing it on paper'.

74 out of 93 respondents reported they used a school-provided device to complete their examination, and 19 out of 93 their own device. 69 out of 74 school-provided devices were desktop computers, 5 out of 74 laptops. 16 out of 19 student-owned devices were laptops.

19 out of 100 respondents reported experiencing network or device problems accessing or completing the digital examination. Technical problems described included being logged out, having password issues, and keyboard issues. Digital examination issues specifically commented on by two students included:

> *"When switching between the planning and answer text boxes, the website would tell me I had left the page and had to 'click here' to return to the examination. This is frustrating when trying to copy planning into the essay and I had to return to the home then go back into the standard to stop it from coming up with the warning message a couple of times."*

> *"Just when I tried to back space when editing and re-reading my essay it started to show a little blue thing and started to delete [the] letter that I still wanted so I had to edit it a different way. But overall it could of been a glitch on the computer."*

85 out of 93 respondents reported that they found it easy or very easy to navigate through the digital examination.

83 out of 92 respondents reported that they found it easy or very easy to enter their responses to the examination questions.

Digital technology at home and at school

At home

84 out 93 respondents reported having more than one device at home.   58 out of 93 respondents reported having three different types of devices available at home.

At school

75 out of 94 respondents reported that digital technology is used in class to support their learning very often or quite often. No respondents reported that digital technology was never used in class.

72 out of 94 respondents reported that digital technology is used for homework to support their learning very often or quite often. No respondents reported that digital technology was never used for homework.

58 out of 94 respondents reported that digital technology is used in internal assessments to support their learning very often or quite often, 33 out of 94 reported it was used occasionally, and 3 out of 94 reported it was never used.

Suggestions/feedback

Responded provided a range of suggestions in answer to the question "Are there any features or functions that you think future digital exams should include?". Some were suggestions NZQA could consider taking and others were suggestions NZQA could recommend to schools considering participating in digital examinations. These included:

For NZQA

- ability to use ctrl+f to search for things in the assessment
- more user friendly - less buttons and things to click and a more similar layout to a Microsoft word document
- more user-friendly design and navigation
- spell check
- clarity about word count
- that the ability to run exam on the computer or official NCEA server rather than a web browser would provide more lockdown.

"Actually make it user friendly and make it so it fit the screen you are doing it on. It looks like it was made for a computer in 2005."

For schools

- using own device
- ability to bring own keyboard
- clarity about the ability to plan on paper if that is a student's preference.

Summarised responses by question

Which exam

	Count	Percentage
Classical Studies	17	0.17
Media	83	0.83
Total	100	1

Question 1. What device did you use to complete this digital exam?

	Count	Percentage
My own Desktop	1	0.01
My own Laptop	16	0.17
My own Tablet	2	0.02
School provided Desktop	69	0.74
School provided Laptop	5	0.05
Total	93	0.99

Question 2. Did you experience any network or device problems accessing or completing this digital exam?

	Count	Percentage
No problems	81	0.81
Yes	19	0.19
Total	100	1

Question 3. What devices do you have access to in your home? Select all that apply?

	count	Percentage
Desktop computer	1	0.01
Laptop	7	0.08
Laptop, Desktop computer	1	0.01
Smartphone	1	0.01
Smartphone, Desktop computer	6	0.06
Smartphone, Desktop computer, Tablet	1	0.01
Smartphone, Laptop	18	0.19
Smartphone, Laptop, Desktop computer	8	0.09
Smartphone, Laptop, Desktop computer, Tablet	33	0.35
Smartphone, Laptop, Tablet	16	0.17
Tablet	1	0.01
Total	93	0.99

Question 4. I found the sample assessments very useful in preparing me for my digital exam?

	Count	Percentage
Agree	58	0.62
Disagree	12	0.13
I didn't know they existed	11	0.12
Strongly agree	11	0.12
Strongly disagree	1	0.01
Total	93	1

Question 5. How much is digital technology used to support your learning, for homework?

	Count	Percentage
Very often	51	0.54
Quite often	21	0.22
Occasionally	22	0.23
Never	0	0
Total	94	0.99

Question 5. How much is digital technology used to support your learning, in class?

	Count	Percentage
Very often	43	0.46
Quite often	32	0.34
Occasionally	19	0.2
Never	0	0
Total	94	1

Question 5. How much is digital technology used to support your learning, for internal assessments?

	Count	Percentage
Very often	34	0.36
Quite often	24	0.26
Occasionally	33	0.35
Never	3	0.03
Total	94	1

Question 8. How easy was it to navigate through the digital exam?

	Count	Percentage
Very easy	29	0.31
Easy	56	0.6
Difficult	7	0.08
Very difficult	1	0.01
Total	93	1

Question 9. How easy did you find entering your responses to the digital exam?

	Count	Percentage
Very easy	35	0.38
Easy	48	0.52
Difficult	8	0.09
Very difficult	1	0.01
Total	92	1

Question 10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement "I spent more time preparing for this digital exam than I would have if I had been doing it on paper"?

	Count	Percentage
Strongly agree	3	0.03
Agree	23	0.26
Disagree	52	0.58
Strongly disagree	11	0.12
Total	89	0.99

Question 11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement "Overall I found doing this exam digitally was a positive experience"?

	Count	Percentage
Strongly agree	30	0.32
Agree	56	0.6
Disagree	5	0.05
Strongly disagree	2	0.02
Total	93	0.99

Student survey questions

Question 1. What device did you use to complete this digital exam?

Question 2. Did you experience any network or device problems accessing or completing this digital exam?

Question 3. What devices do you have access to in your home? Select all that apply?

Question 4. I found the sample assessments very useful in preparing me for my digital exam.

Question 5. How much is digital technology used to support your learning <u>in class</u>?

Question 5. How much is digital technology used to support your learning <u>for homework</u>?

Question 5. How much is digital technology used to support your learning <u>for internal assessments</u>?

Question 6. What did you like most about completing the exam digitally? List us to three things you liked.

Question 7. What did you dislike most about completing the exam digitally? List us to three things you disliked.

Question 8. How easy was it to navigate through the digital exam?

Question 9. How easy did you find entering your responses to the digital exam?

Question 10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement "I spent more time preparing for this digital exam than I would have if I had been doing it on paper"?

Question 11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement "Overall I found doing this exam digitally was a positive experience"?

Question 12. Are there any features or functions that you think future digital exams should include? Please identify these.

Question 13. Please add any other feedback you have on this digital exam.