

Is electronic marking just about efficiency?

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The presentation will explain some of the underpinning assessment principles of the electronic marking processes and relate these to quality criteria.

The theme of the paper will concern the use of electronic capture and marking of candidates' answers to examination scripts to improve marking reliability. The answer-types discussed will be mainly short answer and short paragraph, with some extended answers.

Little research has been carried out on the reliability of marking in this context and the presentation will be led by specially commissioned research evidence gained from data derived from examinations marked using scanning and imaging of answers. Data derived from measuring markers' marking against a population of items of known mark value will be examined to establish what benefits can be gained in marking reliability.

Analysis of data carried out would be presented, based on comprehensive datasets accumulated in the process of real-life electronic marking. The analysis would look at areas such as between-marker and between-script variance, and any variations in these due to item type and within-centre clustering, for example. Areas of future development will also be presented.