

An introduction to e-marking

Marking from paper

In 2014 a number of question papers (scripts) and National 5 Coursework assessments will be e-marked from paper. This means that once the candidates have sat their exam, or submitted their coursework, their assessments will be sent securely to Markers who will use their home computer to record:

- receipt of packets (of scripts)
- absent candidates
- the marks allocated (once marked)
- the dispatch of packets back to SQA

The scripts you are being invited to mark will be marked in this way, therefore you will need to have access to a home computer or laptop which meets the minimum specification included in your invitation to mark.

We have worked in partnership with RM Education to develop, tailor and implement the scoris assessor e-marking system.

scoris®
assessor

SQA has carried out e-marking for several years and is committed to maximising its use because of the benefits to markers, candidates and SQA.



E-marking Quality Assurance

E-marking: Marking from Paper (MFP) has a robust quality assurance process which checks that you understand the Marking Instructions, can apply them accurately and consistently, and therefore can mark to the national standard before you start to mark live candidate responses.

The quality assurance process begins with giving you a number of **Practice** and **Qualification** scripts which have been selected and definitively marked by the Principal Assessor (and confirmed by Team Leaders). You will mark these scripts, enter the marks into scoris assessor and once submitted, you will be able to access targeted feedback which shows where your marks are the same, are within an acceptable degree of variance, or are not in line with the definitive marks. There are normally four practice scripts which allow you to self-assess and refine your marking.



Figure 1 Copyright SXC.hu

Qualification scripts are used to test your ability to mark to standard. You need to demonstrate this by marking 5 out of 8 scripts (or equivalent percentage) to the standard before you can be approved to mark live candidates' scripts.

E-Marker support and training

Your Team Leader

To assist you in the application of standards you will have the support of a dedicated Team Leader. Your Team Leader will be able to view your Qualification Script marking performance and feedback and information on your marking averages. They can give additional support and marking guidance to help you achieve and maintain the national standard.

Scoris assessor has an inbuilt messaging function which aids communication on national standards and marking points between you and your Team Leader. The messaging system can also be used by the Principal Assessor and SQA to communicate key messages to the whole marking team throughout the marking period.

Online training

SQA Academy (SQA's training and development website) hosts a comprehensive online e-marking MFP training course which provides mixed media training and guidance on the use of scoris assessor and the e-marking MFP quality assurance process.

We will send you all the details you will need to know about how and when to access these training opportunities.

Marker Briefings

Your invitation will give you details of your Marker Briefing. Briefings are in place this year to aid understanding of the national standard and application of the Marking Instructions.

E-Marker Helpdesk

You can ask for assistance by phone or by e-mail from SQA's experienced e-marking helpdesk staff to resolve any technical issues. The helpdesk operates seven days a week both in the lead up to, and throughout, the marking period.

The benefits of e-marking

to you, the Marker

- scoris assessor is an intuitive marking system with rich functionality
- scoris assessor automatically aggregates the marks entered for you
- it aids direct support from, and communication with, Team Leaders and the Principal Assessor

to the candidate

- significantly reduces the likelihood of clerical errors such as marks aggregation
- the quality assurance model ensures that marking is consistent with the national standard

to SQA

- e-marking has a robust front-loaded quality assurance model that checks that all Markers can apply the national standard prior to marking live scripts
- scoris assessor automatically provides script packet receipt and despatch information
- scoris assessor automatically returns marks, making managing the marking process more efficient
- scoris assessor provides item level marks to inform grade boundary decisions