

CASE STUDY:

# SQA Biotechnology

In Scotland, during May 2006, 63 candidates at 7 schools and FE colleges sat the objective sections of the Biotechnology Intermediate 2 and Higher external assessments on-screen.

BTL was thrust forward as pioneer again, as this milestone in Scotland's examination system represented the first use of such technology in a formal, external examination in Scotland.

BTL provided the software and support which facilitated the delivery of the exam, question by question, then processed and transferred the results to SQA's possession.

The Qualification Manager and the Principal Assessors concluded that the onscreen questions were very clear and that the layout was less distracting than the paper version of the same exam.

The provision for candidates to 'flag' questions for later review was deemed excellent. This allowed candidates to follow their progress on a grid and to easily return to any questions they wanted to revisit. One said "It's good to be able to tag a question that I want to go back to."

The most important group in these examinations is, of course, the candidates. The Chief Invigilator for these examinations observed that the on-line assessment was well received by every one of the candidates. "I prefer [sitting the exam using a] computer – the screen layout is clear and there is no delay."

An excellent example is one girl who had a fear of sitting exams in a large hall. She had no problems with either the trial or the final examination - both taken using the on-screen assessment.

The success of this trial is paving the way for onscreen assessments in other subjects and at other levels in 2007. Once again BTL is proud to have been at the forefront of e-assessment.

For further information about BTL and its product offering, please visit <http://www.btl.com>

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