On Screen Marking:
8 Myths BUSTED

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1 "My organisation is too small to benefit from OSM"

Every application is unique and there are many factors to consider in the business justification of our OSM. Understanding the whole script life-cycle from print to scan to marking affects the justification. We have tailored solutions for AOs from a few hundred scripts per session. It's about bringing the value of the technology at a cost that is acceptable.

2 "I don't believe that it will speed up our marking process"

1. OSM allows scripts to be marked from the moment that they have been scanned and assigned to a marker
2. It removes the need to physically transport scripts to and from a marker's location
3. Multiple markers can work concurrently on a script
4. Scripts can be re-assigned instantaneously should a marker need to be changed
5. Marking progress can be monitored in a live environment and allow for corrective action
6. Removes the need for clerical checks of adding up marks

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3 "I'm not sure OSM improves accuracy"

When marking paper-based scripts, AOs have to wait until the scripts are returned from the markers for review. It is only then that issues may materialise about marking quality. OSM allows an Assessment team to monitor marking in a live environment and address issues mid-stream. In addition, OSM allows for seeding of profile responses to flag marking quality issues. OSM allows for item / question level marking which has been proven to improve reliability of marking by allocating more difficult questions to more experienced markers for better consistency. Item level marking can also help to reduce the "halo effect" (marking influenced by the quality of answers on other questions on the same script) and potential examiner biases.

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4 "OSM will be difficult to roll out"

We work with you every step of the way to make sure you have a system that is fully integrated into your organisation and implemented at a pace that suits your organisation. If you want to combine paper-based marking with on screen marking that's fine too.

5 "Personal data is at risk of hackers"

SCD is ISO 27001 accredited for information security and regularly audited, recognising our systematic approach to managing confidential or sensitive information. Clients access scripts via a secure, password protected customer portal that is protected by industry leading and state of the art firewalls. We even employ ethical hackers to try to penetrate our systems and identify any weaknesses to address.

6 "It's too complicated"

Our system is very simple to use. Marking mirrors a paper-based process with ticks and annotations. Thumbnail navigation around the script is straightforward and the marker can mark by candidate or by question. We have tried to make the system as simple and as intuitive to use as possible to ensure a smooth transition to OSM for your markers and assessors.

7 "It's too risky"

Delivering scripts electronically removes the economic and logistic burdens of sending paper scripts to and from examiners. Scripts remain in the possession of the awarding body and cannot be lost or damaged in transit, thus reducing the risk of loss of scripts.

8 "Markers hate on screen marking"

Markers love on screen marking as they don't have to worry about waiting in for delivery or make sure the return delivery is handled correctly. They also don't have to worry about the security of scripts stored in their house or office, taking up valuable space. Customers who have used the system testify that they would not go back to paper-based marking.

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