

New Goal interactive assessments send English and Science to the top of the class

Tests in schools are being brought to life with the launch of *Goal Interactive English and Science assessments*. For the first time ever, English and Science teachers are being offered the tools to assess not only their students' knowledge but also their capabilities, strengths and weaknesses through a dynamic and interactive online environment. Developed by leading awarding body and assessment specialist EDI, www.ediplc.com, and written by practicing teachers and subject experts, the new Goal Interactive English and Science assessments cover the UK national curriculum from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 3. Offering a user friendly and practical way of measuring and tracking progress, the new assessments are the ideal solution for both time stretched teachers and test shy students.

The use of flash technology and enhanced methodology takes assessment beyond regular multiple choice methodology, requiring students to give detailed answers rather than ticking boxes. Teachers are therefore able to assess a far wider range of skills and knowledge. Students actively engage with the assessments, from creating and responding to passages of English text to designing and commenting upon Science experiments. In fact, students can do almost anything on-screen that they could write on a piece of paper.

Results of the tests are delivered instantly to the teachers. However, instead of simply showing what students know and don't know, the automated reports delve deeper into specific skill sets, highlighting strengths and weaknesses and enabling teachers to develop the next stage of learning for every pupil in their class.

The new Goal assessments are ideal for benchmarking student knowledge and ability, allowing teachers to plan courses and targets effectively. Available on both a whole class and individual student basis, the reports are designed to help teachers to personalise the learning experience for every pupil. Flexibility is also key: the service is accessible from any PC with internet access so that teachers can easily prepare assessments and review the reports from home. Students not currently attending school for whatever reason can also sit the tests externally, ensuring that no learner slips through the net.

Goal Interactive English assessments not only address skills such as punctuation, spelling and grammar but also more advanced subjects that have been traditionally difficult to assess online such as composition and literature. In addition to the usual drag and drop, check box and text entry tools, the new assessment service offers word processing facilities, requiring candidates to give detailed answers. From composing promotional flyers and analysing literary texts to writing different styles of letters and matching up reported and direct speech, students are assessed across a wide range of skills and understanding. They are also required to punctuate sentences, identify subjects, verbs and nouns, use subordinate clauses and answer questions on sentence structure.

Goal Interactive Science assessments enable students to be assessed on their understanding of science and their ability to make predictions, from deciding on the correct quantities of water, light and heat for healthy plant growth to identifying the correct order of separating liquids in distillation. Students are encouraged to interact with the questions by dragging and dropping text and moving pictures and words around the screen, with animated graphics helping to bring each test alive. For example, one question



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may require pictures of animals to be moved to their correct habitats on screen while another may ask students to calculate turning forces and enter the correct answer onto a diagram of a see-saw. Most questions are made up of several parts, requiring students to think through their responses and also consider the consequences of different events, such as dragging a picture of a toy truck along the floor to where it would finish up following either a big or a small push.

Gareth Phillips, EDI's Director of Sales and Business Strategy, commented: "Customer feedback showed us that interactivity and active student engagement with tests is key to their success. In designing these new services, we are not only pushing the boundaries of what can be assessed but also hope to give teachers more confidence in being able to identify their students' strengths as well as their weaknesses. The instant automated marking system means that teachers can be assured that results are both accurate and consistent which is fundamental for planning and target setting. By extending our Goal family to include such advanced online assessment services, we hope to give teachers another tool to help them in the assessment they do every day, both inside and outside the classroom."

For more information about Goal and EDI, please contact us on tel: 024 7651 6560, email: schools@ediplc.com, website: www.goalonline.co.uk.



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