OWL Testing Software, An Online Language Testing and Assessment Solution

“Lifecycle” Screenshots

The following slides are annotated screen shots of how a student takes a test, how a teacher rates a test and how the student gets feedback.
This is the student “landing page” – a calendar with Assignments.
Double-clicking the calendar Assignment opens the “Assignments Details” dialog box containing a “Start Assignment” link.
Clicking “Start Assignment” opens the activity, in this case a test that begins with a microphone and speaker/headset check.
After the equipment check comes the Directions Section which tells the student how to take the test.

1. Each task will be read to you in English followed by a prompt in the target language.
2. Use the visuals to give you some ideas about what to say.
3. The red bars show you how much time you have to think about your answer. (After the red bars disappear recording will begin.)
4. Click the Record button and speak directly into the microphone.
5. Green bars will appear to indicate how much time you have. Say as much as you can. If possible, answer in complete sentences or paragraphs. When the green bars are gone the program will automatically move to the next task.
6. When you are finished recording your answer, click Next Item.
7. When you finish with the test, the program will save your responses. This may take a few minutes. DO NOT close down the program until you are told to do so.
The test begins, in this case, with a teacher-determined Think Time of 60 seconds during which the student can prepare their oral response.
When the Think Timer expires or when the student clicks the Record button, the timer resets and displays the amount of teacher-determined Response Time for the task.
The process repeats through to the completion of the test.

Think and Response Timers can be set universally across all Items/Tasks in an Activity/Test or individually for each Task.

Note that Task 1 now has a green checkmark (lower left) indicating a completed Task.
Upon completion of the Test/Activity, the student is given a confirming message that their test has been successfully saved.
Students can check the Status of their Assignments at any time.

Note that this recently completed Assignment has a Status of “Ready to be rated”, indicating that the teacher or assigned rater has yet to assess the responses.

Note, too, that under Action is a red stop sign. A mouse hover tells the student that they are not permitted to take any further action with this Assignment.
The Teacher/Rater logs in and selects “Assess, From List” on the command bar to begin assessments.
The Teacher/Rater sees the completed tests to which they have been assigned, and can use several different filtering and sorting options for managing larger groups or lists of students and tests.

When ready to begin the assessment, they simply click the Assess icon next to the desired student/activity.
The first screen presented to the Teacher/Rater shows the rubric. This is the top half of the rubric associated with this particular Activity/Test, in this case an oral proficiency test....
...and this is the bottom half of the rubric. This rubric also has pre-populated comments, activated by the Comments button, for each rubric level and a free-text Rater Comments field.
The Teacher/Rater plays the student’s oral responses to as many of the questions as they wish and....
...can expand each Question window to review the task, replay the question’s audio or video, etc., just as if they were “looking over the shoulder” of the student taking the test.
The Teacher/Rater then selects what they believe to be the appropriate proficiency level, in this case “Distinguished (IH) and....
...chooses from the pre-populated Comments list associated with “Distinguished (IH)” proficiency level, as well as....
…add any additional “Rater Comments” in the free text box at the bottom.

It should be noted that since each proficiency level can and most likely will have significantly different pre-populated Comments, such Comments can serve a dual role as a ‘professional development’ tool to help guide people unaccustomed and/or untrained in assessing and rating such as teaching assistants (TAs).
When the student reconnects to OWL, they see that the Assignment now has a Status of “Rating final” and is ready for viewing by double-clicking or using the Assignments drop-down in the command bar at the top.
The student now clicks the ribbon document icon under Action to view their assessment.
Finally, the student sees the rating given, Distinguished (IH), the checked off pre-populated Comments, and the free-text Rater Comments.

This data, as well as data from machine-scored tests, can be included in OWL’s Report Manager and/or exchanged with existing student information systems.
Thank You for Your Time!

For questions or more information contact…

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