

INTRODUCTION

Pass-IT is a Scottish Executive-funded initiative currently carrying out research into the use of online assessment. This research project brings together key players in Scottish education to explore the applicability and suitability of different forms of technology to enhance the assessment process. The partner organisations of the project are Learning and Teaching Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Scottish Centre for Research into Online Learning and Assessment (SCROLLA, at Heriot-Watt University), Scottish Further Education Unit and BBC Scotland.

The project is researching and developing ICT-based assessments which teaching professionals can access for both formative and summative purposes. These assessments will be designed for a limited range of National, Higher National and 3-14 provision.

Overall, this project aims to establish the Scottish education sector as a leader in ICT-based assessment in the UK, bringing together the best from previous, smaller scale projects, which have already given Scotland a profile in this area.

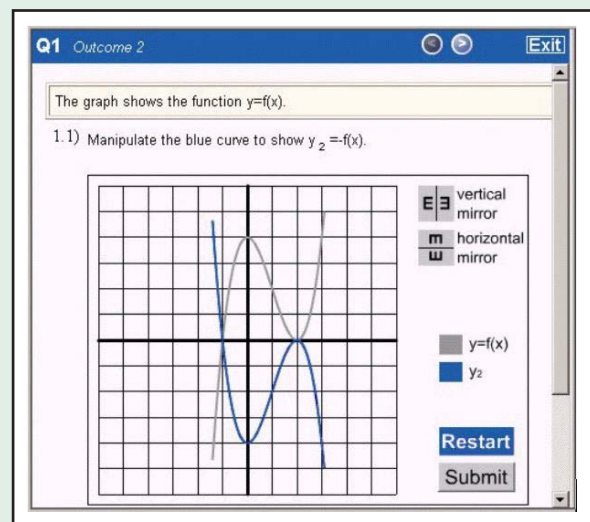
Project Activities

Over 27 months, the project will create, pilot and evaluate a number of different approaches to ICT-based assessment in schools and colleges throughout Scotland and it is in two phases. Phase 1 runs from August 2002 to October 2003, and Phase 2 from November 2003 to October 2004.

During Phase 1, the research team piloted ICT-based assessments in the following areas:

- NABs for Mathematics at Higher and Advanced Higher
- NABs for Chemistry at Higher
- Unit assessments for the revised HNC Computing.

The screen shot (right) gives an example of the types of questions developed by the project.



Example from PASS-IT ICT-based assessment in Higher Mathematics.

Phase 2 will be seeking to develop assessment technologies to enable a range of ICT-based assessments in different subjects to support:

- further national courses
- one area of the 3-14 curriculum.

Phase 1 pilots took place between March and June 2003. Pilot centres included four schools in the Edinburgh area, (Currie, Balerno, George Watson's and St Thomas of Aquin's), three schools in the Aberdeen area (St Macher, Oldmacher and Dyce), and three FE colleges (Langside, Reid Kerr and Glenrothes). An evaluation of phase one of the project was carried out by asking students from participating centres to complete questionnaires. This was followed by focus groups including both staff and students involved in the pilots. Much data has been collected both on paper and electronically and this data is currently being analysed. Findings will be incorporated into the first project research report due to be published in autumn 2003.

Further details of the Pass-IT project and its progress are available on the website <http://www.pass-it.org.uk>