



**Department of
Education**



Online Scoring and Reporting

NYCDOE Evaluation of OSCAR for Online Scoring and Reporting

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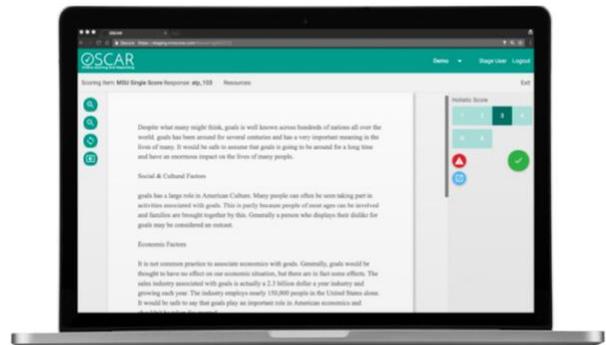
New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) Constructed-Response (Essay) Scoring:

Evaluation of OSCAR for Online Scoring and Reporting Requirements



Background

The [New York City Department of Education](#) (NYCDOE) is the single largest public PK-12 school system in the United States (32 community districts plus special populations), serving 1.1 million students in more than 1,800 schools. The NYCDOE has a wide-variety of projects that leverage constructed-response (short, written response & essay response) that are increasingly considered a better measure of critical thinking and analytical skills than traditional multiple-choice items. These are often referred to as higher-order thinking assessment items. These item types used in new “Second-Generation Assessments” have called attention to the need for an accurate, efficient and cost-effective tool to score constructed-response items.



The New York City Department of Education Has a Current Need to Efficiently and Economically Score Constructed-Response and Essay Items.

OSCAR is a state-of-the-art, next-generation platform for online scoring and reporting that boasts a set of features to accommodate a variety of performance scoring requirements, while still achieving the primary goal of providing an accurate, simple, flexible and affordable solution.

A large-scale summative scoring organization choose OSCAR as a replacement for the legacy online scoring platform it had been using for several years. OSCAR was implemented to facilitate the hand-scoring of the end-of-year New York State Testing Program for ELA and Mathematics tests in grades 3-8. As part of that testing project, OSCAR was introduced to NYCDOE in the Spring of 2017.

NYCDOE was impressed with the efficiency and ease-of-use that OSCAR introduced to the scoring process and recognized an overwhelmingly positive response from the scoring administrative staff and raters who had been using OSCAR to score the end-of-year NY State assessments.

Based on the positive impression members of the NYCDOE took away from the NY State scoring project, they decided it would be a worthwhile exercise to conduct a small pilot to assess the features and functionality of OSCAR for an in-house performance scoring project.

NYCDOE decided to use OSCAR to score the [NYC Examination for Languages Other Than English](#) (LOTE) assessment. They provided MZ Development with approximately 200 responses across two different assessment items. The responses had already been scored by an expert rater as part of a conventional scoring process (manually distributing student responses and hand-scored by paper and pencil). MZ Development uploaded scans of the responses to OSCAR and clipped the images so any scores that had been previously applied would be cropped from the view of the response within OSCAR - the clipping feature is unique to OSCAR.

NYCDOE used a group of trained, professional raters to provide a second score to the NYC LOTE responses, and the feedback from the raters was overwhelmingly positive.

Results

NYCDOE used this project to evaluate OSCAR for use on larger-scale assessment scoring projects in the future. Under consideration is a broader use of OSCAR to score other State and City programs (e.g., Chinese LOTE, High School Regents, etc.). Additionally, NYCDOE is seeking to integrate OSCAR with NYCDOE instance of [OAT's TAO open-source assessment platform](#) that would allow student responses to be transmitted directly into OSCAR for immediate availability for scoring and then transmit score data back into the NYC's student information system (ATS) for comprehensive score reporting. This integration will permit more accurate and faster score reporting than ever before.

More Information

About New York City Department of Education

The Assessment Design & Evaluation (ADE) team, located in the Office of Assessment, consists of assessment professionals, research scientists, and educators, including former classroom teachers, who work closely with assessment program sponsors to ensure assessments administered by the NYCDOE are of the highest quality. The ADE team serves as a valuable

resource for assessment design, development, scoring and technology in the service of promoting and information good teaching and learning in NYC public schools.

About MZ Development

[MZ Development](#) is a dynamic and flexible organization focused on a single mission: to build a platform that delivers the most efficient and accurate solutions for performance assessment scoring and reporting. We enable our clients by providing cutting-edge technology to make performance scoring and reporting a simple experience, with rich results, in a more efficient manner than ever before.

For more information, email contact@mzdevinc.com

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