**Asynchronous Oral Assessments**

Oral exams using VoiceThread

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**Educational challenge: Delivering oral assessments remotely**

In many disciplines, assessing students’ oral communication – including their ability to present, perform or converse – is paramount for addressing learning outcomes. When scaffolded well, oral assessments can enhance assessment practice and improve teachers’ assessment of students’ conceptual understanding. However, in fully online courses, it might not be workable for students to present in synchronous classes, due to large class sizes or concerns over academic integrity. Scheduling one-on-one appointments for students can also create scheduling and internet access issues.

**Solution: VoiceThread “Submit a Comment” oral exam**

VoiceThread can deliver oral assessments by allowing students to easily record and upload videos at a set time:

**Students** can...
- Upload an oral presentation, performance or verbal response using webcam to a stimuli
- Respond to each other in a comment thread to simulate a conversation
- Keep submissions private, open them to a group or make them open for all to see

**Instructors** can...
- Hide students’ submissions from their classmates for summative assessments
- Mark multiple students’ uploads in one sitting
- Set date/time and duration for students to record and upload their submissions

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**FAQ**

**What to do before the final oral exam?**
- Before the final exam, students should have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the platform and exam format through a Mock oral exam or formative assessments.

**How long should a VoiceThread exam be?**
- When replicating in-class oral assessment/ensuring assessment security, leave VoiceThread open for 1-2 hours. For other kinds of assessment, the VoiceThread can be pre-prepared and open to students over a longer period.

**What if students can’t access VoiceThread?**
- **Set up a OneDrive folder** for students to submit backup recordings to if needed. Link the folder to students from the VoiceThread activity description in Moodle. (Ensure the box marked *Show description on course page* is checked after setting up the activity.)
- Instruct students to record themselves as they complete the VoiceThread. If they have technical issues, they can submit their secondary recording to OneDrive to show exam completion. They can record using:
  - A phone or tablet
  - **QuickTime Player**

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**Student Support**

The instructor should be online during the VoiceThread exam and inform students how to get in touch (e.g. email, Teams) if they encounter issues. Anyone experiencing technical issues must screenshot **speed tests, power outage maps**, error message, screens not loading and/or information from internet provider regarding current issues (all screenshots must show date and time). Student(s) should contact instructor immediately before applying for **Special Consideration**.

For further support, please contact EDS through the **Education Solutions Consultation form**.

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**Templates/Guides**

Access these resources using these keys:
- Instructor: DES-Instructor
- Student: DES-Student
1. VoiceThread solution pack documents
2. Mock oral exam
3. **Feedback questionnaire** (can be used with the Mock exam to improve final exam instructions or format)

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**Technical Considerations**

- Users must have a working, forward-facing camera and internal microphone.
- Users must have Firefox or Chrome browser.