

# JISC

e-Administration

e-Assessment Glossary (Extended)



JISC



Qualifications and  
Curriculum Authority

E-Assessment is fundamental to delivering the DfES unified e-learning strategy. This glossary was commissioned by JISC and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) based on a review of all existing terminology. The glossary should be regarded as work in progress and suggestions for additions or alterations will be considered. If you wish to submit comments on the glossary or suggest additions or alterations for consideration please email: **[e-assessment@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:e-assessment@jiscmail.ac.uk)**

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For more information about JISCs work in the area please visit **[www.jisc.ac.uk/assessment](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/assessment)**

For more information about QCAs work in the area please visit **[www.qca.org.uk/eassessment](http://www.qca.org.uk/eassessment)**

## About the glossary project

This glossary has been developed for JISC and QCA on behalf of the UK education communities. The development of this glossary reflects JISC's strategic aims in that it will provide advice to institutions to enable them to make economic, efficient and legally compliant use of ICT, respecting the individual's and corporate rights and responsibilities, and help provide positive, personalised user learning experiences and aid student progression.

The glossary of terms is part of a wider programme of JISC activities designed to create a greater awareness amongst the JISC community of the characteristics, benefits and challenges of assessment delivered by ICT. The outputs of the e-assessment programme of activities are intended to foster the use of ICT in support of assessment in the post-16 and HE sectors and to support positive personalised learning experiences for students.

## The project sponsors

The glossary development was jointly funded by JISC and QCA.

JISC – the Joint Information Systems Committee ([www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)) – is a joint committee of the UK further and higher education funding bodies and is responsible for supporting the innovative use of information and communication technology (ICT) to support learning, teaching, and research. It is best known for providing the JANET network, a range of support, content and advisory services, and a portfolio of high-quality resources.

QCA ([www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)) is an English non-governmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). Its role includes the maintenance and development of the English Schools national curriculum and associated assessments, tests and examinations in England, and the regulation of publicly funded qualifications in further and continuing education.

## Authors

The glossary development was undertaken by 3Square Solutions on behalf of JISC ([www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)), with support from the AlphaPlus Consultancy. The two authors were Gavin Busuttil-Reynaud and John Winkley.

For the last 8 years, John has specialised in developing innovative systems for education and assessment, working with a range of public and private sector clients through the two companies he has helped to build: BTL Group Ltd and The Virtual College plc. He remains involved in these two businesses, including as a director for BTL Group Ltd (a supplier of e-learning and e-assessment technology) but now spends approximately half his time working with Government and its agencies on strategic developments through 3Square ([www.3sq.co.uk](http://www.3sq.co.uk)) with his colleague Gavin Reynaud.

Gavin joined 3Square in May 2004, having pursued a successful career in business development and engineering management with a variety of leading aerospace companies. He brings to the team strong project management skills developed on contracts for both public and private sector customers, and experience whilst employed at Astrium in extracting business value from major IT investments through process redesign, system integration, innovation and training. His work in e-assessment has included development of accessibility frameworks for public examinations.

## Contributors and reviewers

Approximately 250 individuals from the UK education community were consulted, of which approximately 45 responded with contributions to the glossary. We would therefore like to thank the following people:

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Robert Harding, OCR  
Robert Leach, Robcaro  
Simon Ball, Techdis  
Simon Grant, Independent contractor  
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QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary Courtesy of Alika Gupta, QCA

QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary Courtesy of Alika Gupta, QCA

QCA Regulatory Glossary Courtesy of Alika Gupta, QCA

SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms Courtesy of Christine Wood, SQA

Finally the authors would like to acknowledge the use of material from the following web sites;

Bloom Benjamin S. and David R. Krathwohl. Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: The Classification of Educational Goals, by a committee of college and university examiners.

Handbook I: Cognitive Domain. New York, Longmans, Green, 1956.

<http://assessment.cetis.ac.uk>

<http://developers.sun.com/dev/gadc/technicalpublications/articles/xliff.html>

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/glossary.asp>

[http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/building/desc\\_record.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/building/desc_record.asp)

[http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key\\_terms.pdf](http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key_terms.pdf)

<http://people.jmu.edu/yangsx/AlphaTerm.asp?FirstLetter=I>

<http://toeflpractice.ets.org/>

[http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Differential\\_item\\_functioning](http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Differential_item_functioning)

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/research/relval/com2a4.cfm>

[www.adlnet.org](http://www.adlnet.org)

[www.aicc.org/pages/aicc\\_faq.htm](http://www.aicc.org/pages/aicc_faq.htm)

[www.alt.ac.uk/altc2005/index.html](http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2005/index.html)

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[www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com)  
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[www.bbk.ac.uk/ccs/elearn/glossary.htm](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/ccs/elearn/glossary.htm)  
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[www.frema.ecs.soton.ac.uk/](http://www.frema.ecs.soton.ac.uk/)  
[www.geocities.com/Athens/2405/glossary.html](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2405/glossary.html)  
[www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&lr=&safe=off&oi=defmore&q=define:Andragogy](http://www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&lr=&safe=off&oi=defmore&q=define:Andragogy)  
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[www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/1995050.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/1995050.htm)  
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[www.rasch.org/rmt/rmt121r.htm](http://www.rasch.org/rmt/rmt121r.htm)  
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[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

# The scope of the glossary

In this glossary, e-assessment is defined as the end-to-end electronic assessment processes where ICT is used for the presentation of assessment activity and the recording of responses. This includes the end-to-end assessment process from the perspective of learners, tutors, learning establishments, awarding bodies and regulators, and the general public.

The audience for this work includes education professionals working across a number of sectors who may not have specialist knowledge of e-assessment but who would wish to be able to look up terms that they come across in their day-to-day work.

Note that in defining the scope education professionals are assumed to come from any sectors of UK education.

Based on the definition of e-assessment, the scope of the work includes:

- All of e-assessment including formative and summative areas
- All of assessment terminology (except those areas listed below)
- Parts of e-learning where the terminology can be used in an assessment context
- Common ICT terms which relate (even loosely) to e-assessment

But the work does not include terms which are:

- Very highly specialised from a particular field of (e)assessment (particularly areas such as statistical analysis, moderation processes, item banking) and where the term is not widely or consistently used.
- Terms which are not e-assessment specific, and for which the meaning is both in general use and either obvious or contentious (e.g. – “learning”)
- Specialist terms from the related fields of e-learning, ILT, and ICT which have no particular relevance to e-assessment.
- Areas from assessment which relate specifically to paper assessment

## Use of this glossary and Copyright Statement

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# A

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
.NET	A Microsoft Windows software technology which is part of Windows XP and available for some older versions. It allows software components to communicate across networks including the internet. It is the software that allows Windows to use web services. Many modern e-assessment delivery systems use .NET to communicate between components (e.g. the candidate's test computer communicating with the local server)	2	<a href="http://www.microsoft.com/Net/Basics.aspx">www.microsoft.com/Net/Basics.aspx</a>	Web Service Active Server Page
A Level	A qualification in England and Wales generally taken by students at age 18. Its full title is "General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level". A Level study usually consists of a two-year academic course and students will usually select two or three subjects from subjects studied at AS-levels (studied in the first year of the programme) to continue to A-level (called A2, in the second year of the programme).	4		GCSE OCR Edexcel AQA
A2 Level	See A Level	4		A Level
Ability Index	A norm-referenced (i.e. compared with their peers) measure of a learner's abilities in a field. More widely used in the USA.	3		Norm-Referenced Test Norm-Referenced Assessment
ACCAC	The Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales – Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru. ACCAC is the regulator for all sectors excluding HE in Wales. See <a href="http://www.accac.org.uk">www.accac.org.uk</a> .	4		Regulator, The

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Acceptance Criteria	The standard against which performance in an assessment is judged acceptable or otherwise (pass/fail, mastery/non-mastery).	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
Access Technology	ICT used by those with disabilities or special educational needs to access computer-based materials.	2	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Accessibility
Access Tool	Computer-based materials and software designed to provide or improve accessibility of computer based testing. <i>Note:</i> tools include aids to authors for evaluating accessibility or for adding in accessibility features to content, devices and programmes provided for the candidate to provide an alternative or augmented means of accessing on-screen assessments.	2		Alt Tag Disability Discrimination Accessibility
Accessibility	The extent to which a service can be used by people with disabilities or special access requirements. With reference to e-assessment, the accessibility of an e-assessment is the extent to which the e-assessment system (including the physical environment, test software itself, and the administration system) can be accessed, including by the student using special software access tools (such as Screen Readers, Screen Magnifiers, Braille readers and speech recognition software).	2		Usability Alt Tag Disability Discrimination Access Tool
Accommodation	A special arrangement made to an assessment instrument or its application to enable the candidate to demonstrate skills, knowledge and ability in their given subject areas in ways which are appropriate to their learning styles and study methods. For example, an accommodation for a student with poor vision might be an extra 10 minutes to complete the assessment, or access to a large print version of the assessment. <i>Note:</i> the term is falling out of use, and now tends to be replaced by “reasonable adjustment”.	4	<a href="http://my.sunderland.ac.uk/web/support/disability/resource_guide/academic">http://my.sunderland.ac.uk/web/support/disability/resource_guide/academic</a>	Accessibility Disapply Disapply
Accountability	The demand by a community (such as parents and pupils) for the awarding authorities (the awarding body, the regulator, government, et al) to prove that investment (in terms of time, money, society’s confidence, etc. in education) has led to a measured improvement in educational performance.	1	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	
Accreditation of Qualifications	The process by which the regulatory authorities confirm that a qualification and the associated specification conform to the regulatory criteria.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Regulator, The



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Achievement</b>	See Attainment.	4		
<b>Active Server Page</b>	<p>A web page that includes one or more small embedded programs that are processed on a Microsoft web server before the page is sent to the user. This allows the page to include more dynamic information – interaction, personalisation, and adaptation to the specific user’s requirements.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> ASP is similar to CGI in Unix-based systems. Many e-assessment administration systems (e.g. candidate registration) use ASP to customise data entry pages for users.</p>	2		CGI .NET
<b>Adaptive Feedback</b>	<p>Student feedback on an assessment item, given where the feedback is modified according to the student’s previous response (this modification of the feedback usually takes account of more than right/wrong in the student’s answer).selected/ provided was wrong.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> adaptive feedback aims to provide guidance on why the answer</p>	1		Feedback Adaptive Test
<b>Adaptive Test</b>	<p>A sequential test in which successive items in the test are presented based primarily on the properties and content of the items, and the participant’s response to previous items.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> adaptive tests are widely used for diagnostic purposes, allowing a more detailed exploration of strong and weak areas in a student’s knowledge within a given time for a test.</p>	1		Adaptive Feedback
<b>Additional Unit</b>	A unit that can be taken alongside a qualification, while not being required for achievement of the qualification.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Mandatory Unit Optional Unit Unit (Of A Qualification)
<b>Adjustments</b>	<p>Variations to examination administrative arrangements agreed in advance of an assessment to allow attainment to be demonstrated by candidates with either a permanent or temporary disability.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this term is falling out of use and now tends to be replaced by “reasonable adjustment”.</p>	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Accommodation Special Arrangement Special Arrangement

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
ADL	Advanced Distributed Learning. A global organisation based in the USA which develops and maintains the SCORM technical specifications for content interworking in elearning. <a href="http://www.adlnet.org">www.adlnet.org</a>	2	<a href="http://www.adlnet.org">www.adlnet.org</a>	IMS Shareable Content Object Reference Model AICC
Administration Terminal	A commonly used term in e-assessment systems. Any computer equipped with a web browser that will allow access to the web-based examination administration application by the examination administrator.	2	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line. An ICT hardware technology which allows a broadband permanently-connected internet service to be provided over a standard telephone landline.	2		Broadband DSL
Adult Literacies	See Basic Skills	4		
Advanced Higher	A Scottish qualification similar in level to A2 in England.	1		Higher A Level
Aegrotat Award	An award made to a candidate who is unable, through temporary illness, injury or indisposition to complete all the usual assessment requirements for a qualification.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Reasonable Adjustment
Affective	Aspects of education involving feelings more than understanding, for example: likes, pleasures, ideals, dislikes, annoyances, values.  <i>Note:</i> usually referred to as the 'affective domain'.	1	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	
Age Equivalent	Reflects an individual's performance in terms of the chronological age compared to people in a norm group. If, for example, an individual's age equivalent score is 7 years 3 months, his/her performance is similar to that of the average 7 yr. 3 mo. old in the norm group. An age scale has a limitation with subjects in their late teens or older because adaptive behaviors, other than those developed through personal interests or specific education, tend to "top out" among adults.  <i>Note:</i> mostly used in the USA.	1	<a href="http://www.cpinternet.com/~bhill/icap/glossary.htm">www.cpinternet.com/~bhill/icap/glossary.htm</a>	
Aggregation	The process of combining (by summation or another agreed procedure) the marks or other units of credit awarded through an assessment scheme.	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
AI	See Artificial Intelligence	2		
AICC	The Aviation Industry CBT Committee. An international association of technology-based training professionals which provides technology specifications for the development, delivery, and evaluation of e-learning (notably specifying how e-learning materials communicate with VLEs) in the aviation industry which have become used more widely in teaching and learning.	2	<a href="http://www.aicc.org/pages/aicc_faq.htm">www.aicc.org/pages/aicc_faq.htm</a> <a href="http://www.readygo.com/aicc/">www.readygo.com/aicc/</a>	Virtual Learning Environment Shareable Content Object Reference Model IMS
Alt Tag	The alternative text that a browser displays when a learner does not want to, or cannot see the pictures present in a web page or other on-screen content.  <i>Note:</i> alt tags are essential in making e-assessment content accessible for candidates with disabilities, but must be carefully considered to ensure that they do not unduly aid or hinder the user in answering the question. The text of an alt tag attached to an image usually appears when the mouse is hovered over the image.	2		Alt Text Disability Discrimination Accessibility
Alt Text	The alternative text held within an alt tag, displayed when a user is unable or unwilling to view graphics in a web page or other on-screen content.  <i>Note:</i> the text must be carefully considered to ensure that it gives equivalent information to the image it is describing, but does not unduly aid or hinder the user in answering the question.	2		Accessibility Alt Tag
Alt-C	The International Conference of the Association for Learning Technology. The conference covers e-learning and e-assessment interests within UK education, particularly HE. <a href="http://www.alt.ac.uk">www.alt.ac.uk</a> .	1	<a href="http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2005/index.html">www.alt.ac.uk/altc2005/index.html</a>	SETT BETT CAA E-Assessment Question, The
Alternate Forms	Two or more versions of a test that are considered interchangeable, in that they measure the same constructs in the same ways, are intended for the same purposes, and are administered using the same directions.  <i>Note:</i> this is important in on-demand testing where candidates sitting the tests at different times are offered different but equivalent/interchangeable tests.	1	<a href="http://www.fetaweb.com/06/glossary.assessment.htm">www.fetaweb.com/06/glossary.assessment.htm</a>	On-Demand Assessment Comparable Forms Equivalent Forms Parallel Forms

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Anchor Item</b>	<p>In objective tests, an item which is included in two or more tests (alternate forms) and has known characteristics. It can be used to form one section of a new version of a test in order to provide information about that test and the candidates who have taken it, e.g. to calibrate a new test to a measurement scale.</p> <p>In human-marked tests, a sample of student work that exemplifies a specific level of performance. Markers use anchors to score student work, usually comparing the student performance to the anchor.</p>	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Fat Anchor Alternate Forms
<b>Andragogy</b>	<p>The education of adults (as compared to pedagogy, the education of children).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> in practice, pedagogy is often used to describe adult learning, and andragogy is a much less commonly used term.</p>	1	<a href="http://www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&amp;lr=&amp;safe=off&amp;oi=defmore&amp;q=define:Andragogy">www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&amp;lr=&amp;safe=off&amp;oi=defmore&amp;q=define:Andragogy</a>  <a href="http://www.instructordiploma.com/documents/glossary.pdf">www.instructordiploma.com/documents/glossary.pdf</a>	Pedagogy
<b>Angoff</b>	<p>A technique used to set test pass scores in criterion-referenced minimum competence tests. It relies on one or more expert judges being asked to assess the probability that a “minimally competent” person would answer each item correctly. These estimates are aggregated to produce a pass mark for the test. Invented by William Angoff.</p>	3	<a href="http://www.kines.uiuc.edu/labwebpages/Kinesmetrics/Presentations/cut-off_03/web_pdf/cutoff_AAHPERD_03_final2.pdf">www.kines.uiuc.edu/labwebpages/Kinesmetrics/Presentations/cut-off_03/web_pdf/cutoff_AAHPERD_03_final2.pdf</a>	Ebel’s Method Modified Angoff Modified Angoff Minimum Competence Criterion-Referenced Assessment
<b>Answer Key</b>	<p>Rubric listing correct responses to test items. Usually used in multiple choice tests. This is related but not similar to a mark scheme, which includes much more detailed information about criteria and allocation of marks.</p>	1		Multiple Choice Question Type Key Mark Scheme
<b>API</b>	<p>See Application Programming Interface</p>	2		
<b>Appeal</b>	<p>A process through which an awarding body can be challenged on the outcome of an enquiry about results of an assessment or, where appropriate, other procedural decisions affecting a centre or candidate.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> it is anticipated that new forms of appeal will be increasingly required to meet the needs of appeals relating to on-screen assessments.</p>	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Applet</b>	<p>A computer program written in Java (a programming language suited to the web which allows the same program to run on different types of computer).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Some e-assessment delivery systems use Java to deliver the e-assessment on-screen to the candidate. Note also: applets run on web pages, and because applets are separate programmatic objects, they often do not work with accessibility aids, although features are becoming available in the Java language to permit this.</p>	2		ASP Java Application Flash
<b>Application</b>	<p>A computer program, or (increasingly commonly) a collection of computer programs which perform a coherent set of functions. For example, Microsoft Word is an "Application".</p>	2		Applet
<b>Application Of Number</b>	<p>One of a UK Key Skills set of qualifications which assesses the ability to deal with numbers or perform basic arithmetic.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> same as numerical literacy (the term more commonly used in the USA). Called numeracy in Scotland.</p>	4		Basic Skills Key Skills Functional Skills Numeracy
<b>Application Programming Interface</b>	<p>The way that one computer program makes its functionality available to another computer program. For example, a test-marking program might use an API to request the correct marking key from the item bank program.</p>	2	<a href="http://www.sidetrips.com/support/glossary_a_l.asp">www.sidetrips.com/support/glossary_a_l.asp</a>	Item Bank Key
<b>Application Service Provider</b>	<p>An organisation that supplies its computer programs and services over the internet which would otherwise have to be located on servers within the customer company.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> in e-assessment terms, an ASP service would allow an organisation to use a remote web-based system, paying fees on a usage basis rather than purchasing the software licence and installing it within the organisation.</p>	2	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	
<b>Applied GCE/GCSE</b>	<p>A qualification where the specification requires candidates to develop and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of a subject within a particular, often work- related context.</p>	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	GNVQ SVQ NVQ GCSE

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Aptitude Test</b>	An assessment intended to measure a candidate's existing or innate ability in an area, given before receiving instruction in that area.	1	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	
<b>AQA</b>	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance. One of the UK's largest awarding bodies, formed from the merger of Associated Examining Board (AEB) and the Northern Examinations and Assessment Board (NEAB) in 2000. AQA provides a range of qualifications including GCSE, A level, GNVQ, VCE and Entry Level. <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> .	4	<a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>	Qualification and Curriculum Authority City And Guilds OCR Edexcel
<b>Artificial Intelligence</b>	A branch of computer science that studies how to endow computers with the capabilities of human intelligence. Also, a computer programme which exhibits human-like intelligences. <i>Note:</i> important to e-assessment because some assessments of higher level capabilities require intelligent assessment judgements to be made about the candidates' work.	2	<a href="http://www.ukorbit.com/computer-glossary.htm">www.ukorbit.com/computer-glossary.htm</a>	
<b>AS Level</b>	See A Level	4		
<b>ASCII</b>	American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A set of numeric codes that represent all the normal characters one would find on a computer keyboard.  <i>Note:</i> text saved in ASCII (.txt) format can be read by most computer applications on most platforms.  <i>Note also:</i> like Unicode, only with a much more limited range of characters, generally not including non-English characters.	2	<a href="http://www.ukorbit.com/computer-glossary.htm">www.ukorbit.com/computer-glossary.htm</a>	UNICODE
<b>ASP</b>	See Active Server Pages, and Application Service Provider	2		Application Service Provider
<b>Assessment</b>	The instrument (e.g. on-screen examination) used to arrive at such an evaluation. The process of evidencing and evaluating the extent to which a candidate has met or made progress towards the assessment criteria.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	E-Assessment Test Portfolio Summative Assessment Formative Assessment
<b>Assessment Centre</b>	See Centre	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Assessment Component	See Assessment Instrument	4		
Assessment Criteria	What the learner is expected to do during the assessment in order to demonstrate that a learning outcome has been achieved, whether that is for formative purposes or for defining the outcomes required for a qualification, unit or part of a unit.	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Test Specification
Assessment Delivery System	A combination of software, hardware and communications components, as well as human processes that manage the end-to-end process of administering e-assessments.  <i>Note:</i> this includes delivering the test package to centres, supporting the examination administration functions, delivering the on-screen assessment to the candidate, recovering their responses to the awarding body and managing the marking processes including presenting on-screen responses to markers, and delivering results to the centre or candidate. It generally does not include the writing and on-screen production of the test package.	1		Test Package Assessment Engine Test Player Security (Technical) Test Driver
Assessment Distributor	See Awarding Body.  <i>Note:</i> an American term.	1		
Assessment Engine	The software application that delivers an electronic test on a computer. The engine usually consists of generic components (such as a web server) and proprietary software (such as a specific e-assessment program). An e-assessment system consists of an engine and an item bank.	2	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Test Driver Test Player Assessment Delivery System
Assessment For Learning	The process of seeking and interpreting evidence of a learner's performance for use by learners and their teachers to identify where the learners are in their learning, where their next learning goals are, and what to do next to achieve them. Term invented by William and Black ISBN 1871984394.	4		Formative Assessment Summative Assessment
Assessment Form	See Alternate Form	1		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Assessment In Education: Principles, Policy &amp; Practice Journal</b>	A quarterly research journal dealing with the growing research output on assessment, including e-assessment. <a href="http://www.routledge.co.uk">www.routledge.co.uk</a> ISSN Print 0969-594X	1	<a href="http://www.routledge.co.uk">www.routledge.co.uk</a>	International Association of Educational Assessment
<b>Assessment Instrument</b>	The assessment to be used in a specific context. For example, the assessment instrument for a GCSE Mathematics qualification might be a 2 hour externally-marked examination.  <i>Note:</i> an individual qualification may require several different assessment instruments to be used for the various qualification units.	1		Unit (Of A Qualification) Qualification
<b>Assessment Literacy</b>	The possession of knowledge about the basic principles of sound assessment practice, including terminology, the development and use of assessment methodologies and techniques, familiarity with standards of quality in assessment. Increasingly, familiarity with alternatives to traditional measurements of learning.	1	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	
<b>Assessment Medium</b>	Collective term to cover the different media, including on-paper, electronic, verbal, etc., that the candidate uses to undertake the assessment.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	On-Paper Assessment On-Screen Assessment Assessment Instrument
<b>Assessment Objective</b>	A single unit of knowledge, skills or understanding that a test is designed to assess in a candidate, usually set in the context of the programme of study and as part of the test specification.	4		Test Specification Programme Of Study Learning Objective
<b>Assessment Session</b>	The time period, within an agreed assessment window, designated by a centre for the delivery of an on-demand assessment. When assessments are provided on-demand, centres have the authority to decide when, within an assessment window agreed with the awarding body, individual assessment sessions are timetabled.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	On-Demand Assessment Assessment Window
<b>Assessment Specification</b>	A description of the detailed methods, processes, tasks and criteria to be used to assess a learning objective (or set of objectives making up a qualification or Unit).	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary  The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Assessment Criteria Qualification Unit (Of A Qualification) Learning Objective
<b>Assessment Sponsor</b>	See Test Sponsor	1		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Assessment Window</b>	<p>See Test Window</p> <p>A fixed period of time during which an assessment (usually a summative assessment) can take place at any time.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> assessment windows offer a practical compromise between truly on-demand assessment and assessments provided at a single time on a particular day, so as to allow centres and candidates some flexibility in when the examination is taken.</p>	1		<p>Assessment Session</p> <p>On-Demand Assessment</p> <p>On-Demand Assessment</p>
<b>Assessor</b>	The person who assesses a candidate's work.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	<p>External Verifier</p> <p>Internal Moderator</p>
<b>Assistive Technology</b>	See Access Technology	2		Access Technology
<b>Asymmetric</b>	<p>Not having identical characteristics in each of its traits.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> domestic and some school broadband internet connections are asymmetric, meaning that the bandwidth is significantly greater in the outward path (sending data from the internet to the client PC) than in the return path. This can be important in planning deployment of e-assessment systems.</p>	2		Bandwidth
<b>Asynchronous Learning</b>	<p>Learning characterised by the participants being engaged at different times usually to suit their individual schedules. Examples are email, discussion groups, and self-paced courses delivered via Internet or CD-ROM.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> the asynchronous format has been in existence for some time; however, new research and strategies suggest that this approach can enable learners to increase knowledge and skills through self-paced and self-directed modules completed when the learner is prepared and motivated to learn.</p>	1	<p><a href="http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2405/glossary.html">www.geocities.com/Athens/2405/glossary.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a></p>	E-Learning Pedagogy
<b>Atomic Evidence</b>	The smallest captured action or evidence recorded of an activity carried out by a student during an assessment.	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Holistic Assessment
<b>Attainment</b>	Attainment is a measure of students' performance in a subject. For example the National Curriculum uses levels 1 to 8 and EP to describe pupil's attainment.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Authentication</b>	<p>In e-assessment, authentication is increasingly used to describe the function of specialised software to authenticate the identity of a user at a computer terminal, and to pass this data between operating systems. Confirmation by an awarding body from its records that a candidate was awarded a qualification that he or she claims to have been awarded.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this is typically in the form of a statement by a candidate's tutor; employer; etc., but may increasingly include questioning, supervised assessment and biometric identification.</p> <p>Confirmation that the work has been produced by the candidate who is putting it forward for assessment, and, where applicable, that it has been produced under the required conditions.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> some qualifications also require the candidate to make a statement of authenticity. Where work is part of a collaborative effort, authentication may also state the candidate's role in the work.</p>	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Authenticator</b>	<p>A one-time password used by its owner to authorise access to a system service (for example, to access an e-assessment).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> mainly used in the USA.</p>	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
<b>Authenticity</b>	<p>The extent to which a test genuinely assesses the learning objectives, usually from the subjective view point of an observer such as the test's candidates or the general public.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> largely the same as face validity, but used more widely where formal numerical methods are not used to measure the test's performance.</p>	1		Validity Content Validity Face Validity
<b>Author</b>	<p>The writer of an item or test. In an e-assessment context, this is the subject matter expert (SME) rather than the technologist who produces the question in its on-screen format. Identical to the term "setter" used in Scotland. Note in the public examination system, an examiner is also an author.</p>	1		Authoring Tool Setter Editor Producer Subject Matter Expert Examiner

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Authoring System	See Authoring Tool	1		Learning Content Management System Content Management System Authoring Tool
Authoring Tool	Software used to create items and tests for e-assessment.  <i>Note:</i> the term is used more widely to cover tools used for creating any content for delivery on-screen (e.g. e-learning, general web pages, etc.).	1		Learning Content Management System Content Management System
Automated Language Analysis	An electronic process by which candidates' responses to essay-style questions (typed rather than handwritten) are analysed and marked electronically.  <i>Note:</i> automated language analysis generally refers to the marking of longer answers (i.e. longer phrases, sentences, paragraphs or even essays), not words or short phrases (which can be marked by much simpler key word matching). Automated language analysis is a developing field – it requires complex applications of natural language processing (NLP). The interest in Automated Language Analysis is in reducing human marking which is a major cost and time element in public examinations (particularly in the UK).	2		Artificial Intelligence Free Text Marking Natural Language Processing Essay Style Question Type
Automated Test	The electronic process by which a test instance is generated from a bank of items (according to a selection algorithm which involves rules and randomisation).  <i>Note:</i> this is widely used in on-demand e-assessment settings where the candidates do not all take the test at the same time, hence a variety of tests are required (to avoid the effects of test exposure) but where known comparability is required between the tests so that fair results can be given. It has historically been used mainly for multiple choice tests.	1		Test Instance Item Bank Randomisation Comparable Forms Parallel Forms Equivalent Forms Alternate Forms Comparability

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Awarding</b>	<p>The process through which candidate's results and/or grades are determined on the basis of available evidence.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> prior to the introduction of on-demand assessment, awarding was more commonly a post hoc process whereas many on-demand e-assessment units are now awarded using pre-set pass marks.</p>	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Certification Awarding Body
<b>Awarding Body</b>	<p>An organisation or consortium that awards qualifications. To be eligible to award accredited qualifications in the non-HE sectors, awarding bodies must meet the requirements of the regulatory authorities.</p> <p>In HE the awarding body is usually the same institution that delivers the programme of study, and the regulatory authorities include a wide range of organisations such as the professional bodies for each discipline. Subject benchmarking, followed by external peer review, is the most significant process of regulation.</p>	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Certification Awarding Awarding



# B

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Bandwidth</b>	<p>The rate of data transfer that a data connection can support, expressed in Megabits/second or Mbps for short.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this is important in e-assessment because as tests and candidate responses become more sophisticated (e.g. with innovative items) then the bandwidth requirements for an assessment infrastructure increase.</p>	2		Bits Per Second Bit Broadband Asymmetric
<b>Basic Skills</b>	<p>A term used in the UK to describe the ability to read, write and speak in English and use mathematics at a level necessary to function and progress at work and in society in general. Basic Skills are widely assessed using e-assessment in England and Northern Ireland. The term Basic Skills or, latterly, Skills for Life, is subsumed with Key Skills in Functional Skills. Basic Skills are called Adult Literacies in Scotland (and cover literacy, numeracy, decision making and problem solving in contextualised learning).</p>	4		Functional Skills Skills for Life Key Skills
<b>BECTA</b>	See British Educational Technologies Agency	1		
<b>Behaviourally Anchored Rating Scale</b>	A scale of ratings of qualitative performance, e.g. 'Good, Above Average, Average, etc.'	3		Lykert Scale
<b>Benchmark</b>	An actual measurement of group performance against an established standard at defined points along the path toward the standard. Subsequent measurements of group performance use the benchmarks to measure progress toward achievement.	3	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>BESA</b>	See British Educational Software Association	1		
<b>BETT</b>	A major UK educational ICT/ILT exhibition, with approximately 600 exhibitors and 27,000 visitors. The exhibition is held in London in January of each year.  <i>Note:</i> although an acronym, it is the only term in common use for the show.	1	<a href="http://www.bettshow.co.uk">www.bettshow.co.uk</a>	SETT E-Assessment Question, The CAA Loughborough
<b>Bias</b>	In general, any factor that distorts the true nature of an event or observation. In assessment, a systematic error in a an assessment instrument (usually evidenced in the scores that candidates achieve) and can often be a source of invalidity.	3		Systematic Error
<b>Biserial Correlation</b>	The extent of agreement between two measures, one of which is scored dichotomously (i.e. right/wrong) and the other is scored continuously.  <i>Note:</i> the extent of agreement between a test item and the total test score could be expressed as a biserial correlation.	3		
<b>Bit</b>	The smallest unit of computer data (8 bits in a byte, a byte represents a single character). Used as part of bandwidth measurement.	2		Bits Per Second Bandwidth
<b>Bits Per Second</b>	The standard measurement of bandwidth.	2		Bandwidth Bit
<b>Blank Fill Question Type</b>	See Gap Fill Question Type	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Gap Fill Question Type
<b>Blended Assessment</b>	An assessment regime which combines traditional (paper-based) assessment and electronic (digital) assessment.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Blended Learning
<b>Blended Learning</b>	The inclusion of multiple approaches to teaching and learning within a programme. Most commonly today, it refers to combining e-learning (for example for covering theory) with face-to-face training (for practical implementation).  <i>Note:</i> a widely used term with a large variation in usage.	1	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	Blended Assessment E-Learning

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Bloom's Taxonomy</b>	A six level classification system for categorizing level of abstraction of questions that occur in educational settings with each subsequent level of abstraction being a higher level of difficulty to master. The definitions were created by a committee of educational psychologists headed by Benjamin Bloom.	4	Bloom Benjamin S. and David R. Krathwohl. Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: The Classification of Educational Goals, by a committee of college and university examiners. Handbook I: Cognitive Domain. New York, Longmans, Green, 1956.	
<b>Boolean Information</b>	Information consisting of one of only two types – true or false, right or wrong, 1 or 0, etc. Boolean searches of databases use Boolean functions such as AND, NOT, NOR to undertake complex searches of data.  <i>Note:</i> sometimes true/false assessment questions are referred to as Boolean. The term originates from the George Boole, an English mathematician in the 19th Century.	2	<a href="http://www.answers.com">www.answers.com</a> <a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	
<b>Braille Display</b>	A tactile device which enables the learner to read the contents of a computer screen, by touch in Braille. They are also known as Paperless, Soft or Refreshable Braille displays and vary in size from 20 to 80 Braille cells. Each cell has 6 or 8 pins made of metal or nylon, which are electronically controlled to move up and down, to display a Braille version of characters that appear on the computer screen. When used in conjunction with a screen reader a Braille display also gives the user access to alt text.	2		Accessibility Access Technology Alt Text Alt Tag Screen Reader Braille Reader
<b>Braille Reader</b>	A combination of software and a Braille display that enables a learner to view information from a computer and alt text using Braille.	2		Accessibility Access Technology Alt Text Alt Tag Braille Display
<b>British Educational Communications and Technology Agency</b>	A UK government agency which supports all four UK nation's education departments in their strategic ICT developments. <a href="http://www.becta.org.uk">www.becta.org.uk</a>	1	<a href="http://www.becta.org.uk/">www.becta.org.uk/</a>	Learning and Teaching Scotland

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>British Educational Suppliers Association</b>	A UK industry membership organisation providing support for UK suppliers to the education industry. <a href="http://www.besa.org.uk">www.besa.org.uk</a> .	1		
<b>British Standards Institution</b>	The UK organisation for national and international standards. The organisation which produced BS7988: Code of practice for the use of information technology (IT) in the delivery of assessments (2002). This code (being revised in 2005) has a particular focus on the practical aspect of delivering high-stakes summative assessment and advises on issues such as the layout of computers and security procedures.	2	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	BS7988
<b>Broadband</b>	A type of internet connection characterised by relatively high bandwidth compared to a modem and by its permanently connected nature.	2		Bits Per Second Bandwidth
<b>Browser</b>	A software application that enables users to display and interact with HTML documents (or “web pages”) hosted by web servers or held on a file system. The most widely used (web) browser is Microsoft Internet Explorer but there are others such as Mozilla, Netscape Navigator, Opera, and Firefox which are also popular in some organisations.  <i>Note:</i> many e-assessment software applications deliver tests to students via a browser, which is a popular approach as it reduces the time and effort required to set up a student machine to access the test, given that all modern computer systems have a browser available by default.	2	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	URL HTML HTTP
<b>BS7988</b>	The British Standard for the use of information technology in computer-aided examinations. The first draft was published in 2002. It is aimed at a wide audience of both exam providers and exam centres and includes performance criteria and codes of practice.	1		British Standards Institution
<b>BSI</b>	See British Standards Institution	1		

# C

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
C&G	See City and Guilds	4		
CAA	See Computer-Assisted Assessment	1		
CAA Loughborough	An annual UK conference on CAA run in July. <a href="http://www.caaconference.com">www.caaconference.com</a> .	1		SETT BETT International Association of Educational Assessment E-Assessment Question, The
Cambridge Assessment	Cambridge Assessment is a large UK assessment agency comprising three awarding bodies: OCR, who provide GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications, Cambridge ESOL, who provide qualifications in English for speakers of other languages, and Cambridge International Examinations.  Until 2005, Cambridge Assessment was known as UCLES, the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. <a href="http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk">www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk</a> .	4	<a href="http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk">www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk</a>	OCR AQA Edexcel
Candidate	A person who is registered with an awarding body for a qualification or unit.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Candidature
Candidature	Candidates (or the number of candidates) sitting a particular test on a particular occasion.	4		Candidate

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Capture Of Responses</b>	<p>The process by which a candidate's responses are captured for marking and awarding.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> as e-assessment systems do not produce hard copies of candidates' responses and/or the marks awarded during e-marking, special arrangements are required to ensure that candidates' responses and results are not lost or corrupted during capture.</p>	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
<b>CAS</b>	See Computer Algebra System	1		Computer Algebra System
<b>Cascading Style Sheet</b>	A W3C standard to define style attributes for HTML pages. This allows authors to separate style from content, and easily apply a consistent style to multiple pages. More than one style template may be applied to a web page, hence the use of the word cascading. Usually referred to by the CSS acronym.	2		XML XSL HTML W3C
<b>CAT</b>	See Computer Adaptive Testing	1		Computer Adaptive Testing
<b>CBA</b>	See Computer-Based Assessment	1		Computer-Based Assessment
<b>CBDS</b>	See Common Basic Data Set	4		Common Basic Data Set
<b>CBT</b>	See Computer-Based Training	1		Computer Based Training
<b>CCEA</b>	Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (Northern Ireland). This organisation operates public examinations in Northern Ireland and is also the regulator for curriculum and qualifications in Northern Ireland. <a href="http://www.ccea.org.uk">www.ccea.org.uk</a> .	4		Regulator, The Qualification and Curriculum Authority Scottish Qualifications Authority ACCAC
<b>Ceiling Effect</b>	<p>Occurs when a score distribution is skewed so that a large proportion of candidates score at the highest level on the measure.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> when a ceiling effect occurs, the assessment cannot detect performances above the ceiling and so cannot discriminate between candidates scoring at the highest level.</p>	3		Headroom



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Centre</b>	An organisation or consortium accountable to an awarding body for the assessment arrangements leading to a qualification or units. A centre could, for instance, be an educational institution, training provider or employer, and it may operate across more than one organisation or site.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Centre Registration Centre Approval Centre Approval
<b>Centre Approval</b>	The process by which a centre wishing to offer particular qualifications is confirmed as being able to maintain the required quality and consistency of assessment and comply with other expectations of the awarding body.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Centre Registration Centre
<b>Centre For Educational Technology Interoperability Standards</b>	The UK observatory for technical interoperability standards for e-learning which includes e-assessment, most commonly referred to as CETIS.  <i>Note:</i> CETIS provides a number of services to UK HE and FE including managing the e-assessment SIG. <a href="http://www.cetis.ac.uk">www.cetis.ac.uk</a> .	2		QTI V2 Shareable Content Object Reference Model IMS E-Assessment SIG
<b>Centre For Recording Achievement</b>	A UK national network organisation seeking to promote the awareness of recording achievement and action planning processes as an important element in improving learning and progression throughout the world of education, training and employment.  <i>Note:</i> the CRA is undertaking work in the area of e-portfolios. <a href="http://www.recordingachievement.org/">www.recordingachievement.org/</a> .	1	<a href="http://www.recordingachievement.org/">www.recordingachievement.org/</a>	E-Portfolio Portfolio
<b>Centre Registration</b>	The process by which a centre wishing to offer particular qualifications is recorded as having committed itself to maintain the required quality and consistency of assessment and to comply with other expectations of the awarding body.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Centre Approval Centre
<b>Certificate</b>	The record of attainment in a unit or qualification issued by an awarding body.	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Awarding Body
<b>Certificated Pilot</b>	See Live Pilot.	1		
<b>Certification</b>	The process by which a learner successfully completes a prescribed assessment and is awarded a certificate.	1		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>CETIS</b>	See Centre For Educational Technology Interoperability Standards	2		Centre For Educational Technology Interoperability Standards
<b>CGI</b>	See Common Gateway Interface.	2	<a href="http://www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&amp;safe=off&amp;q=define%3ACGI&amp;meta=">www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&amp;safe=off&amp;q=define%3ACGI&amp;meta=</a>	common gateway interface ASP .NET
<b>Chat Room</b>	An online forum (internet or intranet based) where learners can communicate in real time by posting text to a common display page.  <i>Note:</i> similar to (and often confused with) a discussion group or news group, where the communication is not in real time.	2		News Group Discussion Group
<b>Cheating</b>	Deliberately seeking to obtain an unfair result for an assessment.	4		Bias Plagiarism
<b>Checkbox</b>	On-screen response button to select multiple answer options in a multiple response question.  <i>Note:</i> sometimes confused with radio button.	2		Multiple Match Question Type Multiple Choice Question Type Multiple Response Question Type Radio Button
<b>Chief Examiner</b>	The individual within an organisation who is responsible for ensuring that the administration of an assessment or qualification meets the requirements of the specification for that assessment or qualification. This includes the setting, marking and moderation of the assessment.  <i>Note:</i> in Scotland, the Chief Examiner is called the Principal Assessor.	4		Examiner
<b>City And Guilds</b>	A major UK awarding body for vocational qualifications. <a href="http://www.cityandguilds.org.uk">www.cityandguilds.org.uk</a>	4		OCR Edexcel Awarding Body

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Classical Test Theory</b>	<p>Used for statistically measuring and managing test and item performance data. CTT comprises a set of traditional psychometric methods such as total score, point-biserial and biserial correlations, item discrimination as item-total score correlation, item difficulty as proportion correct (facility value), and Cronbach's <math>\alpha</math>, in contrast to item response theory.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> used widely in the UK's public examination system (in contrast to the USA where LTT is more commonly used).</p>	3	<a href="http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key_terms.pdf">http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key_terms.pdf</a>	Facility Value Discrimination Index Item Response Theory Latent Trait Theory Cronbach's Alpha
<b>Clerical Marking</b>	<p>A method of marking in which markers do not need to exercise any special expertise or subjective judgement. They mark by following a mark scheme which specifies all acceptable responses to each test item.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Clerical marking can therefore only work successfully if the candidates' range of possible responses are very closed.</p>	1	<a href="http://www.alte.org/glossary/index.cfm">www.alte.org/glossary/index.cfm</a>	
<b>Client Computer</b>	See Client PC	2		Client PC
<b>Client Machine</b>	See Client PC	2		Client PC
<b>Client PC</b>	<p>Within a network of computers, the Client PC is the computer that the end user or recipient of the service/application uses (in contrast to the server which delivers the service, files or application).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> in an e-assessment setting, the Client PC is the computer on which the student sits the test. The term PC often includes any suitable personal computer (not necessarily just a Windows/x86 computer).</p>	2		Server
<b>Clock Function</b>	An on-screen function that reports the remaining (or elapsed) time for an assessment.	2	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
<b>Cloning</b>	The manual or automatic process of creating several different questions from a single original question by varying some elements of the question, such that the authors can be confident that the questions created will have comparable (although probably not identical) educational performance.	1		Parameterised Item Type Comparability

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Closed Question Type</b>	<p>A question in which the range of possible responses that the student can give is limited (for example a multiple choice question).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> some closed questions have rather more possible responses (e.g. A Multiple Response item with 8 distractors) and are still considered closed. However a text gap fill question with a 5 letter answer where there is a theoretical but very large maximum number of possible responses would not be considered closed. Almost all closed questions are objective.</p>	1		Gap Fill Question Type Multiple Response Question Type Multiple Choice Question Type Objective Question Open (ended) question
<b>Closed Task</b>	A task with an expected process and outcome.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Closed Question Type
<b>CLOZE Question Type</b>	<p>A test item type where words are deleted from a piece of text and the student must fill in the blanks with the appropriate word(s).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> word entry may be free text or “drag and drop” from available words.</p>	1		Gap Fill Question Type Drag-And-Drop Question Type
<b>Cluster</b>	See Scenario	1		
<b>CMI</b>	See Computer-Managed Instruction	2		Computer Managed Instruction
<b>CMS</b>	See Content Management System	2		Content Management System
<b>Coaching</b>	<p>Teaching provided shortly prior to an assessment solely for the purposes of improving the candidates achievement in the assessment. Coaching typically includes simple practice, instruction on test-taking strategies, advice on “cramming”, and so forth.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> coaching is generally categorised as subversive and not supporting the wider aims of the learning programme.</p>	4		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Code Of Practice</b>	Principles and practices which define a required standard of activity.  <i>Note:</i> in the non-HE sectors of education, these are specified by the regulatory authorities against which, for example, awarding body processes and procedures for the assessing and awarding of particular qualification types are designed and evaluated.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Regulator, The
<b>Coefficient Alpha</b>	A statistical term that describes the reliability or internal consistency of an assessment, used to measure how well individual items perform as a whole test.  Also known as Cronbach's alpha.	3		KR20 Cronbach's Alpha Classical Test Theory Item Response Theory Internal Consistency
<b>Cognitive</b>	A widely used term within the field of psychology, relating to the mental processes involved with learning and understanding information, including aspects such as awareness, perception, reasoning, and judgment. In e-assessment cognitive outcomes mean any of: the ability to perceive, think, learn, remember, make judgements, use intuition, and synthesise information.  <i>Note:</i> normally referred to as 'Cognitive Domain'.	1	<a href="http://www.csdb.org/chip/resrc_definitions.html">www.csdb.org/chip/resrc_definitions.html</a>  <a href="http://www.dictionary.com">www.dictionary.com</a>	
<b>Cognitive Workload</b>	The amount of mental effort a candidate expends during a test. An estimation or measurement of cognitive workload of a test or parts of a test can effect how the test is structured in terms of length and sequence.	1		Cognitive
<b>Cohort</b>	A group of candidates (for example a class or year group in a school) whose progress is followed by means of measurements at different points in time, or who sit an examination at the same time.	4	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	Candidature
<b>Collaborative Learning</b>	Learning activities where the learning tasks require the learner to interact with their peers in order to achieve the learning outcomes.  <i>Note:</i> also called group learning.	1		E-Learning Peer Assessment

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Common Basic Data Set</b>	Provides a standard for data used in school, education authority, DfES and other software systems for management information. It allows data to be transferred between different systems in different institutions (for example when a pupil moves from primary to secondary school). CBDS (the more commonly used term) is a set of data definitions or a data dictionary and not a list of data that should be held by schools.	4	<a href="http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/tools/ims/cbds/">www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/tools/ims/cbds/</a>  QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Electronic Data
<b>Common Gateway Interface</b>	A standard way for a Unix web server to pass a web user's request to an application program and to receive data back to forward to the user.  For example, when a candidate fills out a registration form on a web page in the e-assessment delivery system and submits it to the server, it usually needs to be processed by an application program. The web server typically passes the form information to a small application program that processes the data. This method or convention for passing data back and forth between the server and the application is called the common gateway interface.	2	<a href="http://www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&amp;safe=off&amp;q=define%3ACGI&amp;meta=">www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&amp;safe=off&amp;q=define%3ACGI&amp;meta=</a>	ASP .NET .NET CGI
<b>Communication</b>	Part of the Key Skills suite of qualifications in the UK (excluding Scotland, where the suite is called Core Skills). It includes speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and is designed to cover the functional skills required for everyday life and work.  <i>Note:</i> the qualification is currently achieved via a two part assessment – a timed test and a portfolio. The timed test is widely delivered using e-assessment.	1		Core Skills Key Skills National Qualifications Framework
<b>Comparability</b>	The extent to which different assessment instruments or marking processes, based on the same criteria and specification, achieve equivalent results. Assessments can be said to be comparable (or not) with respect to the different students being assessed, the assessment centres, the awarding bodies, the delivery media and so on.  <i>Note:</i> In an e-assessment context, comparability can also refer to the extent to which performance in an on-screen test matches performance in an on-paper test.	4		Reliability Differential Item Functioning DRIFT



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Comparable Forms</b>	Equivalent forms that are highly similar in content but where the degree of statistical similarity has not been demonstrated so that equivalence cannot be proved.	3		Parallel Forms Equivalent Forms Alternate Forms
<b>Competence</b>	The ability to carry out activities to the standard required.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Competency-Based Assessment</b>	An assessment process based on the collection of evidence on which judgements are made concerning progress towards satisfaction of fixed performance criteria.  <i>Note:</i> the competency-based assessment of an individual takes no account of the performance of others in the wider group being assessed (as is the case in norm-referenced assessment), and can be limited to a pass/fail grading (also called mastery/non-mastery).	4		Norm-Referenced Assessment
<b>Compliance</b>	Operating in the way defined by a standard.	2	<a href="http://www.cetis.ac.uk">www.cetis.ac.uk</a>	Conformance
<b>Component Of An Assessment Item</b>	Term used in on-screen assessment for an individual part of an item, for example, part (a) of a question with three parts.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Item
<b>Compression</b>	In the context of digital media, the use of coding algorithms to store or deliver information using fewer bits of data to reduce both storage and bandwidth requirements for transmitting the data.  <i>Note:</i> the standards used typically depend on the nature of the data to be compressed and on whether the information must be accessible in real time. Real time compression standards include TIFF or JPEG for still pictures, MPEG for video and MP3 for audio. Archive compression standards include ZIP and TAR files.	2		ZIP MPEG Bit
<b>Computer Adaptive Test</b>	See Adaptive Test.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Adaptive Test

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Computer Algebra System</b>	<p>A software package used for the manipulation of mathematical formulae, which automates tedious and sometimes difficult algebraic manipulation tasks.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> systems vary and may include facilities for graphing equations or provide a programming language for the user to define their own procedures. In an e-assessment setting, CAS may be used by students to enter their responses, and/or by the assessment system to evaluate student responses.</p>	1	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	Mathematical Question Type
<b>Computer Based Training</b>	<p>A term from the 1980s describing learning which is mediated by a computer (typically a stand-alone computer).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> the modern term 'e-learning' differs in that there is an expectation with e-learning that more of modern computing's capabilities (rich media, interactivity, etc.) will be used, as well as the computer's connection to internal networks and the internet.</p>	1		E-Learning
<b>Computer Managed Instruction</b>	<p>A computer based management system to provide a learner with a managed programme of learning.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> the Computer Managed Instruction (CMI) system will typically store a definition of learning needs, the available teaching material, assessment material and information on the students progress against the defined learning aims. A CMI system should provide interoperability with multiple CBT material providers.</p>	2		Computer Based Training
<b>Computer-Aided Assessment</b>	See Computer-Assisted Assessment	1		
<b>Computer-Assisted Assessment</b>	Assessment which makes use of ICT in the assessment process. Broadly synonymous with e-assessment.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Computer Based Training Computer-Based Assessment E-Assessment
<b>Computer-Based Assessment</b>	<p>See Computer-Assisted Assessment.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> a term that to some extent is passing out of modern usage, replaced by CAA and e-assessment, in the same way as CBT (computer-based training) is being replaced by e-learning.</p>	1		Computer-Assisted Assessment E-Assessment

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Concept Map</b>	<p>The structuring of ideas and information in a domain using a visual layout highlighting connections between associated ideas, revealing the structural pattern of the ideas and information.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> concept maps can be used in assessments to rapidly (in terms of time taken during the test, and marking time) assess the candidate's structural understanding of the domain. Concept maps are often used by learners with language difficulties to express their understanding.</p>	1		
<b>Concurrent Validity</b>	The extent to which a particular test yields the same results as other measures of the same trait administered at about the same time (in contrast with predictive validity). In assessment terms, the extent to which the scores of two different tests are in agreement, for example a known valid test with a new test under trial, or comparing the scores with those of known masters.	3		Validity Predictive Validity
<b>Condition Of Accreditation</b>	Requirements which awarding bodies (and other organisations which are accredited) must meet, with deadlines, relating to non-compliance with criteria, which, although important, are not deemed sufficiently serious to delay an accreditation decision. Conditions may be imposed at the accreditation stage or after initial accreditation if this is deemed to be in the interests of the learner.	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Accreditation of Qualifications
<b>Confidence Rating</b>	The extent to which a candidate believes their answer to a question is correct.	1		
<b>Conformance</b>	The ability to operate in the way defined by a specification.	1	<a href="http://www.cetis.ac.uk">www.cetis.ac.uk</a>	Compliance
<b>Consequential Validity</b>	<p>The extent to which the student, the curriculum, the assessment programme and society benefit from the use of an assessment instrument.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> lack of consequential validity describes situations where undesirable effects of particular assessments are seen.</p>	3	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com/highered/apr/aces/vhandbook/testvalid.html">www.collegeboard.com/highered/apr/aces/vhandbook/testvalid.html</a>  <a href="http://www.nestafuturelab.org/">www.nestafuturelab.org/</a>	Validity
<b>Consistency</b>	See Reliability	3		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Construct Validity</b>	The extent to which a test may be said to measure that which it has been designed to measure.  <i>Note:</i> this is a matter of judgement, based on accumulated evidence.	3	<a href="http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/measval.htm">www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/measval.htm</a>	
<b>Constructed Response Question Type</b>	A type of item which requires a student to create a response themselves (e.g. typing an answer) rather than selecting an option (e.g. MCQ). Includes short answer and essay-style question types.  <i>Note:</i> contrast with closed question type.	1		Open (ended) question Closed Question Type Short Answer Question Type Essay Style Question Type
<b>Content Management</b>	The technical and operational processes for managing digital educational content (in this case, items and tests).	2		Content Management System Authoring System
<b>Content Management System</b>	A general web term for a software tool which manages and maintains the technical and editorial content of a website.  <i>Note:</i> in an e-assessment setting, it describes a software tool for managing assessment content (items and test) and will generally contain an Authoring Tool/System and an Item Bank.	2		Learning Content Management System Authoring System Authoring Tool Item Bank Content Management
<b>Content Validity</b>	The extent to which the test samples the content and the objectives set out in the specification as determined by expert judgement.	3		Validity
<b>Contextualised</b>	A test created or modified to suit the needs of a particular group (e.g. the health sector)	4		Embedded Learning
<b>Convergent Validity</b>	The degree to which constructs which theoretically should be related to each other are, in practice, observed to be related to each other.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Validity
<b>Cookie</b>	A small information file delivered by a web-server to a web browser for storage on the web browser's host computer. The web browser subsequently returns the file to the web server each time a page is accessed. This enables information concerning a particular user to be stored and hence web pages may be personalised.	2	<a href="http://www.cookiecentral.com/c_concept.htm">www.cookiecentral.com/c_concept.htm</a>	Browser
<b>Core Skills</b>	See Key Skills	4		Key Skills

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Correction for Guessing	See Negative Marking	4		Negative Marking
Correlation	<p>The degree of relationship between two sets of scores. A correlation of 0.00 indicates a complete absence of relationship. A correlation of plus or minus 1.00 indicates a perfect (positive or negative) relationship.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> correlation coefficients are used in estimating test reliability and validity.</p>	1		
Courseware	E-learning materials accessed via a Virtual Learning Environment and/or browser.	2		E-Learning Virtual Learning Environment
Criterion-Referenced Assessment	An assessment linked to pre-defined standards. (e.g. 'Can swim 25 metres in a swimming pool').	4		Competency-Based Assessment Norm-Referenced Assessment
Criterion-Referenced Test	See Criterion-Referenced Assessment	3		Criterion-Referenced Assessment
Criterion-Related Validity	<p>Criterion-related validity is to do with the relationship between test scores and some other criterion such as teachers' estimates (concurrent) or performance in some future endeavour (predictive).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> paper-based tests are rarely subjected to tests of their criterion-related validity except, perhaps, in their development stage or in specific research studies. The usual approach is to calculate the coefficient of correlation between the two sets of scores (the test under scrutiny and the criterion). In interpreting the outcome it needs to be remembered that there may be variability in the criterion itself, not just the test under scrutiny.</p>	3		Validity
Cronbach's Alpha	See Coefficient Alpha	3		Coefficient Alpha
CRT	See Criterion-Referenced Test	3		Criterion-Referenced Test
CSS	See Cascading Style Sheets	2		Cascading Style Sheet
CTT	See Classical Test Theory	3		Classical Test Theory

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Culturally Sensitive</b>	In the context of culturally sensitive measures, measures that consider the perspective of a cultural subgroup in framing a concept or writing an item. Thus, concepts and measures account for the experiences, beliefs, values, expectations, perceptions, and language of a cultural group.	1	<a href="http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key_terms.pdf">http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key_terms.pdf</a>	Affective
<b>Cut Score</b>	A score on an assessment instrument that divides candidates into different groups, as pass-fail, qualified-unqualified, A grade-B grade.  <i>Note:</i> some assessments only have one cut score (i.e. pass/fail), others may have several (grades).	3		

# D

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
DDA	See Disability Discrimination Act	4		Disability Discrimination
Delivery Medium	<p>The medium, paper, electronic, etc. used to deliver an assessment to a candidate.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> contrast with assessment medium. A electronically delivered assessment may still be undertaken by the candidate on paper (e.g. an electronically delivered PDF file which is printed for the candidate to write on).</p>	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
Delivery Method	The complete process by which an assessment is transported to a centre and then delivered to a candidate. For example a test on a CD-ROM which is posted to a centre and then installed on each client machine uses a different delivery method to one delivered over the internet.	1		On-Screen Assessment Online Assessment
Delivery Platform	The final technical destination for an e-assessment on the client computer.	1		Client PC
Demand	<p>A measure of a question's cognitive requirements.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> demand is normally expressed in terms of a recognised taxonomy such as Bloom's Taxonomy (which has six levels of demand including comprehension, analysis and evaluation).</p>	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Difficulty Cognitive Workload
Department for Education and Skills	The Government Department responsible for Education and Training in England. <a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk">www.dfes.gov.uk</a> .	4		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Design Wizard</b>	<p>A software tool which is part of an authoring system. It helps non-technically skilled authors create assessment items by guiding them through a set of simple steps with each step consisting of a series of closed/objective questions.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> wizards are widely used in modern computing to simplify complex processes.</p>	2		Authoring Tool Objective Question Type Closed Question Type
<b>Developer</b>	<p>In the context of ICT, a person, company or organisation which develops applications or programmes, a process that may include specification, design, implementation and testing.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> in e-assessment terms, particularly for sophisticated item types, a developer is often needed to implement questions that authors have written in on-screen format.</p>	2		Application Author
<b>DFES</b>	See Department for Education and Skills	4		Department for Education and Skills
<b>Diagnostic Assessment</b>	<p>Non-accredited assessment used to identify a learner's strengths and weaknesses with a view to providing an appropriate learning programme. Generally undertaken at the start of a programme, diagnostic assessment therefore needs to evaluate learners' existing levels of attainment across the range of relevant knowledge, skills and understanding.</p>	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Screening Test Initial Assessment Spiky Profile
<b>Diagnostic Testing</b>	See Diagnostic assessment	1		
<b>Dichotomous Item</b>	<p>An item for which there are only two possible responses (excluding missing and off-task responses). In a test item these would be scored right/wrong, 1/0.</p>	3	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/glossary.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/glossary.asp</a>	Partial Credit Polytomous Item
<b>DIF</b>	See Differential Item Functioning	3		Differential Item Functioning
<b>Differential Item Functioning</b>	<p>Used in statistical analysis of test results to detect systematic differences in the way one group of candidates responds to an item compared to another group despite both groups having the same underlying true ability. Commonly referred to as DIF.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> such differences may (but not always) indicate bias in the item (e.g. cultural bias).</p>	3	<a href="http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Differential_item_functioning">http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Differential_item_functioning</a>	Differential Test Functioning DRIFT Item Response Theory



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Differential Test Functioning	Compares the functioning of sets of items by combining the individual DIF (differential item functioning) analyses.	3	<a href="http://www.promissor.com/knowledge/askdrPsi/drcat20010126.asp">www.promissor.com/knowledge/askdrPsi/drcat20010126.asp</a>	DRIFT Item Response Theory Differential Item Functioning
Difficulty	Commonly, a measure of a question's complexity or obscurity, or the relative (to other questions) probability of a candidate answering it correctly. In technical usage, it is sometimes expressed as a numerical value to indicate the proportion of candidates who answer it correctly.  <i>Note:</i> see also Facility Value. Difficulty and demand are not the same. A question may have low difficulty (it is a simple question that most candidates will answer correctly) but high demand (it relates to advanced cognitive skills such as evaluation).	3	<a href="http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key_terms.pdf">http://outcomes.cancer.gov/conference/irt/key_terms.pdf</a>  SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Facility Value
Digital Subscriber Line	A modem technology usually referred to as DSL that enables high data rate connections to a subscriber's premises using existing twisted pair copper cables originally installed to provide telephone voice communications. Data rates are typically 512kbps to 2Mbps. <i>Note:</i> Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) is a subset of this technology which has a higher data rate from the exchange to the subscriber site than in the reverse direction.	2		Broadband ADSL
Digital Versatile Disc	An optical data storage medium for digital data.  <i>Note:</i> some DVD discs and readers are also capable of recording data.	2		
Disability Discrimination	The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 is an act of the UK Parliament which aims to end the discrimination which many disabled people face. It gives disabled people rights in the areas of employment, access to goods, facilities and services and buying or renting land or property.  <i>Note:</i> this act applies to providers of education services.	4	<a href="http://www.disability.gov.uk/dda/">www.disability.gov.uk/dda/</a>  <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/1995050.htm">www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/1995050.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010010.htm">www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010010.htm</a>	Special Arrangement SENDA SENDA Accessibility
Disapply	Within schools, used to define the small number of students who are working at the levels covered by the National Curriculum, but who are unable to take part in some or all of the assessment arrangements, even allowing for the full range of special arrangements/reasonable modifications that can be made.	4		Special Arrangement

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Discriminant Validity</b>	The degree to which constructs which theoretically should not be related to each other are, in fact, observed not be related to each other.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Validity
<b>Discrimination</b>	An item's potential to differentiate between candidates (i.e. weaker candidates are more likely to get it wrong than stronger candidates).	3	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Discrimination Index
<b>Discrimination Index</b>	A numerical measure of an item's discrimination, usually expressed as a measure of the correlation between performance on the item and performance on the test as a whole and hence can take values from -1 to +1.  <i>Note:</i> items with low discrimination indices (less than 0.2 is often quoted) are generally seen as unsatisfactory (with a tendency for weaker students to get them correct more often than stronger students).	3	<a href="http://www.rasch.org/rmt/rmt121r.htm">www.rasch.org/rmt/rmt121r.htm</a>	Discrimination
<b>Discrimination Parameter</b>	An Item response theory model parameter for an item that indicates the strength of the relationship between the item's response and the measured construct.	3		Discrimination Index Discrimination
<b>Discussion Group</b>	An online forum (internet or intranet based) where users can communicate in by posting text to a display page. Similar to (and often confused with) a chat room, where the communication is in real time.	2		News Group Chat Room
<b>Distance Learning</b>	Learning where the learner is mostly or always not physically present with their tutor or peer group.  <i>Note:</i> e-learning is often used in a distance learning setting.	1		Blended Learning E-Learning
<b>Distracter</b>	See Distractor	1		Distractor
<b>Distractor</b>	An incorrect response offered as one of the options for a closed/ objective question (usually a multiple choice or multiple response item).  <i>Note:</i> each distractor must be plausible but incorrect in a significant respect. Distractors are therefore most important parts of an item in quality terms. Although 'distractor' is the American spelling both are used widely in the UK.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Answer Key Key

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Distributed Learning</b>	<p>A teaching system using distributed resources, i.e. where the tutors, students and teaching material may all be in multiple locations. This distribution typically requires e-learning technology.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this is related to but distinct from Distance Learning which is primarily concerned with the physical separation of tutors and students.</p>	1		E-Learning Blended Learning Distance Learning
<b>Domain-Referenced Assessment</b>	<p>A test that estimates the amount of a specified content domain that an individual has learned. Domains may be based on sets of instructional objectives, for example.</p>	4		Content Validity Norm-Referenced Assessment Criterion-Referenced Assessment
<b>dotNET</b>	<p>See .NET</p>	2		.NET
<b>Drag-And-Drop Question Type</b>	<p>A type of question where the student is required to match one or more items on screen to other items, or each other.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this is done by using the mouse to move the items' positions on screen. For example: 'move the following coins to place them in order of increasing value'. There are many different variants of the drag and drop question, reflecting the variety of ways the drag and drop function (and feedback to the student) can operate.</p>	1		Question Type
<b>DRIFT</b>	<p>An analysis technique similar to Differential Item Functioning which looks at performance of items over time.</p>	3		Differential Item Functioning
<b>Drill And Practice</b>	<p>A teaching technique widely used in ICT-supported learning where a series of structured problems or exercises (usually objective) with immediate feedback provided on a systematically repeated basis.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> it is often used for knowledge recall learning.</p>	1	<a href="http://www.personal.psu.edu/staff/b/x/bxb11/CBTGuide/Append/Gloss.htm">www.personal.psu.edu/staff/b/x/bxb11/CBTGuide/Append/Gloss.htm</a>	Pedagogy
<b>Driving Theory Test</b>	<p>Part of the UK assessment for new car drivers. The test is administered electronically on-screen at a number of dedicated test centres around the UK.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> with more than 1 million tests per annum, this is one of the world's highest volume e-assessments.</p>	1		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Drop-Down Question Type</b>	A type of question where the learner selects their response from a range of possible responses that are displayed in a list. The candidate selects the correct answer by highlighting the line in the menu and either clicking it or releasing the mouse button.  <i>Note:</i> also known as a 'pop-down' menu.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Question Type
<b>DSL</b>	See Digital Subscriber Line	2		Digital Subscriber Line
<b>DTF</b>	See Differential Test Functioning	3		Differential Test Functioning
<b>DVD</b>	See Digital Versatile Disc	2		Digital Versatile Disc
<b>Dynamic</b>	In a technical context, meaning done at the time it is required, not pre-prepared, and personalised for the particular user. For example, a dynamic automatic test generation system will produce a test for a candidate just before the candidate starts the assessment rather than selecting a pre-prepared test.	2		



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
E2L	English as a Second Language.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
EAL	English as an Additional Language.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
E-Assessment	The end-to-end electronic assessment processes where ICT is used for the presentation of assessment activity and the recording of responses. This includes the end-to-end assessment process from the perspective of learners, tutors, learning establishments, awarding bodies and regulators, and the general public.	1		Computer-Based Assessment Computer-Aided Assessment
E-Assessment Question, The	An E-assessment conference in London, held each year for the Examination Boards, the software industry, educational bodies, governmental and non-governmental agencies, training providers, HR and interested academics; and concentrating on the practical issues of developing, selecting and implementing e-Assessment solutions. <a href="http://www.e-assessment-question.co.uk/">www.e-assessment-question.co.uk/</a>	1		SETT BETT International Association of Educational Assessment CAA Loughborough
E-Assessment SIG	A UK SIG (Special Interest Group) dealing with e-assessment technology issues. <a href="http://assessment.cetis.ac.uk/">http://assessment.cetis.ac.uk/</a> .	2	<a href="http://assessment.cetis.ac.uk">http://assessment.cetis.ac.uk</a>	CETIS SIG
Ebel's Method	A method for setting the cut score in a test.	3	<a href="http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/csap/asperf.htm">www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/csap/asperf.htm</a>	Modified Angoff Angoff Cut Score
ECDL	See European Computer Driving Licence	1		European Computer Driving Licence

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Edexcel	Part of Pearson plc, a major UK examining and awarding body providing a range of qualifications including GCSEs, A levels, BTECs and vocational qualifications. Also offers assessments internationally. <a href="http://www.edexcel.org.uk">www.edexcel.org.uk</a> .	4		City And Guilds Cambridge Assessment OCR AQA
EDI	See Electronic Data Interchange	2		Electronic Data
Editor	In assessment, a person who reviews and amends items and tests for educational and grammatical content according to the test specification and prior to their trialling.	1		Developer Author
eGIF	See e-Government Interoperability Framework	2		e-Government Interoperability Framework
e-Government Interoperability Framework	The e-Government Interoperability Framework, which defines the technical policies and specifications governing electronic information flows across government and the public sector. They cover interconnectivity, data integration, e-services access and content management.  <i>Note:</i> e-GIF defines and adopts technical standards (which may have developed internationally or in the UK) with which UK Government ICT projects are expected to comply. <a href="http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/egif.asp">www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/egif.asp</a> .	2	<a href="http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/egif.asp">www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/egif.asp</a>	Technical Standard IMS
E-Learning	The process of learning which is supported by the use of ICT (e.g. the Internet, network, standalone computer, interactive whiteboard or portable device). Also used loosely to describe the actual content delivered on-screen, and the more general use of ICT to contribute to learning processes.	1		Mobile Learning
E-Learning Framework	An international effort (led from the UK) to develop a service-orientated approach to the development and integration of computer systems in the sphere of learning, research and education administration.  <i>Note:</i> it includes service-orientated developments of e-assessment systems models. <a href="http://www.elframework.org/">www.elframework.org/</a> .	2		JISC Framework Reference Model for Assessment
Electronic Data	The transfer of electronic data in standardised format between companies, using networks such as the Internet.	2		
ELF	See E-Learning Framework	2		E-Learning Framework

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>E-Marking</b>	A generic term for all the ways that the use of ICT can contribute to the marking of assessments.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
<b>Embedded Application</b>	An application which is wholly contained inside another application (i.e. not accessible except from within the encapsulating application. For example, within an e-assessment, if the student can access a calculator, or a thesaurus, which is provided as part of the test (not from the desktop) then the calculator or thesaurus are examples of embedded applications.	2		Application
<b>Embedded Assessment</b>	Assessment that occurs simultaneously with learning such as in projects, portfolios and 'exhibitions'.  <i>Note:</i> it occurs in the classroom setting, and, if properly designed, is fully integrated into teaching and learning.	4	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	Assessment For Learning
<b>E-Moderation</b>	A term used where technology is used to support remote moderation (internal or external) of assessment materials and candidate evidence.  <i>Note:</i> where this refers to external moderation the quality assurance person representing the awarding body is often known as the e-moderator.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Moderation
<b>ENAB</b>	A Scottish term derived from the National Assessment Bank items (NABs), which are centrally-devised assessments for units within National Qualifications. The term 'e-NABs' refers to electronics version of these items, some of which were created and piloted for research purposes.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	
<b>Enquiry About Results</b>	A process through which an awarding body may be asked to check one or more steps leading to a reported result.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Appeal
<b>Enterprise System</b>	A computer system which meets the needs of a complete enterprise (i.e. any type of organisation, company, university, etc.)  <i>Note:</i> such systems typically exhibit scalability (the ability grow effectively as an organisation grows) and distributed architecture to cope with a geographically diverse organisation.	1		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>E-Portfolio</b>	<p>An electronically-based portfolio, i.e. a file store and information management system which is modelled on the working method used for paper portfolios, but which takes advantage of the capabilities of ICT, notably allowing learners to store digital artefacts and streamlining the process of review and moderation for learners, tutors, moderators and verifiers.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> within e-assessment, e-portfolios are generally related to a particular course over a particular period of time, and designed for assessment purposes. However, in other settings portfolios may also or alternately be a “complete learning life record”, where students have access to their records, digital repository, feedback and reflection, aiding students to achieve a greater understanding of their individual growth, career planning and CV building.</p>	1	<a href="http://www.eradc.org/papers/ePortfolio_Weblog.pdf">www.eradc.org/papers/ePortfolio_Weblog.pdf</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e-Portfolio Repository</li> <li>e-Portfolio Presentation</li> <li>e-Portfolio View</li> <li>e-Portfolio Item</li> <li>Centre For Recording Achievement</li> </ul>
<b>e-Portfolio Item</b>	A portfolio item that is held electronically.	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e-Portfolio Repository</li> <li>e-Portfolio Presentation</li> <li>e-Portfolio View</li> <li>E-Portfolio</li> </ul>
<b>e-Portfolio Management Service</b>	See e-Portfolio Management System	2		e-Portfolio Management System
<b>e-Portfolio Management System</b>	<p>A system that uses ICT to give people the ability to use and manage their e-portfolio items.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this may include the ability to record, construct, compose, store, retrieve, view, edit or arrange e portfolio items, and to present them to or to share them with others, whether as e portfolio presentations or otherwise. An e-portfolio management system or service may cover the management of items that are not portfolio items; may use one or more e portfolio repositories; and may be used for any number of e portfolio views and presentations.</p>	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e-Portfolio Repository</li> <li>e-Portfolio Presentation</li> <li>e-Portfolio View</li> <li>e-Portfolio Item</li> </ul>
<b>e-Portfolio Presentation</b>	A particular composition of coherent e-portfolio items, with a deliberately defined audience and rhetorical purpose, and managed and presented electronically.	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e-Portfolio Management System</li> <li>e-Portfolio Repository</li> <li>e-Portfolio View</li> <li>e-Portfolio Item</li> </ul>



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>e-Portfolio Repository</b>	A system that stores e-portfolio items. <i>Note:</i> this can be either localised, or distributed as what could be termed a virtual repository.	2		e-Portfolio Management System e-Portfolio Presentation e-Portfolio View e-Portfolio Item
<b>e-Portfolio View</b>	Portfolio information relevant to a particular purpose, or intended to be accessible by a particular other person or body.	2		e-Portfolio Management System e-Portfolio Repository e-Portfolio Presentation e-Portfolio Item
<b>Equivalency Reliability</b>	The extent to which two items measure identical concepts at an identical level of difficulty. It is determined by relating two sets of test scores to one another to highlight the degree of relationship or association.	1	<a href="http://www.cramersweeney.com/cs_id/trainingblog/e-learning%20abbreviations.htm">www.cramersweeney.com/cs_id/trainingblog/e-learning%20abbreviations.htm</a>	Reliability
<b>Equivalent Forms</b>	A type of alternate forms, which have dissimilar aspects in their statistical performance but where the dissimilarities in raw score statistics are compensated for in the conversions to derived scores or in form-specific norm tables.	1		Alternate Forms
<b>Error Statistics</b>	See Frequency Analysis	3		Frequency Analysis
<b>Essay Style Question Type</b>	A type of question where the student is expected to construct a prose response (more than a paragraph or two, but not necessarily a lengthy essay)	1		Question Type
<b>Essential Skills</b>	See Key Skills	4		Key Skills
<b>e-Test</b>	An assessment presented to the candidate on-screen.	1		E-Assessment On-Screen Assessment
<b>ETS</b>	A large American educational and testing organisation and a leading agency in educational and assessment research. <a href="http://www.ets.org/">www.ets.org/</a> .	1		Awarding Body

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>European Computer Driving Licence</b>	<p>A Europe-wide qualification for non-specialist computer users to demonstrate functional competence in IT. It covers the areas of basic concepts of IT, using the computer and managing files, word processing, spreadsheets, database, presentation and information, and communication.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> awarded by the British Computer Society in the UK and widely assessed using e-assessment. An international version (ICDL) is also emerging. <a href="http://www.ecdl.com">www.ecdl.com</a>.</p>	1		
<b>Examiner</b>	A person usually appointed by the awarding body to conduct or mark an examination.	4		Author Chief Examiner
<b>Exchange Value</b>	A numerical value/currency of an achieved qualification or certification counting as credit toward other external programmes.	4	<a href="http://www.nestafuturelab.org/images/downloads/futurelab_review_10.pdf">www.nestafuturelab.org/images/downloads/futurelab_review_10.pdf</a>	
<b>Expert System</b>	A software system which can make skilled judgements in a similar way to a human expert usually with two basic components: a knowledge base and an inference engine.	1	<a href="http://www.orafaq.com/glossary/faqqlose.htm">www.orafaq.com/glossary/faqqlose.htm</a>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>Extended Live Pilot</b>	<p>A term from the English non-HE regulator, QCA referring to an extended pilot of a qualification or unit that leads to an award in order to demonstrate durability and scalability of the system.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> all awarding bodies that have completed successful live pilots of on-screen delivery systems are encouraged to conduct extended live pilots.</p>	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Certificated Pilot Live Pilot
<b>Extensible Markup Language</b>	See XML.	2		Extensible Style Language Cascading Style Sheet XML
<b>Extensible Style Language</b>	See XSL.	2		W3C Cascading Style Sheet
<b>External Assessment</b>	An Assessment being set and/or marked by examiners who are not associated with the organisation providing the candidate's learning.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Internal Assessment

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>External Moderator</b>	The quality assurance person who is appointed by and represents the awarding body and confirms that the assessment processes have been valid, reliable and practicable, usually by reviewing work of some or all of the candidates work in a centre.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	External Verifier Internal Verifier
<b>External Verifier</b>	An individual appointed by the awarding body to confirm the work of an internal verifier and ensure accurate and consistent standards of assessment, across centres and over time, and to confirm the work of the internal verifier.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Internal Verifier External Moderator External Moderator
<b>Extranet</b>	A private network constructed using internet technology to provide controlled access to an organisation's information for users external to the organisation. Access requires a username and password provided by the controlling organisation.	2		Intranet

# F

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Face Validity	<p>A subjective measure of whether the test 'appears valid' to the candidates who take it, the administrative personnel who decide on its use, and other technically untrained personnel (for example, the general public).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this is an important feature in many tests' acceptance.</p>	3	<a href="http://www.burns.com/wcbcontval.htm">www.burns.com/wcbcontval.htm</a>	Content Validity Validity
Facility	The inverse of the difficulty of an item.	3		Difficulty Facility Value
Facility Value	<p>A numerical measure of an item's easiness/difficulty, often abbreviated to FV. For an item marked right/wrong the FV is usually the proportion of candidates who answer it correctly. For example, if 30 students attempt a question and nine answer it correctly then the FV is <math>9/30 = 0.3</math>. For other types of item, it may be based on the mean item mark divided by the maximum mark for the item.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> the FV will vary from 0 to +1. A FV of zero means that no-one answered the question correctly; an FV of 1.0 means that everyone answered it correctly. The more difficult the question, the lower the FV. Questions with very high or very low FVs should be avoided.</p>	3	<p><a href="http://www.ics.ltsn.ac.uk/pub/caa/mhairi.doc">www.ics.ltsn.ac.uk/pub/caa/mhairi.doc</a></p> <p>SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms</p>	Difficulty Facility Discrimination Index
Familiarisation Test	A sample of questions or task types, usually covering one example of each type, which the student may encounter in the 'real' test for the purposes of familiarisation.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Fat Anchor</b>	Describes a large bank of pre-tested material from which individual anchors for specific test instances are selected. It is designed to reduce the effects of anchor item exposure.	3		Anchor Item
<b>Feedback</b>	Qualitative information about their performance given to students after an assessment.  <i>Note:</i> unlike a grade, feedback is explicitly developmental, i.e. oriented towards further progress on the part of the student. Feedback is particularly important in formative assessment, when no final grade will be given. Feedback typically includes a correct or model response and an explanation of any incorrect responses made by the student.	1		Adaptive Feedback Rich Feedback
<b>Field Testing</b>	The process of delivering tests to check all procedures are working effectively (in an effectively equivalent setting to where the test will actually be delivered), such as the administration of the test, receipt of candidate responses, delivery of feedback, automatic marking and reporting.  <i>Note:</i> field testing is usually more extensive than pilot testing.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Pre-Test Pilot Test
<b>File Transfer Protocol</b>	A communications protocol to enable files to be transferred between computers via a network. Generally referred to as 'FTP'.	2		
<b>Fill-In-The-Blanks Question Type</b>	See Gap fill question type	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Gap Fill Question Type
<b>Firewall</b>	Either a piece of computer hardware or a software application which stops unauthorised communication from an external network (such as the internet) reaching a client computer.  <i>Note:</i> firewalls can cause problems in e-assessment systems by inadvertently blocking communications between the client PC, the local server, and/or the central host system.	2		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Flash	<p>A technology provided by Macromedia which allows the delivery of interactive media within a browser.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> It is often used to deliver sophisticated interactive and rich media assessment content. Flash itself is the development kit that allows the content to be developed, and the Flash Player is the free plugin for browsers that allows Flash content to be viewed at a client computer. <a href="http://www.macromedia.com">www.macromedia.com</a>.</p>	2		Rich Media Interactive Client PC Browser Applet Java
Flash Player	See Flash	2		Flash
Floor Effect	<p>Occurs when a score distribution is skewed so that a large proportion of candidates score at the lowest level on the measure.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> when floor effects occur, the measure cannot detect performance below the floor and so cannot discriminate between candidates scoring at the lowest level.</p>	3		Ceiling Effect
Follow-through	A method of awarding marks in Science, Engineering and Mathematics which gives partial credit where a candidate has made a numerical slip but is still demonstrating mastery of a method.	1		Polytomous Item Partial Credit
Formative Assessment	<p>Assessment that provides developmental feedback to a learner (and perhaps also their teacher) about an item, a group of items or the topic(s) to which they relate so that they can adjust their plan for future learning. As such, it usually takes place during the learning programme (rather than at the end – summative, or beginning – diagnostic).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> In the UK formative assessment is often called “Assessment for learning”.</p>	4		Assessment For Learning Diagnostic Assessment Summative Assessment
Framework Reference Model for Assessment	One of five e-Learning Framework (ELF) Reference Model projects in the JISC e-Learning programme. The goal of FREMA is to develop a reference model for systems in the Assessment domain of e-learning that are built on top of Service-Oriented Architectures, such as Web Services and the Grid, and in particular the JISC e-Learning Framework (ELF). <a href="http://www.frema.ecs.soton.ac.uk/">www.frema.ecs.soton.ac.uk/</a> and <a href="http://www.elframework.org/">www.elframework.org/</a> .	2	<a href="http://www.frema.ecs.soton.ac.uk/">www.frema.ecs.soton.ac.uk/</a>	E-Learning Framework JISC

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Free Text Marking	See Automated Language Analysis	1		Automated Language Analysis
FREMA	See Framework Reference Model for Assessment	2		Framework Reference Model for Assessment
Frequency Analysis	<p>In an assessment context, the study of how often a particular distracter (in the case of a closed question), or particular constructed response (in the case of an open question), was selected by groups of participants. Also called 'error statistics'.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> frequency analysis is very important in determining the quality of an item or test. For example, in formative assessment, frequency analysis can provide information on where students' misunderstandings lie.</p>	1		
FTP	See File Transfer Protocol	2		File Transfer Protocol
Functional Skills	A general term introduced in the Tomlinson Report ( <a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?sid=10">www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?sid=10</a> ) for the Number, Literacy and ICT skills required for everyday life and work. Being introduced in England as a new minimum competence assessment for learners.	4		Tomlinson Report Key Skills Basic Skills
FV	See Facility Value	3		Facility Value

# G

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Game-Based Learning</b>	<p>A relatively new field of e-learning which uses computer gaming technology and techniques to provide learning, based on the principle that games are engaging for learners and can provide useful embedded learning outcomes.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> different types of game (e.g. quiz, action, strategy games, role-play) are suited to different types of learning outcome (memory/recall, behaviour, functional competence, etc.) Game-based e-assessment is a very new field, exploring whether valid and reliable assessments can be made of students undertaking game play as part of their learning programme.</p>	1		
<b>Gap Fill Question Type</b>	A question type where students are required to fill in the gaps, usually in a sentence or picture with text responses. The responses can be either typed or picked from a list.	1		Question Type
<b>GCE</b>	See General Certificate of Education.	4		A Level
<b>GCSE</b>	See General Certificate of Education	4		General Certificate of Education
<b>General Certificate of Education</b>	The main secondary school examinations usually at 16 (GCSE, General Certificate of Secondary Education) and 18 (GCE, General Certificate of Education, also called A level). Introduced in 1988 to replace the previous dual GCE Ordinary Level ('O Level') and CSE Examination System.	4		A Level



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>GIF</b>	Graphics Interchange Format. A picture compression format which utilises 256 colours. Ideal for delivering graphics for display on remote computer terminals.	2		JPEG Compression
<b>Globally Unique Identifier</b>	A pseudo-random number used in software applications (GUID). Each generated GUID is 'mathematically guaranteed' to be unique. This is based on the simple principle that the total number of possible GUIDs is so large that the possibility of the same number being generated twice is virtually zero.  <i>Note:</i> GUIDs are used to identify individual instances of software (i.e. as installed on a single computer) and can be used as part of the authentication process in e-assessment.	2	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	
<b>GNVQ</b>	General National Vocational Qualification. A certificate of vocational education available in the United Kingdom (not Scotland). These qualifications are related to occupational areas in general, rather than any specific job, and will be phased out in 2007.	4		Scottish Vocational Qualification National Vocational Qualification
<b>Grade</b>	A point on a scale of performance used to differentiate achievement within a qualification (for example: A, B, C, D, E, F, G; Distinction, Merit).	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Graphical User Interface</b>	The visual and auditory (i.e. screen content and sounds) components of a computer system which the user interacts with.  <i>Note:</i> historically many user interfaces relied solely on text but most modern interfaces for general computing use combine text with graphics on screen and use mice as well as keyboards. Microsoft Windows and Apple OSX are both graphical user interfaces.	2		Human-Computer
<b>Group Assessment</b>	A process of collective assessment often used for project work and for encouraging collaboration.  <i>Note:</i> Group members can receive an equal mark or a proportion of the group mark supplemented by marks for individual work. Marks can be allocated by the course tutor and/or by the group collectively. Tutors often ask candidates about the distribution of work among group members, group interaction and the way resources were used.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Peer Assessment

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>See Also</b>
<b>GUI</b>	See Graphical User Interface.	2		Graphical User Interface
<b>GUID</b>	See Globally Unique Identifier.	2		Globally Unique Identifier

# H

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
HCI	See Human-Computer Interface.	2		Human-Computer
Headroom	The capacity within a test to assess pupils who are performing above the minimum competence/maximum level expected by the assessment.	3		Ceiling Effect
Help Desk	A telephone, email and/or fax service providing reactive assistance to computer system users.	1		
High Stakes Test	A test which is statutory and/or has results collected and used for statutory reporting i.e. when the outcomes are important to the centre and candidates (for example, affecting progress to another phase of education).	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Low Stakes Test Medium Stakes Test
Higher	A Scottish qualification similar in level to AS in England. It is taken by students at the approximate age of 16 years and usually students choose 4 or 5 subjects at this level in a given year of study.	4		A Level Advanced Higher
HNC / HND	<p>'Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNCs/HNDs) are awarded by SQA in Scotland and Edexcel in England and Wales, and offered in colleges of further education. HNCs/HNDs are recognised qualifications for technician/middle management levels.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> an HNC can often form the first year of an HND and a large number of HNDs articulate with university degrees.</p>	4		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Holistic Assessment</b>	An assessment which provides a single score based on an overall impression of learner achievement on a task or tasks.	4		Atomic Evidence
<b>Host</b>	In ICT terms, hosting refers to the provision of hardware and internet infrastructure on which to run a set of computer applications.  <i>Note:</i> most organisations providing e-assessment services will use a separate organisation (called an ISP) to “host” their e-assessment software. ISPs specialise in providing guaranteed availability and bandwidth as well as service monitoring and protection from hacking, etc.	2		Internet Service Provider
<b>Hotspot Question Type</b>	A type of question which requires a student to respond by clicking on a particular area of a diagram, picture, animation or video with the mouse, for example: ‘Click on the diagram of a human body to identify the lungs’.	1		Point And Click Question Image Map Question Type
<b>HTML</b>	The software language that web pages are written in.	2		HTTP
<b>HTTP</b>	Hypertext Transfer Protocol. A protocol to transfer web pages between web servers and browsers.	2		Browser HTTPS
<b>HTTPS</b>	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure. A variant of HTTP which uses encryption to provide secure link between a client and server.  <i>Note:</i> HTTP, which sends data in its raw form, is considered unsafe for transmitting sensitive information such as personal data, passwords and high stakes exam questions.	2		Browser HTTP
<b>Human-Computer</b>	The group of computer input devices (mouse and keyboard, usually) and output devices (screen and speakers, usually), in addition to the parts of the operating system and application software which control how the human-computer interactions are carried out.  <i>Note:</i> in the context of e-assessment, there is often a requirement for the HCI to be user-friendly for the candidate.	2		User Interface
<b>Hypermedia</b>	A system or resource that allows linking of multimedia elements such as video, audio and graphics.	2		Multimedia



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
IAEA	See International Association for Educational Assessment.	1		International Association of Educational Assessment
IBT	See Internet-Based Training	2		Internet Based Training
ICC	See Item Characteristic Curve.	3		
ICT	Information and Communications Technology (synonymous with IT for almost all purposes, but strictly speaking including the internet and other network-enabled devices)	2		ILT Information & Communications Technology
ILT	ICT used specifically for learning purposes. Tends to involve higher/user level activities rather than installation, commissioning and operating system issues. The term is mainly used in schools and colleges.	1		ICT Information And Learning Technology
Image Map Question Type	See Hotspot Question type	1		Hotspot Question Type
impersonation	In an assessment setting, pretending to be another person in order to cheat on an assessment.  <i>Note:</i> also sometimes referred to as 'personation'.	4		Cheating
IMS	The IMS Global Learning Consortium Inc, the USA-based agency developing specifications for educational computer systems in education. <a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/">www.imsglobal.org/</a>	2	<a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/">www.imsglobal.org/</a>	QTI V2

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>IMS E-portfolio Specification</b>	Part of the IMS family of technical specifications. A public draft specification created to make e-Portfolios interoperable across different systems and institutions.	1		QTI V2 IMS
<b>Independent Assessment</b>	Assessment of candidates' work that is carried out by assessors who do not have a vested interest in the outcome.  <i>Note:</i> broadly synonymous with External Assessment.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Internal Assessment External Assessment External Assessment
<b>Information &amp; Communications Technology</b>	The technology required for information processing. In particular the use of electronic computers and computer software to convert, store, protect, process, transmit, and retrieve information.  <i>Note:</i> includes PCs, PDAs, networks, mobile phones, etc.	2		Information And Learning Technology
<b>Information And Learning Technology</b>	The Information and Learning Technologies master's program. The purpose of the ILT master's program is to help people design and use various resources and technologies for learning.  ICT used specifically for learning purposes. Tends to involve higher/user level activities rather than installation, commissioning and operating system issues. The term is mainly used in schools and colleges.	1		Information & Communications Technology
<b>Information Technology</b>	See Information & Communications Technology	2		Information & Communications Technology
<b>Initial Assessment</b>	A fairly short assessment of a learner which may follow a screening test and which is designed to determine approximately the general level of knowledge or competence.	4		Diagnostic Assessment Screening Test Aptitude Test
<b>Innovative Item</b>	A technically more sophisticated question designed specifically for on-screen assessment which may include either interactivity, adaptivity and/or rich media.	1		Rich Media Adaptive Test Interactive
<b>In-Service Maintenance</b>	Periodic review of test performance, typically conducted on an annual or semi-annual basis. In addition to item-level statistics regarding such measures as difficulty and reliability the in-service maintenance review also confirms that test forms remain comparable and continue to produce anticipated results.	2		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Instructor Led Training</b>	Traditional didactic training with the teacher controlling the pace and content of learning. Term mainly used in industrial, professional and workplace training.	1		E-Learning Blended Learning
<b>Interactive</b>	A computer or network system or software that responds in some way to information provided to it by a user. Thus an interactive program is one which can accept information and modify its behaviour while it is being run, for example a computer game. Similarly an interactive website is one where it is possible to enter information, such as credit card details in order to make a purchase, or where it is possible to select from a menu of options. It is expected that the user affects the operation of the program in some significant way rather than the program simply presenting information chronologically/in simple sequence.	2	<a href="http://www.med.govt.nz/buslt/int_prop/digital/discussion/digital-08.html">www.med.govt.nz/buslt/int_prop/digital/discussion/digital-08.html</a>	Sophisticated Test Adaptive Test Adaptive Test Innovative Item
<b>Internal Assessment</b>	An assessment marked within the institution delivering the programme of learning, including by the tutor delivering the learning. This marking may then be subject to external modification and/or verification.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Independent Assessment External Assessment
<b>Internal Consistency</b>	The extent to which the different parts of tests or procedures assess the same characteristic, skill or quality. Measures of reliability are often based on internal consistency eg Split-half, Coefficient Alpha, KR-20.	3	<a href="http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/research/relval/com2a4.cfm">http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/research/relval/com2a4.cfm</a>	Coefficient Alpha Reliability
<b>Internal Moderator</b>	The person within the centre who checks that the assessment process has been valid, reliable and practicable.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Moderation Internal Verifier External Moderator
<b>Internal Verifier</b>	An individual appointed by the centre to ensure accurate and consistent standards of assessment between assessors operating within a centre.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Internal Moderator External Moderator
<b>International Association for Educational Assessment</b>	An international community of assessment organisations, mainly aimed at the world's public examination organisations. Their annual conference includes many papers on aspects of e-assessment. See <a href="http://www.iaea.info">www.iaea.info</a>	1		SETT BETT CAA Loughborough E-Assessment Question, The

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Internet Based Training</b>	Commonly abbreviated to IBT. Training delivered using TCP/IP protocol, but not necessarily HTTP. This is similar to Web-based training (WBT), which is training delivered using TCP/IP and HTTP protocols, the protocols that define the World Wide Web. Thus IBT might use proprietary protocols and applications.	2		E-Learning Web-Based Training
<b>Internet Service Provider</b>	An organisation (usually a company) which provides its customers with connections to the internet and hosting facilities for their services.	2		Host
<b>Interoperabilisation</b>	The move in computer systems toward systems comprised of interchangeable components supplied by different vendors which rely on technical standards to achieve their interchangeability.	2		QTI V2 IMS Interoperability Standards Interoperability
<b>Interoperability</b>	A feature of computer systems components which allow the components to interact according to technical standards which define functionality useful to the user. The IMS QTI specification is an example of an interoperability specification within the e-assessment domain.	2		QTI V2 IMS Interoperability Standards Interoperabilisation
<b>Interoperability Standards</b>	The technical specifications which allow computer system components supplied by different vendors to work with each other in pre-defined ways to serve users needs. Technical specifications become 'legal' standards when they are ratified by one or more accredited standards bodies (e.g. CEN, IEEE). The IMS QTI specification is an example of an interoperability specification within the e-assessment domain.	2		QTI V2 IMS Interoperability Interoperabilisation
<b>Inter-rater Reliability</b>	The extent to which two or more individuals (markers or raters) agree. Inter-rater reliability addresses the consistency of the implementation of a rating system.	1		Reliability
<b>Intranet</b>	A network of computers within an organisation which functions (from a user's perspective) similarly to the internet, and potentially providing additional services to users, while also preventing unauthorised external access. From "internal" and "network".	2		Extranet
<b>Invigilator</b>	An individual who supervises the administration of an examination to ensure that it is conducted in accordance with the regulations, in particular to prevent cheating.	4		Proctor



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>IQ Test</b>	Standardized norm-referenced tests, developed during the nineteenth century. Traditional psychologists believe that neurological and genetic factors underlie 'intelligence' and that scoring the performance of certain intellectual tasks can provide assessors with a measurement of general intelligence.	1	<a href="http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm">www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assess/terminology.htm</a>	Psychometric Test
<b>IRT</b>	See Item Response Theory	3		Item Response Theory
<b>ISP</b>	See Internet Service Provider	2		Internet Service Provider
<b>IT</b>	See Information & Communications Technology	2		Information & Communications Technology
<b>Item</b>	Smallest separately identified question or task within an assessment plus its associated information (e.g. mark scheme, curriculum reference, media content, performance information, etc.), usually a single objective question. Distinguished from a "question" which may be a longer and less-objective task but often used synonymously.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Question
<b>Item Analysis</b>	The process of reviewing candidates' responses to items to discover how the item is performing. Item analysis usually produces various metrics such as its facility value and discrimination index.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Facility Discrimination Validity
<b>Item Authoring</b>	See Question Authoring	1		Question Authoring
<b>Item Bank</b>	A storage facility for items which allows them to be maintained and used for automatic and manual test generation purposes (to create tests on-paper and/or on-screen). Today, almost all item banks are electronic although historically many were physical.	4		Item Maintenance Alternate Forms Randomisation Manual Test Generation Automated Test Item
<b>Item Conversion</b>	Taking items in on-paper format and converting them for use on-screen preferably without altering their educational content or purpose.	1		Comparability
<b>Item Exposure</b>	The number of times a question is presented to test takers. Intentional exposure can be readily measured for computer managed tests, but unintentional exposure, for example through leakage of test items onto revision / cheating websites is impossible to quantify exactly.	3		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Item Intimation</b>	Undesirable aspects of an item which provide clues to help a student work out the correct response (or rule out possible wrong responses) without being able to answer the question the author intended to set.	1		
<b>Item Maintenance</b>	The process of adding to, deleting from, and amending items in an item bank taking account of factors such as the items' performance, age, exposure, etc.	1		Item Bank Item
<b>Item Pool</b>	See Item Bank – Synonymous term.	1		Item Bank
<b>Item Response Theory</b>	<p>A Latent Trait Model which is based on a relationship between the observable test performance of candidates and the unobservable traits or abilities which underlie that performance. It uses statistical techniques to estimate the probability of a person with given ability level answering an item of given difficulty level, correct.</p> <p>From the perspective of more traditional approaches, such as Classical test theory, an advantage of IRT is that it potentially provides item characteristics that are independent of the candidates that they were obtained from. IRT is most heavily used in the USA – Classical test theory is still largely favoured in the UK.</p>	3	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	Classical Test Theory Latent Trait Theory

# J

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
JANET	See Joint Academic Network	2		Joint Academic Network
Java	A high level general purpose programming language with features that make the language well suited to use in an internet environment. Small Java programmes called applets can be downloaded from a web server and run on a Java compatible browser. The language was developed by Sun Microsystems. See <a href="http://java.sun.com/overview.html">http://java.sun.com/overview.html</a>	2		
JISC	See Joint Information Systems Committee.	2		Joint Academic Network
Joint Academic Network	JANET, the Joint Academic NETWORK, is a British private, government funded computer network dedicated to education and research. All further and higher education organizations are connected to JANET, as are all the Research Councils and several metropolitan area networks in the UK.	2	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	JISC
Joint Information Systems Committee	An independent advisory body that works with further and higher education by providing strategic guidance, advice and opportunities use to use ICT to support learning, teaching, research and administration. JISC is funded by the UK Further and Higher Education Councils and is responsible for the development of this E-Assessment Glossary.	2		FREMA E-Learning Framework JANET
JPEG	A compression format for graphics named after the committee that defined the format. The compression method allows variable levels of compression for colour and monochrome pictures with increasing levels of compression leading to a loss of quality.	2		Compression GIF

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
JPG	See JPEG	2		JPEG
Judged Mathematical Expression	See Mathematical Question Type	1		Question Type

# K

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Key	The correct response for a closed/objective item (usually a multiple choice or multiple response item).	4		Answer Key
Key Skills	General skills that assist in improving learning and performance regardless of the specific area of study. The regulatory authorities have developed standards for six key skills: application of number; communication; information and communication technology; improving own learning and performance; working with others; problem solving.. These skills are valued by employers as being central to all work and learning. Key Skills are called “Core Skills” in Scotland and they are: numeracy; communication; information technology; problem solving and working with others. Key Skills are called “Essential Skills” in Northern Ireland. See <a href="http://www.keyskillssupport.net/">www.keyskillssupport.net/</a>	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Essential Skills Functional Skills Functional Skills Basic Skills
Key Stage	One of the four stages of the English National Curriculum : KS1 for pupils aged 5-7; KS2 for 7-11; KS3 for 11-14; KS4 for 14-16. The Scottish equivalent is the 5-14 Curriculum (levels A to F). See <a href="http://www.nc.uk.net/webdav/servlet/XRM?Page/@id=6016">www.nc.uk.net/webdav/servlet/XRM?Page/@id=6016</a>	1		
Knowledge Recall	The lowest level of learning in Bloom’s taxonomy, relating to the ability to remember and recall discrete facts.	4		Bloom’s Taxonomy Memory Test
KR20	A special case of the Coefficient Alpha where the responses are scored right or wrong.	3		Coefficient Alpha

# L

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
LAN	See Local Area Network	2		Local Area Network Wide Area Network
Latent Trait	A latent trait is an unobservable latent dimension, which is thought to give rise to a set of observed item responses. In IRT, the latent trait being measured by a scale is denoted as theta ( $\theta$ ).	3		Latent Trait Theory Item Response Theory
Latent Trait Theory	Latent trait theory assumes that responses to items are based on a limited number of latent traits. A number of major statistical methods for assessment analysis spring from LTT including Rasch modelling and IRT.	3		Latent Trait Item Response Theory
LCMS	See Learning Content Management System	2		Learning Content Management System
Learning and Teaching Scotland	An executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Scottish Executive Education Department to help review, assess and support developments in learning and education, including the use of information and communications technology (ICT). See <a href="http://www.ltscotland.org.uk">www.ltscotland.org.uk</a>	1		British Educational Communications and Technology Agency
Learning Content Management System	A system to manage educational content and with particular features relating to that purpose (e.g. curriculum tagging and taxonomies, templates for courses, etc.).	2		Content Management System Content Management

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Learning Management System</b>	Abbreviated to LMS. Very similar to Managed Learning Environment (MLE). LMS is the term more widely used in the USA, and also for industry-based self-paced just-in time learning. However, MLE and LMS are synonymous to many users.	2		Managed Learning Environment Virtual Learning Environment
<b>Learning Objective</b>	A statement of what the learners will be expected to do when they have completed a specified course of instruction (or part of the course). It may prescribe the conditions, behaviour (action and method), and/or standard of task performance that is expected.	4	<a href="http://www.neiu.edu/~dbehrlic/hrd408/glossary.htm">www.neiu.edu/~dbehrlic/hrd408/glossary.htm</a>	Assessment Criteria Authentication
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	A statement of the skills, understanding or knowledge that learner is expected to have as a result of a learning process.	4		Assessment Objective
<b>Level</b>	A measure of achievement in national curriculum tests, where a child is awarded a level between 1 and 8. The level at which a qualification or unit is positioned in the National Qualifications Framework. A qualification may be made up of units that are not all regarded as being at the same level.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Level Indicator</b>	A statement describing the characteristics of qualifications at a particular level in the National Qualifications Framework. Qualifications in the National Qualifications Framework will be expected to reflect the appropriate level indicator, although not all of the characteristics will necessarily be relevant.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Level
<b>Live Assessment</b>	An assessment where the system is deemed to be active and available for use by all of its intended target audience. When used in the context of public examinations, an assessment where the student will receive a qualification if they pass the assessment.	4		Certificated Pilot Live Pilot
<b>Live Pilot</b>	Used in the context of public examinations. A pilot of a qualification or unit that leads to an award. A programme of assessments offered to students where the students receive accreditation as would be the case if the assessments were not a pilot, but the programme is characterised by some or all of : limited duration, limited number of centres or candidates, subject to technical and/or educational scrutiny of the system's performance. All awarding bodies that are developing on-screen assessment systems are advised to conduct series of live pilots to confirm the robustness of their delivery systems.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Certificated Pilot
<b>Live Test</b>	See Live Assessment	4		Live Assessment

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
LMS	See Learning Management System	2		Learning Management System
Local Area Network	A computer network in a single physical location (e.g. a school, college site, etc.) which is characterised by high speed high reliability interconnections between client computers and servers. A LAN with a Local Server is regarded as the most reliable infrastructure for running e-assessments.	2		Intranet Extranet Wide Area Network
Local Server	A server which is located within a Centre on a LAN rather than on the internet.	2		Local Area Network Server Centre
Localisation	Translation, plus cultural adaptation of content (e.g. changing weights and measures units) in order to provide an equivalent experience to students from a different culture.	2		
Locked (-Down) Desktop	A locked desktop is used in assessments where the student must have no access to computing resources (e.g. other applications such as calculators, internet search engines, etc.) other than those provided with the test. The Locked Desktop prevents students accessing the operating system desktop and other functions while the test is running.  <i>Note:</i> care must be taken as it may also prevent students from accessing local or networked access tools (such as screen magnifiers, etc.)	2		Security (Technical) Secure Browser
Log-In	The process of accessing a computer system which has a method of access control, typically requiring a unique user name and password.	2		
Log-On	See Log-In	2		Log-In
Low Stakes Test	Test which is non-statutory and has little or no external impact on the school or pupil and results are available locally only.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Medium Stakes Test High Stakes Test
LTT	See Latent Trait Theory	3		Latent Trait Theory
Lykert Scale	A method to prompt a candidate to express their opinion on a statement being presented. Likert scales are often 4 or 5 point scales (e.g. strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree).	3		Behaviourally Anchored Rating Scale





Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Managed Learning Environment	Commonly abbreviated to MLE. A range of different software, systems and processes that interrelate, share data and contribute to the management of the learner experience within an institution. By its very nature there is no one definition of an MLE – the tools, processes and services bundled together depend on the institution’s vision.	1	<a href="http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/InfoKits/effective-use-of-VLEs/intro-to-VLEs/introtovle-intro">www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/InfoKits/effective-use-of-VLEs/intro-to-VLEs/introtovle-intro</a>	Virtual Learning Environment Learning Management System Managed Learning Environment
Management Information System	A computer system used in educational institutions which stores administrative information (such as student administrative records, financial information, etc.) about the enterprise, its staff, learners, programmes, etc.	1		Learning Management System Virtual Learning Environment Managed Learning Environment
Mandatory Unit	A unit that must be achieved as part of a specified qualification.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Optional Unit

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Manual Test Generation</b>	<p>The manual (human) process by which a test instance is generated from a bank of items (according to a formal or informal set of rules which may involve a selection algorithm and randomisation).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> this is widely used in e-assessment settings where the candidates do not all take the test at the same time, hence a variety of tests are required (to avoid the affects of test exposure) but where known comparability is required between the tests so that fair results can be given. Also see Automated Test Generation, which is increasingly used where large numbers of test instances are required.</p>	1		Dynamic Automated Test Item Bank
<b>Mark</b>	The smallest component of credit that can be given in a mark scheme.	4		Mark Scheme
<b>Mark Scheme</b>	Detail of how marks are to be awarded in relation to a particular assessment task. A mark scheme normally indicates the number of marks each question or component of the task attracts. It may also indicate acceptable answers or criteria for awarding marks.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Mathematical Question Type</b>	Answers to this question type are given as a mathematical expression, including algebraic form. Candidates are awarded pre-defined marks if their answer is equivalent to the correct answer. Answers can include numbers, simple operators, functions and independent variables. Candidate's answers are judged as correct even if their answers are in a different but equivalent mathematical form. Synonymous with Judged Mathematical Expression.	1	<a href="http://www.i-assess.co.uk/editor.html">www.i-assess.co.uk/editor.html</a>	Question Type
<b>MCQ</b>	See Multiple Choice Question Type	4		Multiple Choice Question Type Question Type
<b>Medium Stakes Test</b>	A test where results are collected locally and nationally but are not used for statutory national reporting	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Low Stakes Test High Stakes Test
<b>Memory Test</b>	A test of the accuracy of learner's recall of relevant knowledge.	4		Knowledge Recall

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Metadata</b>	Reference data about a piece of information (e.g. an assessment item) that enables it to be systematically stored in and retrieved from a database (e.g. an item bank) according to a variety of selection criteria. In the context of assessment, metadata might typically refer to aspects such as qualification or test specifications, curriculum content and performance statistics. <i>Note:</i> metadata is most useful when it conforms to an open standard, e.g. IMS LOM.	2		Tag
<b>Minimum Competence</b>	A criterion-referenced test with a mastery/non-mastery, pass/fail result.  <i>Note:</i> minimum competence tests are often used to certify skills (e.g. pilots, drivers) and often have quite a high pass mark (as a proportion of the total marks available).	4		Criterion-Referenced Assessment
<b>MIS</b>	See Management Information System	1		Management Information System
<b>MLE</b>	See Managed Learning Environment	1		Managed Learning Environment
<b>m-learning</b>	See Mobile Learning	1		Mobile Learning
<b>Mobile Learning</b>	A variant of e-learning where the learning is undertaken using a mobile ICT device (e.g. a PDA, mobile phone, handheld computer, etc.). The availability and popularity of handheld portable devices has led to some research into the use of m-learning techniques for e-assessment.	1		Blended Learning E-Learning
<b>Model Answer</b>	One exemplar response to an item (usually a constructed response item) provided by the assessing agency (e.g. the awarding body, the teacher).	4		
<b>Moderation</b>	The process of checking that assessment standards have been applied correctly and consistently between assessors, between centres and over time, and making adjustments to results where required to compensate for any differences in standard that are encountered. Also involves reviewing the work of a sample of candidates.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Verification
<b>Modification</b>	Adaptation(s) of a test to make it accessible to pupils with special educational needs .	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Special Arrangement Accessibility

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Modified Angoff</b>	A multistage version of the Angoff technique used for setting cut scores.	3		Ebel's Method Angoff
<b>Monitoring</b>	The review of, and reporting on, the awarding body's quality assurance arrangements by the regulatory authorities or the awarding body.	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Moodle</b>	An open source Virtual Learning Environment. See <a href="http://www.moodle.org">www.moodle.org</a>	2		Virtual Learning Environment
<b>MPEG</b>	Motion Picture Experts Group. A family of video compression standards and file formats which are synonymous with the committee that defined them. The compression usually results in a loss of quality (although lossless mpg compression is possible), but is generally acceptable to the human eye. It also defines a type of file denoted by the '.mpg' extension.	2		Compression JPEG
<b>MPG</b>	See MPEG	2		MPEG
<b>MULTILOG</b>	A software application sold by SSI, which is part of their IRT Suite of tools. It provides IRT-based analysis of 1,2 and 3 parameter models. See <a href="http://www.ssicentral.com/irt/index.html">www.ssicentral.com/irt/index.html</a>	3	<a href="http://www.ssicentral.com">www.ssicentral.com</a>	
<b>Multimedia</b>	Systems that support the interactive use of text, audio, still images, video, and graphics. Each of these elements must be converted in some way from analogue form to digital form before they can be used in a computer application. Thus, the distinction of multimedia is the convergence of previously diverse systems.	2	<a href="http://www.tamu.edu/ode/glossary.html">www.tamu.edu/ode/glossary.html</a>	Rich Media
<b>Multiple Choice Question Type</b>	A question where the student is required to select a single correct answer from a range of available options.	1		Question Type Distractor
<b>Multiple Match Question Type</b>	See Multiple Response Question Type	1		Question Type Multiple Response Question Type
<b>Multiple Response Question Type</b>	A variant of a multiple choice question where the student is required to select more than one of the available options. For example "Which two of the following options are examples of proteins..."Multiple Choice Question Type	1		Checkbox Question Type

# N

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>National Curriculum</b>	The statutory curriculum prescribed for children in maintained schools in England covering ages 5-16 which describes what must be taught and assessed for each subject. See <a href="http://www.nc.uk.net">www.nc.uk.net</a> . Assessment against the requirements of the national curriculum is via statutory national curriculum tests and teacher assessments.	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
<b>National Information and Learning Technologies Association</b>	A UK association for organisations and individuals in post 16 education. NILTA aim to facilitate the active participation of all staff throughout the lifelong learning sector in the development, use and exploitation of ILT through the exchange of ideas and expertise, sharing of best practice, facilitation of partnership and access to information, advice and support.	2	<a href="http://www.nilta.org.uk/index.htm">www.nilta.org.uk/index.htm</a>	
<b>National Occupational Standards</b>	Statements which describe the outcomes of competent work in an occupational field. They are developed by recognised sector bodies and approved by the appropriate mechanism.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>National Qualifications</b>	Qualifications for students in secondary schools and colleges of further education in Scotland. NQs include Standard Grades and National Courses and Units at various levels. See <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk">www.sqa.org.uk</a>	4		Scottish Qualifications Authority

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>National Qualifications Framework</b>	<p>Sets out the levels (from 1 to 5, increasing with ability) at which qualifications can be recognised in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. See <a href="http://www.qca.org.uk/493.html">www.qca.org.uk/493.html</a></p> <p>In Scotland, the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) allocates a level and credit value to each Scottish qualification. See <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk">www.sqa.org.uk</a>.</p>	4		<p>Scottish Qualifications Authority</p> <p>Qualification and Curriculum Authority</p>
<b>National Vocational Qualification</b>	<p>A large suite of vocational qualifications offered in England and Wales. They are generally portfolio-assessed qualifications which show skills, knowledge and ability in specific work areas. Can be taken at five levels, depending on level of expertise and responsibility of the job. A separate suite of SVQs is provided in Scotland.</p>	4		<p>Scottish Vocational Qualification</p>
<b>Natural Language Processing</b>	<p>A set of technologies which allow computers to undertake automated language analysis (i.e. analyse typed prose to extract meaning, grammar, style, register, etc.). Used (largely experimentally) in e-assessment to replace or augment human marking of essay style or free text questions.</p>	2		<p>Free Text Marking</p> <p>Expert System</p> <p>Automated Language Analysis</p> <p>Essay Style Question Type</p>
<b>Navigation</b>	<p>In an e-assessment context, the on-screen buttons and other controls that move candidates from screen to screen in an on-screen assessment, and provide access to other non-question specific features such as on-screen help, print functions, exit, etc). They are generally visually separate from controls that relate to the specific question.</p>	2		<p>User Interface</p> <p>Human-Computer</p>
<b>Negative Marking</b>	<p>The deduction of marks within a mark scheme for incorrect answers. Negative marking has been used to discourage and reduce the effects of guessing in objective assessments. The disadvantages are that it creates complexity, may increase anxiety and disadvantage the cautious, but has been broadly shown to have relatively little effect on rank order. It is therefore generally regarded as bad assessment practice. Synonymous with Correction For Guessing.</p>	4		<p>Correction for Guessing</p>

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>NESTA Futurelab</b>	The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, was set up by Act of Parliament in 1998. Its purpose is to help create a vibrant, dynamic culture and economy by supporting and promoting innovation and creativity in the UK. NESTA undertakes some work in the areas of e-learning and e-assessment. See <a href="http://www.nesta.org.uk">www.nesta.org.uk</a>	2	<a href="http://www.nesta.org.uk">www.nesta.org.uk</a>	
<b>New Media</b>	Similar to multimedia but with the emphasis on “on-screen” delivery.	2		Rich Media Multimedia
<b>News Group</b>	An online discussion forum (internet or intranet based) where users with a common interest can communicate in by posting text to a central point. Similar to (and often confused with) a chat room, where the communication is in real time.	2		Discussion Group Chat Room
<b>NILTA</b>	See National Information And Learning Technologies Association.	2		National Information and Learning Technologies Association
<b>NLP</b>	See Natural Language Processing	2		Natural Language Processing
<b>Non-Live Pilot</b>	A pilot of a qualification or unit that does not lead to an award. All awarding bodies developing onscreen assessment systems are advised to conduct series of non- live pilots to evaluate the steps in their delivery systems and identify training requirements for staff in centres	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Certificated Pilot Live Pilot
<b>Normalisation</b>	The process of converting complex data structures into simple, stable data structures. In statistics this generally involves modifying sets of data so they can be compared. For example, in an e-assessment setting, a test marked out of 50 could be compared to a test marked out of 40 by normalising both sets of scores to a percentage/out of 100.	3		Standardization
<b>Norm-Referenced Assessment</b>	See Norm-Referenced Test	4		Norm-Referenced Test
<b>Norm-Referenced Test</b>	An assessment in which each candidate’s performance is measured against that of others, rather than against an external standard. Used for selection (e.g. where there are a limited number of places for successful candidates) or where there are established ‘norms’ (e.g. IQ tests).	3	<a href="http://www.upei.ca/~xliu/measurement/glossary.htm">www.upei.ca/~xliu/measurement/glossary.htm</a>	Criterion-Referenced Test

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
NQF	See National Qualifications Framework	4		National Qualifications Framework
NRT	See Norm-Referenced Test	4		Norm-Referenced Test
Nuisance Variable	A term from social sciences. A potentially independent variable which exerts a systematic influence on results and which are extraneous to the interest of the assessment. Nuisance variables in an e-assessment setting are things that put learners off answering a question they could otherwise do adequately.	3	<a href="http://www.psychology.nottingham.ac.uk/staff/pal/stats/C82MST/C82MST%20Lecture%201%20Notes.htm">www.psychology.nottingham.ac.uk/staff/pal/stats/C82MST/C82MST%20Lecture%201%20Notes.htm</a>	Systematic Error
Numeracy	See Application of Number	4		Application Of Number
Numeric Response Question Type	A type of question which requires the candidate to enter a number to indicate their answer.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Question Type
NVQ	See National Vocational Qualification.	4		National Vocational Qualification



# O

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Objective Question</b>	An item in which the response is evaluated against objective criteria. This might be a single simple response, such as in a multiple choice item where the criterion is whether the student has made a correct selection. It might be that the student's response has certain properties which can be established objectively. In CAA this is usually done automatically.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
<b>Objective Question Type</b>	Any question to which the response can be marked right or wrong without the need for expert/human judgement. Most constructed response questions are not objective. Most closed question types are objective.	1		Question Type Constructed Response Question Type Closed Question Type
<b>OCR</b>	A major UK examining and awarding body. Part of Cambridge Assessment. Formed by the merger of the Oxford University Delegacy of Local Examinations, the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the Royal Society of Arts Examinations Board. See <a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk">www.ocr.org.uk</a>	4		AQA Cambridge Assessment Edexcel
<b>OCR</b>	Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is a means by which a computer can recognise text and other marks that have been scanned, and convert these to digital format.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Optical Mark Reader
<b>Offline Assessment</b>	An on-screen assessment which is conducted without using an internet connection during the test (although an internet connection may well be used to deliver the test to the client computer prior to the test starting, and to upload the candidate responses once the test has completed).	1		E-Assessment On-Screen Assessment Online Assessment

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>OKI</b>	The Open Knowledge Initiative (O.K.I.), is a program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which develops specifications that describe how the components of an educational software environment communicate with each other and with other enterprise systems. O.K.I. specifications address broad interoperability agreements that allow for adaptation and further specification by communities of practice. In this way, O.K.I. seeks to open new markets for educational tools and content. OKI also works with the IMS Global Learning Consortium to further e-learning systems interoperability.	2	<a href="http://www.okiproject.org/index.html">www.okiproject.org/index.html</a>	IMS
<b>OMR</b>	See Optical Mark Reader	2		Optical Mark Reader
<b>On-Demand Assessment</b>	Used in public examinations. Assessments where there is a high degree of flexibility in the date and time that tests can be offered to suit the student or their learning programme (although it may not necessarily include all days, times and dates). In contrast to many traditional assessments which are provided on a fixed date and time (or a limited range of dates and times).	4		Alternate Forms Window-Based Assessment
<b>Online Assessment</b>	An on-screen assessment which relies on an internet connection during the test to download subsequent questions and upload candidate responses. Sometimes termed “conducting a test live over the internet”.	1		Offline Assessment On-Screen Assessment
<b>Online Educa</b>	A large e-learning conference held in Berlin each year and serving the European market although with some international presence. Includes some coverage (increasing) of e-assessment. See <a href="http://www.online-educa.com/en/">www.online-educa.com/en/</a>	1		International Association of Educational Assessment CAA Loughborough E-Assessment Question, The
<b>On-Paper Assessment</b>	An assessment delivered to the candidate on paper and where the candidate responds on paper (i.e. a traditional examination).	1		Assessment Medium On-Screen Assessment
<b>On-Screen Assessment</b>	An assessment delivered to the candidate on a computer screen. A subset of e-assessment, but e-assessment may also include the use of ICT for communication, automated marking, etc.	1		Offline Assessment Online Assessment E-Assessment
<b>Open (ended) question type</b>	A task with no pre-determined process or outcome.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Question Type Objective Question Type Closed Question Type

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Open Source</b>	<p>Software applications and components where the source code of the application is made available to customers so that they can maintain and modify the application themselves. This is popular because it provides customers with protection against software suppliers taking advantage of users who rely on their products.</p> <p>Most commercially available software is not open source, although there are a number of initiatives which seek to make software open source (LINUX is the most commonly known example, but there are others specific to the e-learning and e-assessment domain).</p>	2		Open Standards
<b>Open Standards</b>	Shared, freely available and internationally agreed standards for computer-based systems, designed to enable communication and interoperability.	2		Open Source Interoperability
<b>Operating System</b>	A programme that runs on general purpose computing devices to provide basic operating functions controlling the computers hardware, memory allocation, input and output devices. This programme is required to provide a standard platform on top of which the user's application programmes run. Well known operating systems include Unix, MS Windows XP, Sun Solaris and Apple Mac X Tiger. Application programmes must be written to run on a specific operating system.	2		
<b>Optical Mark Reader</b>	A device that scans paper-based tests and converts marks made by the student using pen or pencil into digital data.	2	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	OCR
<b>Optional Unit</b>	A unit that can be selected as part of a qualification or programme. Qualification specifications may include rules about the number and combinations of optional units or components that are required or allowed.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Mandatory Unit Unit (Of A Qualification)
<b>OSI</b>	Open Source Initiative. A not for profit corporation that promotes the Open Source Definition to encourage and support the development and use of Open Source software. This refers to software where the source code is made freely available for modification and the compiled code may be used without charge.	2	<a href="http://www.opensource.org/">www.opensource.org/</a>	open source initiative

# P

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Parallel Forms	<p>A type of alternate form, based on multiple test versions that are created to measure the same constructs, and to produce the same scores, if they were given to individuals on different occasions. This is important in on-demand testing where candidates must be offered different but equivalent test content.</p> <p>Strictly speaking, Parallel forms have equal raw score means, equal standard deviations, and equal correlations with other measures for any given population.</p>	3		Equivalent Forms On-Demand Assessment Alternate Forms
Parameterised Item Type	<p>An item where parts of the question are generated according to a formula embedded within the question. This randomisation is usually undertaken dynamically, using the formulae, as the test is generated or delivered to the student, in contrast to cloning where item variants are generated during authoring by use of the randomisation parameters.</p> <p>The term parameter refers to the variables that are used by the formula to create the item instances.</p> <p>Many different types of questions (e.g. MCQ, gap fill, etc.) may use parameterisation.</p>	1		Cloning
Partial Credit	<p>Credit given to an answer that is in some part correct but does not have the complete solution to the question.</p>	4		Polytomous Item

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Pass Mark	The minimum score achieved on a minimum competence test for which a mastery/pass award will be given (as opposed to a non-mastery fail result). <i>Note:</i> may also be used in a graded assessment for the minimum score required to achieve the lowest "pass" grade in the range.	4		Minimum Competence Score
PDA	See Personal Digital Assistant	2		Personal Digital Assistant
PDF	Adobe Corporation's Portable Document Format. A File format that enables people to view documents with their fonts, images, links and layouts displaying exactly as they were created, regardless of the type of computer or other software being used. See <a href="http://www.adobe.com">www.adobe.com</a>	2		
Pedagogy	A philosophy of approach to teaching and learning including what is taught, how teaching occurs, and how learning occurs, and by extension, the application of this theory to the creation of learning contexts and environments. Strictly speaking, applies to children only, although widely used in adult teaching and learning.	4	<a href="http://www.bbk.ac.uk/ccs/elearn/glossary.htm">www.bbk.ac.uk/ccs/elearn/glossary.htm</a>	Andragogy
Peer Assessment	Assessment of a student by a fellow student or students typically following the same programme of study. Peer assessors apply criteria and standards of judgement as other assessors do. This term is usually applied when each partner in a pair of students assesses the other's work.	4		External Assessment Internal Assessment Peer Assessment
Performance Standards	Levels of student achievement evidenced by assessment results based on a demonstrated degree of mastery of the curriculum standards tested.	4		
Personal Digital Assistant	A small hand-held computer. Depending on level of sophistication may allow e-mail, word processing, music playback, internet access, digital photography or GPS reception, but generally less functional than a Pocket Computer.	2		
Personalisation	The configuring of a system by students to suit their personal requirements (e.g. selecting preferred font sizes and colours, volume levels for audio, et al). Also refers to more complex customisations of the user experience to meet personal learning needs.	1		Accessibility

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Pilot</b>	The trialling of a test or test system to determine its performance and make corrections prior to its use on a larger scale.	4		Certificated Pilot Live Pilot Pre-Test Trial
<b>Pilot Test</b>	See Pilot	4		Pilot
<b>Pixel</b>	The smallest discrete component of a display screen, either a monochrome or colour “dot”. The resolution of a display is defined as an x by y pixel count, while a comfortable viewing distance can be determined by the number of pixels per inch.	2		Screen Resolution
<b>PKI</b>	Public Key Infrastructure. A security system that enables the secure transmission of data over an open, public network using a system of digital certificates and Certificate Authorities that verify and authenticate the identify and validity of each party involved.	2	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Public Key Infrastructure
<b>Plagiarism</b>	The use of another person’s work (their words, products or ideas) for personal advantage without proper acknowledgement of the original work. Plagiarism may occur deliberately (with the intention to cheat or deceive) or accidentally (due to poor referencing).	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Cheating
<b>PLASC</b>	See Pupil Level Annual School Census.	2	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Pupil Level Annual School Census
<b>Point And Click Question</b>	See Hotspot Question Type	1		Question Type Hotspot Question Type
<b>Point-Biserial Correlation</b>	Closely associated with biserial correlation, the point-biserial correlation assumes a true dichotomy in the non-continuous measure. An example is the relationship between a group of candidates’ test scores and their sex.	2		Biserial Correlation
<b>Polytomous Item</b>	An item having more than two response categories. For example, a 5-point Lykert type scale where items can be scored 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.	3		Partial Credit Lykert Scale
<b>Portfolio</b>	A representative collection of a candidate’s work, usually assembled over the period of the learning, to demonstrate or exemplify either that a range of criteria has been met, or to showcase the best that a candidate is capable of. Also used widely in reflective learning.	4		E-Portfolio Portfolio Assessment

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Portfolio Assessment</b>	An assessment where a student's portfolio of assembled work is assessed. This type of assessment is distinct from a test (which is administered on a single occasion)	4		Portfolio
<b>Portfolio Item</b>	A relevant piece of information structured so that it can be integrated as part of a portfolio, or a unit of information that enables a related object to be integrated as part of a portfolio, or an object relating to the person creating the portfolio.	2		e-Portfolio Item
<b>Post Hoc Award</b>	The traditional pattern of award in which all a candidate's work is marked and moderated/verified and the results captured before grading takes place. Pressure for some qualifications to be delivered on demand is creating further pressure for rapid reporting of results. One approach to the resolution of the latter pressure is to agree pre-set pass marks	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
<b>Post Hoc Mark Scheme</b>	A mark scheme which is produced after the exam is taken (hence post hoc) and is based on actual candidate responses rather than the setter's anticipated answers.	4		Mark Scheme
<b>Practicability</b>	The feasibility of an assessment. A valid and/or reliable assessment may not be practical due to the cost or time required to carry it out. High quality assessments are valid, reliable and practicable.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	
<b>Predictive Validity</b>	The extent to which scores on a test predict some future performance. For example, a test which assesses job applicants is said to have good predictive validity if those candidates that pass turn out to be good at the job. It will usually be expressed in terms of a correlation coefficient.	3	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Validity
<b>Pre-Set Pass Mark</b>	A method of awarding in which calibrated questions are used to agree pass marks for assessments in advance of their delivery to candidates.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Post Hoc Award
<b>Pre-Test</b>	A trial of a test or individual items by a selection of representative students designed to determine the performance (validity, reliability, etc.) of the items individually and/or as a group prior to their use in live assessments.	1		Certificated Pilot Live Pilot
<b>Principal Assessor</b>	See Chief Examiner	4		Chief Examiner

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Processor</b>	In a computing context, a complex integrated circuit that implements low level software commands. A computer may typically have multiple processors, such as one or more Central Processor Units (CPU) and specialist processor such as a Graphics Processor Unit (GPU). An approximate measure of the power of a processor is the speed at which it's core handles software instructions, measured in MHz or GHz.	2		
<b>Proctor</b>	An individual who supervises an examination to maintain a fair and consistent testing environment, but takes no part in the examination process.  Proctor is most commonly used in the USA. The term invigilator is more	1		Invigilator
<b>Producer</b>	A person with technical skills who implements in on-screen format, the test materials written by a test author.	1		Author
<b>Proficiency Level</b>	See Achievement Level	4		Achievement Level
<b>Profile Results</b>	The reporting of results to candidates in sufficient detail for them to be able to identify the items answered correctly/incorrectly and any areas of the assessment specification that require further study.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
<b>Programme Of Study</b>	A series of learning opportunities, offered in accordance with a given curriculum, usually leading to a specific qualification.  In a schools context, the statutory knowledge, skills, understanding and breadth of study requirements provided for each subject for each key stage of the national curriculum.	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
<b>Proprietary Software</b>	Software requiring a licence from a particular company.	2	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Proxy Server	A webpage server that is placed between a web browser and the webpage server holding the original of the information the browser is accessing. A proxy server is typically placed at the boundary between networks and may be used to boost performance or provide network security. It can boost performance by holding copies of regularly requested pages and forwarding the copy to a web browser and improve security by filtering the websites and content requested.	2		Server
Psychometric Test	Provides a measure of a candidate's personality. It is most commonly used as part of the selection process for employment, or to support careers guidance. Typically it seeks to place candidates on a number of scales according to their preferred behaviours or aptitudes for aspects such as working with others, managing pressure, preferred working environment and thinking style.	4	<a href="http://www.psychometrics.co.uk/online.htm">www.psychometrics.co.uk/online.htm</a> <a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	IQ Test
Public Examination	An external assessment which is open to the general population and for which a qualification is awarded.	4		
Pupil Level Annual School Census	Pupil data file that is extracted from the School MIS and sent to the DfES annually by schools.	4		Management Information System
P-Value	The proportion of candidates in an identified norm group who answer a test item correctly; usually referred to as the difficulty index.	1		

# Q

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
QCA	See Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	4		Qualification and Curriculum Authority
QTI Lite	A simpler-to-implement technical specification for tests and items which allows tests developed in one system to be delivered to candidates on other systems (currently at version 1.2). See <a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/question/index.cfm#version1.2lite">www.imsglobal.org/question/index.cfm#version1.2lite</a>	2	<a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/">www.imsglobal.org/</a>	QTI V2
QTI V2	A technical specification for tests and items which allows tests and test items to be authored and delivered on multiple systems interchangeably. It specifically relates to content providers (that is, question and test authors and publishers), developers of authoring and content management tools, assessment delivery systems and learning systems. It is designed to facilitate interoperability between systems.	2	<a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/">www.imsglobal.org/</a>	IMS
Qualification	A formal award made by an awarding body for demonstration of achievement or competence.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Certification
Qualification Specification	A detailed statement defining the purpose, content, structure and assessment arrangements for a qualification.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Qualification

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Qualifications and Curriculum Authority</b>	An English non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). Roles include the maintenance and development of the English Schools national curriculum and associated assessments, tests and examinations in England, and the regulation of publicly funded qualifications in further and continuing education. See <a href="http://www.qca.org.uk">www.qca.org.uk</a>	4		Regulator, The ACCAC Scottish Qualifications Authority CCEA
<b>Question</b>	See Item	4		Item
<b>Question Authoring</b>	The creation of test items by educational specialists	1		Subject Matter Expert Author
<b>Question Bank</b>	See Item Bank	4		Item Bank
<b>Question Intimation</b>	See Item Intimation	1		Item Intimation
<b>Question Type</b>	The nature of the question, usually categorised by the way in which the candidate gives their answer (rather than the content of the question). Common question types are multiple choice, essay question, drag-and-drop, etc.	1		Hotspot Question Type Mathematical Question Type Drag-And-Drop Question Type Essay Style Question Type Multiple Choice Question Type

# R

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Radio Button	Response button to select a single option from a list used in a Multiple Choice Question. Frequently confused with Checkbox.	2		Multiple Choice Question Type Multiple Response Question Type Checkbox
Randomisation	The selection of individual elements from a predefined set (e.g. select a random whole number between 1 and 10). In e-assessment, randomisation is used to generate alternate test forms from an item bank, and to create item instances from parameterised item types. It can also be used to alter the sequence in which items are presented to different candidates, or the order of distractors. The random elements in an item include numbers, text and graphics.	1		Alternate Forms Item Bank Parameterised Item Type
Rater	An American term used to describe the person that marks a student's script of responses (or parts of a script). Similar to the UK term "Marker" although in the USA these are semi-skilled raters (who have an understanding of how to apply the mark scheme but are not subject specialists).	1		
Raw Score	The unmodified score achieved on an assessment, immediately after scoring. This is generally the number of questions answered correctly or the total marks achieved.  For example, if a candidate scores 37 out of 60 possible marks the raw score is 37. Raw scores are often then converted to percentile ranks, standardised scores, grades, etc.	4		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
RBC	See Regional Broadband Consortium	1		Regional Broadband Consortium
Reasonable Adjustment	An accommodation arrangement which is approved in advance of an examination or assessment to allow attainment to be demonstrated by candidates with either a permanent or temporary disability or learning difficulty, or a temporary disability, illness or indisposition.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Special Arrangement Accommodation Accommodation
Regional Broadband Consortium	The 10 groups of regionally adjacent local education authorities (LEAs) in England working together to procure broadband telecommunications cost- effectively for schools and to develop online content.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
Regulator, The	<p>A Government body (usually a NDPB) set up to oversee the activities of suppliers of services within an industry sector. Within UK education there are a number of regulators: QCA regulates the curriculum and qualifications in England, excluding higher education. (<a href="http://www.qca.org.uk">www.qca.org.uk</a>).</p> <p>ACCAC undertakes the same role in Wales (<a href="http://www.accac.org.uk">www.accac.org.uk</a>) . SQA undertakes a similar role in Scotland (<a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk">www.sqa.org.uk</a>) and CCEA undertakes a similar role in Northern Ireland (<a href="http://www.ccea.org.uk">www.ccea.org.uk</a>). QAA regulates Higher Education (<a href="http://www.qaa.org.uk">www.qaa.org.uk</a>) in the UK.</p> <p>The UK regulatory authorities (excluding QAA) can accredit qualifications which: are: a) external public awards, i.e. they are not internal certificates made by an employer to its staff or trainees, or by a college to its students; b) are permanent — once achieved, they are retained by the candidate; c) are not degrees or other higher education awards made by degree awarding institutions acting in their own right.</p>	4		ACCAC CCEA Qualification and Curriculum Authority Scottish Qualifications Authority
Regulatory Authority	(For Qualifications) Government-designated statutory organisations required to establish national standards for qualifications and secure consistent compliance with them. The regulatory authorities for qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are respectively QCA, ACCAC and CCEA	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Regulator, The

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Reliability</b>	<p>In an assessment context, the extent to which a test's results are repeatable and fair from one candidate to the next, and from one occasion to the next (for example with a different set of candidates). I.e. a measure of the accuracy of the score achieved, with respect to the likelihood that the score would be constant if the test were re-taken or the same performance were re-scored by another marker, or if another test from a test bank of ostensibly equivalent items is used.</p> <p>Many factors affect the reliability of an assessment. Ambiguous instructions to candidates can make an assessment unreliable since candidates may be unclear about what it is they are required to do. Badly worded questions may be interpreted differently by different candidates or even by the same candidate on different occasions. Vague marking instructions may result in different markers awarding marks for different reasons or the same marker awarding marks inconsistently between candidates.</p>	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Validity
<b>Replicability</b>	Refers to the ability of an assessment system to reproduce an assessment instrument (AI), such as a computer-delivered test. The reproduced AI need not be identical to the test previously devised, but it must be of the same level, have the same format and conditions, and be capable of being assessed to the same standard.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Reliability
<b>Reusable Learning Object</b>	A technical approach to e-learning content development which produces content as small independent/discrete chunks of learning which can be used in a variety of different settings. Often abbreviated to RLO.	2		
<b>Rich Feedback</b>	Feedback which goes beyond providing the correct or model answer to an item, and a simple explanation of why the student's selected response was wrong. Rich feedback is usually personalised to the candidate's response and designed to deal with the underlying misconception.	1		Adaptive Feedback Feedback
<b>Rich Media</b>	Dynamic content formats such as video, animation, audio and interactive components, compared with static media such as pictures, diagrams, text.	2		Multimedia New Media
<b>RLO</b>	See Reusable Learning Object	2		Reusable Learning Object

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Rubric</b>	<p>A set of instructions for the candidate provided as the preamble to an assessment.</p> <p>A scoring guide for an assessment.</p>	1		

# S

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
SAS	See Student Administration System	1		Student Administration System
Scalability	The ability to scale hardware and software to support larger or smaller volumes of data and more or less users. The ability to increase or decrease size or capability in cost-effective increments with minimal impact on the unit cost of business and the procurement of additional services.	2	<a href="http://www.dssresources.com/glossary/">www.dssresources.com/glossary/</a>	
Scenario	A group or cluster of items in a test which are usually presented to a candidate sequentially or as a group which share some common element or purpose in the test (e.g. stem or source material) and cannot easily be separated into individual items.  In some areas of education, a scenario (i.e. source material) also refers to an abbreviated case study or history which could be used as part of an assessment.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Stem
Schema	A shared representation, outline or model to describe documents and other items, typically based on open standards. In a computing context a schema is an abstraction at a higher level of language, for example, in a metadata context, a schema is a set of elements that must be specified in a metadata record. In XML, a schema provides a definition of a document type.	2	<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>	XML Schema XML
Scheme Of Work	A set of units of work for each subject and key stage produced by QCA to help schools translate programmes of study into a teaching programme.	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	National Curriculum



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Schools Interoperability Framework	A non-profit membership organization which seeks to create a set of technical specifications to enable software programs from different companies to share information. Abbreviated to SIF. See <a href="http://www.sifinfo.org/">www.sifinfo.org/</a>	2	<a href="http://www.sifinfo.org">www.sifinfo.org</a>	
SCN	See Unique Learner Number.	4		Unique Learner Number
Score	The total marks achieved by a student on a test	4		Raw Score Grade
SCORM	See Shareable Content Object Reference Model	2		IMS Shareable Content Object Reference Model
Scottish Qualifications Authority	An executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Scottish Executive Education Department. It is the national body in Scotland responsible for the development, accreditation, assessment and certification of qualifications other than degrees. Abbreviated to SQA. See <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk">www.sqa.org.uk</a> .	4		ACCAC Regulator, The CCEA Qualification and Curriculum Authority
Scottish Vocational Qualification	See National Vocational Qualification	4		National Vocational Qualification
SCQF	See National Qualifications Framework	4		National Qualifications Framework
Screen Magnifier	A software package to enhance accessibility for partially sighted learners. It works together with the operating system and on-screen assessment browser to enlarge the contents of the screen. Generally this magnification is very large, and far exceeds the largest settings that a standard operating system has in its settings. It is the software of choice amongst people with low vision.  <i>Note:</i> assessment designers need to take care that some images (particularly of text) become unreadable at high levels of magnification due to pixelation.	2		Access Tool Usability Accessibility Screen Reader Browser Operating System
Screen Reader	A software tool which reads out the text content of screens, allowing blind and partially sighted people to interact with computers. Distinct from a Text-to-Speech tool which also reads out text, but is designed for dyslexic users.	2		Access Tool Accessibility Screen Magnifier Text-to-Speech Tool

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Screen Resolution</b>	The number of distinct dots (pixels) that a screen can display (not the same as screen size). Higher screen resolutions allow presentation of more detail and information on a screen page.	2		Pixel
<b>Screening Test</b>	A short diagnostic test provided as the first part of a lengthier assessment process to determine whether or not a candidates level of knowledge or competence falls within a range that requires further learning/ investigation. The screening test is usually used to filter out candidates not suitable for the particular programme of study or subsequent assessments.	4		Formative Assessment Diagnostic Assessment Initial Assessment
<b>Scrutineer</b>	A UK public examinations term. An assessment specialist who is external to the writing and editing process who reviews the assessment prior to publication.	1		
<b>Sector Body</b>	A body (such as a sector skills council) recognised by the regulatory authorities as responsible for formulating and reviewing standards of occupational competence for an employment sector.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Secure Browser</b>	A software package used to provide desktop security when delivering an assessment over the Internet. Commonly these products provide a variety of lock down features which prevent the candidate from accessing other programs, such as the Internet, while undertaking an assessment.	2	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	HTTPS
<b>Secure Sockets Layer</b>	See SSL.	2		HTTPS URL SSL
<b>Security (Technical)</b>	The technical measures employed in computer software and hardware to prevent unauthorised access to content when stored on a computer or in transmission from one computer to another.	2		
<b>Selection Algorithm</b>	The logical rules, randomisations and procedures which are used to select questions from an item bank for a single assessment or set of alternate forms.	2		Alternate Forms Item Bank
<b>Self Assessment</b>	A judgement a candidate makes about his/her work or level of attainment in relation to the stated learning outcomes for the activity/programme. Self assessment is generally used to develop the candidate's ability to think critically about his/her learning.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
SEN	See Special Educational Needs	4		Special Educational
SENDA	See Special Educational Needs And Disability Act 2001	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Special Educational Needs And Disability Act
Sequence Response Question Type	A type of question where the candidate is asked to order a list of objects or text to formulate their response.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Question Type
Server	A powerful computer and (in some cases) a software application which supplies files and other resources to client machines over a network. The internet consists of many computer servers supplying web content to client machines. In e-assessment terms, servers generally deliver tests to client computers and store student responses.	2		Local Server Client Machine Intranet
SETT	Scottish education technology exhibition. See <a href="http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/sett/">www.ltscotland.org.uk/sett/</a> .	1		E-Assessment Question, The CAA Loughborough BETT
Setter	See Author.	1		Author
Shareable Content Object Reference Model	Abbreviated to SCORM. An XML-based framework used to define and access information about learning objects so they can be used within different learning management systems (LMSs). SCORM was developed in response to a United States Department of Defense (DoD) initiative to promote standardization in e-learning.	2		IMS Virtual Learning Environment Learning Management System XML E-Learning
Short Answer Question Type	A question which requires the candidate to provide a short textual answer (usually more than one letter and up to a sentence).	1		Question Type
SIF	See Schools Interoperability Framework	2		Schools Interoperability Framework
SIG	See Special Interest Group	2		Special Interest Group
Simple Object Access Protocol	A standard defined by the W3C, usually referred to by its acronym, SOAP. It is a messaging protocol based on XML to encode web service request and response messages before transmission over a network. It is designed to be platform and operating system independent.	2		XML Operating System W3C

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Simulation</b>	The process of imitating a real phenomenon with a set of mathematical formulas and rules, in such a way that a student can interact with it i.e. an experimental model of reality.	1		
<b>Skills for Life</b>	See Basic Skills	4		Functional Skills Key Skills Basic Skills
<b>SME</b>	See Subject Matter Expert. Also widely used outside assessment to mean Small to Medium-Sized Enterprise.	4		Subject Matter Expert
<b>SOAP</b>	See Simple Object Access Protocol	2		Simple Object Access Protocol
<b>Software Robustness</b>	The extent to which the software system has no known critical faults that prevent the system running materially as specified.	2	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
<b>Sophisticated Test</b>	An e-assessment made up of innovative items or assessment activities that require the student to demonstrate high levels of understanding through complex interactions with the computer.	1		Adaptive Test Innovative Item Bloom's Taxonomy
<b>Special Arrangements</b>	An accommodation that is approved in advance of an examination or assessment to allow attainment to be demonstrated by candidates with either a permanent or long-term disability or learning difficulty, or a temporary disability, illness or indisposition. Special arrangements are now referred to as reasonable adjustments to bring usage into line with the wording of legislation on equal opportunities. See reasonable adjustment.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Reasonable Adjustment Accommodation
<b>Special Considerations</b>	Procedures implemented at the time of an examination to allow attainment to be demonstrated by candidates who have suffered temporary illness, injury or indisposition at the time of the examination. Special arrangements are now referred to as reasonable adjustments to bring usage into line with the wording of legislation on equal opportunities.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Reasonable Adjustment Accommodation Accommodation
<b>Special Educational</b>	Denoting a learning difficulty (physical and/or mental) which requires the provision of special arrangements for teaching and learning.	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Accessibility

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Special Educational Needs And Disability Act</b>	An act of UK Parliament that extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to cover all aspects of pre and post-16 education. This act has the effect of ensuring that products and services used across the UK (particularly in education) do not discriminate on the grounds of disability.  For the act see <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010010.htm">www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010010.htm</a>	4		Special Educational Accessibility Disability Discrimination
<b>Special Interest Group</b>	A self selecting group of individuals with a particular interest in a (usually technical) field (for example there is a UK e-assessment SIG run by CETIS). SIGs usually operate via a mailing list, and a programme of meetings. SIGs sometimes provide a national response to international activities such as standards developments.	2		E-Assessment SIG Centre For Educational Technology Interoperability Standards
<b>Spiky Profile</b>	A visual representation of a learner's level of ability across the range of discrete subtopics (shown horizontally) within a knowledge/competency domain, usually generated as the result of a diagnostic assessment. Because learners often have differing levels of ability in different subtopics, most profiles will have a degree of spikiness.	4		Diagnostic Assessment
<b>SPSS</b>	Very widely used software for statistical analysis. See <a href="http://www.spss.com/">www.spss.com/</a>	3		
<b>SQA</b>	See Scottish Qualifications Authority	4		Scottish Qualifications Authority
<b>SRS</b>	See Student Record System	4		Student Record System
<b>SSL</b>	Abbreviation of Secure Sockets Layer. A protocol to establish an encrypted link between a web server and browser. This enables the transmission of private data between a host and client for example exam answers.  <i>Note:</i> by convention websites using SSL have a URL beginning https.	2		HTTPS URL Secure Sockets Layer
<b>Staged Assessment</b>	Assessment arrangements in which assessment units are taken throughout a period of learning.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Staged Question</b>	One which requires the user to enter answers to multiple parts.	1		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Standard Question Types</b>	A set of question types used for e-assessment including MCQ, gap-fill etc., usually characterised by items that exist in template/ready-to-use form within the authoring system. The list of “standard question types” varies from system to system but is largely defined by the range of item types supported by the IMS QTI v2.0 specification.	1		Question Type Authoring System QTI V2 IMS
<b>Standardisation</b>	<p>In scoring, ensuring that candidate responses are judged using predefined criteria in order to provide a consistent basis for evaluating all candidates. In statistical analysis, transforming a variable so that its standard deviation is 1.0 for some specified population or sample.</p> <p>The standardisation of markers (in GCSE for example) by Senior Examiners to ensure that they are applying the marking scheme correctly and consistently across the marking period.</p> <p>A process to check, adjust and ensure that assessment processes and criteria (including both the administration of the assessment itself, and its marking) are applied consistently by assessors, moderators and verifiers so that comparisons of results can be made between groups (e.g. over time, between different ages and sexes, etc.). Standardisation can be carried out within centres (internal standardisation) as well as by awarding bodies across their centres.</p>	4		Normalisation
<b>Standardisation At Assessment</b>	A process to ensure that the assessment criteria for a qualification, unit or component are applied consistently by assessors, moderators and verifiers. Standardisation can be carried out within centres (internal standardisation) as well as by awarding bodies across their centres.	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>Statistical Validity</b>	A measure of the statistical reliability and integrity of a test.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Validity
<b>Statutory Test</b>	A test which is mandated (required by law, statute).	4	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
<b>Stem</b>	The text which asks the question to be answered, the introductory text or question that is designed to elicit a correct response to the options available. The stem may take a number of forms (e.g. a question, an instruction, a problem, a sentence requiring completion.)	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Stimulus Material	Material provided as the basis of one or more questions or items.	4	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Stem Cluster Scenario
Student Administration System	An ICT system which manages students' financial and administrative data within an institution (usually doesn't include any educational information).	1		Student Record System Management Information System
Student Record System	The system used to record and interpret multiple student records. These records may typically contain family information, courses taken and results, special program participation information, assessment scores, extracurricular activities, and other information that is used to promote student success and provide appropriate services. A system is typically used to make effective decisions about instructions and student services.	4	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/building/desc_record.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/building/desc_record.asp</a>	Management Information System Student Administration System
Subject Matter Expert	An individual with expert knowledge in a particular field. Usually acting in the context of author, reviewer, editor or marker in an e-assessment context	4		Author
Subject Officer	A term used within the UK examinations system. The staff member of an Awarding Body who is responsible for one or more assessments relating to a particular subject area/content domain/competency.	4		
Summative Assessment	An assessment generally undertaken at the end of a learning activity or programme of learning which is used to make a judgment on the candidate's overall achievement. A key purpose of summative assessment is to record, and often grade, the candidate's performance in relation to the stated learning objectives of the programme.	4	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Diagnostic Assessment Formative Assessment
Summative Test	See Summative Assessment	4		Summative Assessment
SVQ	See Scottish Vocational Qualification	4		Scottish Vocational Qualification
Synchronous Learning	Any learning event where interaction between students and the teacher happens simultaneously in real-time. The most common form is face-to-face training or classroom teaching, but in e-learning this includes a web seminar.	1	<a href="http://www.elearners.com/resources/glossary.asp">www.elearners.com/resources/glossary.asp</a>	E-Learning Asynchronous Learning

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>See Also</b>
<b>Synoptic Assessment</b>	A form of assessment that tests candidates' understanding of the connections between the different elements of a subject.	1	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
<b>System Architecture</b>	A representation of a system which typically maps functions to hardware and software elements and interfaces to external systems and people.	2		
<b>Systematic Error</b>	Bias in an assessment process which leads to the result for some or all of the assessed group being consistently too high or too low. For example, lower scores achieved by one sex, or by an ethnic group could be considered systematic errors.	3		Bias





Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Tag	<p>To add information to a document or other item to enhance its usability. Alternately: the information so added.</p> <p>Different protocols are used for tagging: for example, style information can be added to web pages using CSS; metadata can be added to documents using IMS LOM or Dublin Core. HTML or XML tag attributes are generally used.</p>	2		HTML Alt Tag XML
TechDIS	<p>An educational advisory service, working across the UK, in the fields of accessibility and inclusion. It aims to enhance provision for disabled students and staff in higher, further and specialist education and adult and community learning, through the use of technology. TechDis is a JISC-funded service. See <a href="http://www.techdis.ac.uk">www.techdis.ac.uk</a></p>	2	<a href="http://www.techdis.ac.uk">www.techdis.ac.uk</a>	Joint Information Systems Committee
Technical Partner	<p>A subcontractor that provides e- assessment services to an awarding body. The regulatory authorities reserve the right to inspect agreements between an awarding body and any technical partners providing e-assessment services</p>	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	
Technical Pilot	<p>A statistically valid sample that allows statisticians to extrapolate performance across the whole test 'population'. This may include trialling the infrastructure as well as the test construct</p>	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Pre-Test Live Pilot

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Technical Standard</b>	<p>A specification which governs the required performance of software or hardware systems, and which has become ratified by one or more international bodies (e.g. CEN, IEEE). In practice, there may be considerable delay between a specification becoming widely used and it formally being adopted as a standard.</p> <p>Note that in the case of e-assessment, the IMS QTI specification is not yet a standard (although many people refer to it as a standard because it is widely in use).</p>	1		QTI V2 IMS
<b>Test</b>	A group of questions designed to be administered as a single assessment instrument.	4		Assessment
<b>Test Centre</b>	A location which is registered with an Awarding Body (or Certifying Agent/Test Sponsor) as a place where examinations provided by the Awarding Body are taken. Most Awarding Bodies require test centres to sign up to a code of conduct governing the way the centre is run in order to ensure that the tests are operated in a proper manner.	4		Centre
<b>Test Conversion</b>	See Item Conversion	1		Item Conversion
<b>Test Driver</b>	A test driver interfaces between the e-assessment administration and/or delivery system and the Test Player.	1		Assessment Engine Test Player
<b>Test Instance</b>	A particular test (defined by the items and their sequence that the test contains) offered to one or more candidates on a particular occasion.	2		
<b>Test Instance</b>	One particular test from a set of alternate forms One particular test generated algorithmically from an item bank.	4		Alternate Forms
<b>Test Mean</b>	The average score achieved on a test by a group (strictly, the "Arithmetic mean", as there is also a geometric mean).	1		
<b>Test of English as a Foreign Language</b>	An online assessment combining the four basic communication skills, that measures the ability of non-native speakers of English to use and understand North American English as it is spoken, written, and heard in college and university settings.	4	<a href="http://toeflpractice.ets.org/">http://toeflpractice.ets.org/</a>	ETS

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Test Package</b>	The electronic package of files which includes the test content as well as any embedded applications, resources, and sometimes the test player, which is delivered to the Client PC for the student to undertake. The test package may have travelled from a central server at the Awarding Body/Certification Agency, to a local server in the test centre and then to the Client PC, and will be subject to considerable file and channel security in the case of a high stakes assessment.	2		Test Player Embedded Application Awarding Body Local Server High Stakes Test
<b>Test Player</b>	<p>A piece of software which resides on the client PC and “runs” the test content, i.e. displays the questions on-screen, collects the student responses, controls the exam clock, and access to other resources, etc.</p> <p>Some test players are considerably more complex than others. For example, a test player for MCQ items may be little more than some scripts embedded in standard HTML pages, whereas the test player for innovative items or a sophisticated test made up of simulations and embedded applications would be a substantial computer application in itself.</p> <p>Sometimes test players are pre-installed on client PC’s and sometimes they are delivered to the client PC along with the test content itself. Flash is one example of a test player.</p>	1		Flash Assessment Engine Test Package Test Driver
<b>Test Robustness</b>	The extent to which an assessment is reliable and dependable, and will give similar results each time.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Reliability
<b>Test Session</b>	The period of time within a day in which a test is scheduled. This is fully qualified by a Session Date, Start Time and End Time.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	
<b>Test Specification</b>	The detailed requirements of what a test must contain, in terms of duration, type and quantity of questions, number of marks, spread of curriculum topics, rules for sampling etc. The test specification is used as the reference guide by an Author to write tests.	4		Author
<b>Test Standard Deviation</b>	A mathematical term which describes the spread of test scores from the mean.	3		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Test When Ready	Provision of on-demand assessment at a point in time that is judged by the centre to produce an optimal performance by the candidate	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	On-Demand Assessment
Test Window	The period of time in which a centre can schedule Test Sessions.	1	QCA Key Stage 3, ICT Glossary	Test When Ready On-Demand Assessment
Text Matching Question Type	A drag and drop question type which requires students to match segments of text to a set of prompt items.	1		Question Type Drag-And-Drop Question Type
Text-to-Speech Tool	A tool which reads out screen text for dyslexic users. Distinct from Screen Readers which also read out text but for blind users.	2		Access Tool Screen Reader
Theta ( $\theta$ )	Unobservable construct (or latent ability) being measured by a scale. It is estimated from the responses people give to test items that have been previously calibrated by an IRT model.	3		Item Response Theory
TIMSS	See Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study	1		Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
Title (Of Qualification).	A short description that states the type of qualification, the qualification level and its area of coverage. The full title specifies the name of the awarding body; the qualification level; the generic name of the qualification, e.g. Certificate, National Diploma, NVQ, GCSE; and a name indicating its area of coverage.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
TOEFL	See Test of English as a Foreign Language	1	<a href="http://toeflpractice.ets.org/">http://toeflpractice.ets.org/</a>	Test Of English as a Foreign Language
Tomlinson Report	The final report of the Working Group on 14-19 Reform that was set up in Spring 2003, chaired by Mike Tomlinson, which looked at high school qualifications and progression in England, and made a number of major recommendations including on e-assessment.  See <a href="http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&amp;PageMode=publications&amp;ProductId=DfE-0977-2004&amp;">http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&amp;PageMode=publications&amp;ProductId=DfE-0977-2004&amp;</a>	1		Department for Education and Skills
Translation	The process of converting textual content from one language to another. Part of, but not the same as localisation.	1		Localisation

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study</b>	Abbreviated to TIMSS, formerly Third International Mathematics and Science Study. A large study offering data on students' mathematics and science achievement from an international perspective. Undertaken in 1995, 1999, and 2003.	4		
<b>Trial</b>	In an assessment context, the process of testing items and tests with students to determine their performance in reliability, validity and other educational terms. Trial is also used more generally with the same meaning as "pilot".	4		Live Test Certificated Pilot Pre-Test Pilot
<b>True Score</b>	In classical test theory, the expected average score of a candidate if they were to take an infinite number of assessments.	3		

# U

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
UCLES	See Cambridge Assessment	4		Cambridge Assessment
ULN	See Unique Learner Number	1		Unique Learner Number
UML	See Unified Modelling Language	2		Unified Modelling Language
UNICODE	A technical standard which provides a unique number to represent each character – no matter what the platform, program or language. Allows all languages to be represented electronically (for example in XML) so that they can be delivered to another computer with confidence that they will be displayed there correctly.	2	<a href="http://www.unicode.org">www.unicode.org</a>	XML ASCII
Unidimensionality Assumption	An underlying assumption in IRT and other LTT analysis techniques. It requires that one underlying (or dominant) factor (variable or trait) accounts for a person's response to a question within a scale.	3		Latent Trait Theory Item Response Theory
Unified Modelling Language	A specification by the Object Management Group (OMG), an industry consortium, supported by a range of tools to specify, document and visualise models. Although originally designed to model software systems, it is widely used to represent any complex system such as a business as it can diagrammatically represent Structure, behaviour and interactions. Abbreviated as UML.	2	<a href="http://www.uml.org/">www.uml.org/</a>	

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Uniform Resource Identifier	A Uniform Resource Indicator is the term for all types of names or addresses for objects available on the internet. The best known of these is the URL type (http) but includes objects such as mailto and ftp.	2		URL
Uniform Resource Locator	The Uniform Resource Locator is a unique address (e.g. <a href="http://www.3sq.co.uk/about.htm">www.3sq.co.uk/about.htm</a> ) for a webpage which indicates which server, and where on that server, a web page is stored. A URL comprises a protocol prefix (http), a domain name ( <a href="http://www.3sq.co.uk">www.3sq.co.uk</a> ) and path to a specific web page or file ( <a href="http://www.3sq.co.uk/about.htm">about.htm</a> ).	2		Uniform Resource Identifier URL
Unique Learner Number	An ongoing English project run by DFES to provide each learner with a unique identifier in order to improve administration processes. In Scotland, the equivalent is the SCN – Scottish Candidate Number.	1	<a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/ACF17E.pdf">www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/ACF17E.pdf</a>	Department for Education and Skills
Unit (Of A Qualification)	The smallest part of a qualification that is capable of certification in its own right. Units may be designed as part of a specific qualification or group of qualifications, or designed independently (e.g. to be taken for stand-alone certification or to attract credit and be built up towards qualifications). Units may consist of separately assessed components. None of this implies that units must be taught or delivered as discrete entities.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
Unit Specification	A detailed statement defining the title, content, assessment arrangements and credit value for a unit.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	
URI	See Uniform Resource Identifier	2		Uniform Resource Identifier
URL	See Uniform Resource Locator	2		URI Uniform Resource Locator
Usability	The extent to which a service can be used by users with a broad range of requirements.	2		Human-Computer Accessibility
Use Case	In software engineering a use case is a method for capturing the requirements of a system in plain language by defining the interaction with users and external systems. Each use case typically focuses on a limited portion of the system and it's interfaces. This method is now widely used for non-software systems such as business processes.	2		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
User Interface	See Human Computer Interface	2		Human-Computer
User Norms	Statistical information about the performance a group of assessment candidates where the group of candidates is not necessarily a reference population. This group might be all people tested in a particular geographic region or in a particular exam session, i.e. not including candidates from other regions or other sessions.	3		



# V

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Validity</b>	The extent to which an assessment tests the actual abilities in the candidate that it is supposed to test. The appropriateness of the interpretation and use of the results for any assessment instrument. (E.g. a driving test where a candidate is observed driving is highly valid. A test where the candidate describes how they would drive is less valid). There are many different measures of validity.	3	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Predictive Validity Criterion-Related Validity Consequential Validity Concurrent Validity Authenticity Construct Validity Content Validity Face Validity
<b>Vendor Qualification</b>	A Qualification offered by computer software and hardware vendors which accredit users as competent with particular pieces of equipment or software. Microsoft, CISCO, Macromedia all offer Vendor Qualifications.	4		
<b>Verification</b>	A process of moderation that includes local checking of assessment processes and decisions.	4	The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications (QCA, CCEA, ACCAC)	Moderation Internal Verifier
<b>Vetter</b>	Term used in Scotland. Identical to Scrutineer	4		Scrutineer
<b>Virtual Instruments</b>	Provision of on-screen images of drawing and other instruments of sufficient accuracy and manoeuvrability that they can be used to take accurate measurements.	1	QCA Basic and Key Skills Glossary	Simulation

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Virtual Learning Environment</b>	A set of learning and teaching tools based on networked computer resources which provide a focus for students' learning activities and their management and facilitation, along with the provision of content and resources required to help make the activities successful. The functions considered standard in a VLE are curriculum mapping, student tracking, communications tools, tutor and student support, assessment and learning delivery tools. VLE is sometimes used interchangeably with MLE (managed learning environment) but an MLE can also be defined as comprising the complete learning environment, including a VLE and offline elements.	1	<a href="http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/InfoKits/effective-use-of-VLEs/intro-to-VLEs/introtovle-intro">www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/InfoKits/effective-use-of-VLEs/intro-to-VLEs/introtovle-intro</a>	Learning Management System Managed Learning Environment
<b>Virus</b>	In a computer context a virus is programme or piece of code that is installed and runs on a computer without the user's knowledge. Many viruses subsequently have malicious effects including using system resources such as memory and causing damage through deleting or corrupting files. Viruses typically seek to spread to other computers via network connections and manual file transfer operations. Viruses may be detected and deleted using virus scanning software.	2		
<b>VLE</b>	See Virtual Learning Environment	1		Virtual Learning Environment



Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
W3C	The World Wide Web Consortium – an organisation developing technical standards and best practice for the Web. Their stated mission is ‘To lead the World Wide Web to its full potential by developing protocols and guidelines that ensure long-term growth for the Web’. See <a href="http://www.w3.org/Consortium/">www.w3.org/Consortium/</a>	2	<a href="http://www.w3.org/">www.w3.org/</a>	
WAI	See Web Accessibility Initiative	2		Web Accessibility Initiative
WAN	See Wide Area Network	2		Wide Area Network
WAP	Wireless Application Protocol is a standard to provide mobile phones and other handheld wireless devices with access to email and text based web pages.	2		Wireless Application Protocol
WBT	See Web-Based Training	1		Web-Based Training
WCAG	See Web Content Accessibility Guidelines	2		Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
Web Accessibility Initiative	A section of the W3C that works in coordination with organizations around the world to pursue accessibility of the Web through five primary areas of work: technology, guidelines, tools, education and outreach, and research and development. Abbreviated to WAI. See <a href="http://www.w3.org/WAI/about.html">www.w3.org/WAI/about.html</a>	2	<a href="http://www.w3.org/">www.w3.org/</a>	W3C Accessibility Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines	Guidelines explaining how to make Web content accessible to people with disabilities.	2		Accessibility Web Accessibility Initiative

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
<b>Web Service</b>	A software technology – a self-describing software module, which encapsulates discrete functionality, wrapped in and accessible via standard Internet communication protocols like XML and SOAP. In non-technical terms, a web service is the way that a piece of software on one computer allows another piece of software on another computer to talk to it. For example, when a candidate logs in to an assessment system on a client PC, the server may provide authentication for that login using a web service. Web services are important because software is increasingly distributed between computers, including computers separated across the internet.	2	<a href="http://www.microsoft.com/Net/Basics.aspx">www.microsoft.com/Net/Basics.aspx</a>	Active Server Page .NET
<b>Web Services Definition Language</b>	A W3C standard developed by Microsoft and IBM for an XML based language derived from SOAP. It is used to describe the services a company offers and provide the means to access those services. Abbreviated as WSDL.	2		XML Simple Object Access Protocol
<b>Web-Based Assessment</b>	An assessment delivered from a server via the Internet or an Intranet (such as a centre or education authority Intranet). Candidates access the assessments using a browser. If Internet-based, the assessments could be online with candidate responses delivered to the server in real time for automatic marking and immediate feedback.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Online Assessment E-Assessment Computer-Based Assessment Computer-Aided Assessment
<b>Web-Based Training</b>	Computer based training delivered using TCP/IP and HTTP protocols, the protocols that define the World Wide Web. Closely related to Internet-based training (IBT) which is delivered using TCP/IP protocol, but not necessarily HTTP; thus IBT might use proprietary protocols and applications.	1	<a href="http://www.wbtic.com/faq.aspx">www.wbtic.com/faq.aspx</a>	E-Learning Internet Based Training
<b>Wide Area Network</b>	A wide area network typically comprises two or more Local Area Networks (LAN) spread over a geographically large area, e.g. a country. The connections between the LANs or individual computers are typically via public networks.	2		Local Area Network
<b>Window-Based Assessment</b>	An assessment which can be offered on request but within a fixed period of time (e.g. anytime within a two week window)	1		On-Demand Assessment
<b>Wireless Application Protocol</b>	See WAP.	2		

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
Word Response Question Type	A type of question which requires the candidate to enter a word to indicate his or her answer.	1	SQA Draft e-Assessment Glossary of Terms	Question Type Gap Fill Question Type
World Class Tests	A set of innovative e-assessments which are aimed to stretch more able children in English schools but which is also offered internationally to provide benchmark information for English children's achievements. See <a href="http://www.worldclassarena.org/v5/default.htm">www.worldclassarena.org/v5/default.htm</a>	1		Qualification and Curriculum Authority
WSDL	See Web Services Definition Language	2		Web Services Definition Language

# X

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
XLIFF	A technical standard for storing information about the language (e.g. Welsh) that text is written in within electronic files. The aim is to simplify translation and localisation by making the language content file format independent. The XLIFF format aims to: Separate localizable text from formatting; Enable multiple tools to work on source strings and add to the data about the string; Store information that is helpful in supporting a localization process.	2	<a href="http://developers.sun.com/dev/gadc/technicalpublications/articles/xliff.html">http://developers.sun.com/dev/gadc/technicalpublications/articles/xliff.html</a>	XML Localisation Interchange File Format
XML	A pared-down version of SGML, designed especially for Web documents. It allows designers to create their own customized tags, enabling the definition, transmission, validation, and interpretation of data between applications and between organizations.	2	<a href="http://www.rustybrick.com/definitions.php">www.rustybrick.com/definitions.php</a>	XSL Cascading Style Sheet Extensible Markup Language
XML Localisation Interchange File Format	See XLIFF.	2		XML
XML Schema	A description of a type of XML document, typically expressed in terms of constraints on the structure and content of documents of that type, above and beyond the basic syntax constraints imposed by XML itself. An XML schema provides a view of the document type at a relatively high level of abstraction.	2		XML
XSL	A W3C standard to define the style of web pages as opposed to content. This style may then be applied to multiple pages of content. It is similar to Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) but extends the style to printed web pages.	2		W3C Cascading Style Sheet Extensible Style Language

# Z

Term	Definition	Category	Reference	See Also
ZIP	A popular file compression format. Files can be compressed with PKZip, WinZip or within Windows.	2		Compression

## e-Assessment Glossary (Extended)

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