

Uses of the Information Services Platform

We plan to use the Platform to produce most of the statistical information used by our senior assessors and managers. Current uses include:

- Providing item analyses and reports for all examinations marked on screen;
- Screening marks for signs of candidate or centre malpractice;
- Statistical monitoring of marking accuracy (under development);
- Statistical monitoring of examination comparability (under development);
- Statistical monitoring of examination reliability (under development).

We will also use our data warehouse, combined with data from national databases, to analyse educational trends, equity issues and access issues, and publish the results in authoritative papers and reports, as part of our continuing commitment to providing evidence in support of public policy development and debate.

Conclusion

Evaluation of the Item Level Data service (Shiell and Raikes, 2011) showed that the Information Services Platform enabled our statisticians to provide useful statistical content to senior assessors and managers in a highly reliable, scalable and flexible way. The automated service implemented by our statisticians reliably produced reports for nearly 600 examinations to a tight operational schedule in summer 2010, and has run without major issue for all examination series since then. By using the Platform we are able to combine the flexibility, efficiency and responsiveness of having our statistical experts in charge of creating statistical content, whilst benefiting from the robustness and scalability of a server-based architecture. The Information Services Platform is now a core piece of Cambridge Assessment's infrastructure, central to our vision for taking full advantage of the statistical information made possible by advances in assessment technology.

Reference

Shiell, H. & Raikes, N. (2011). Evaluating Senior Examiners' use of Item Level Data. *Research Matters: A Cambridge Assessment Publication*, 12, 7–10.

EXAMINATIONS RESEARCH

Statistical Reports

The Research Division

The ongoing 'Statistics Reports Series' provides statistical summaries of various aspects of the English examination system such as trends in pupil uptake and attainment, qualifications choice, subject combinations and subject provision at school. These reports, produced using national-level examination data, are available on the Cambridge Assessment website: http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/ca/Our_Services/Research/Statistical_Reports.

Ten new reports have been added to the series since the publication of Issue 12 of *Research Matters*.

- Statistics Report Series No. 29: Predicting A level grades using AS level grades (plus commentary)
- Statistics Report Series No. 30: A level uptake and results, by gender 2002-2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 31: GCSE uptake and results, by gender 2002-2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 32: A level uptake and results, by school type 2002-2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 33: GCSE uptake and results, by school type 2002-2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 34: Provision of GCSE subjects 2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 35: Uptake of GCSE subjects 2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 36: Candidates awarded the new A* grade at A level in 2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 37: Uptake of two-subject combinations of the most popular A levels 2001-2010
- Statistics Report Series No. 38: Uptake of two-subject combinations of the most popular A levels in 2010 by candidate and school characteristics