



University of Mohamed Lamine Debaghine Sétif2
Faculty of Letters and Foreign Languages
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A National Colloquium on
**“Online Testing
at the Algerian
University
during COVID-
19 Crisis:
Perspectives and
Challenges”**

29-30 November 2021



COVID-19 has been affecting life in Algeria tremendously as in other parts of the world. School cancellations were a reasonable response to the burgeoning virus pandemic and the unprecedented circumstances required the immediate closure of all educational institutions without notice or planning. Studies were suspended and postponed and thus assessment and testing were no exception.

What was a grave issue was that due to the cancellation and postponement of tests, some students were very anxious about missing out important opportunities and others were eager to know how to advance to the next level. Yet, there exist several challenges of offline testing; involving the wearing of masks and gloves and the need for 1.5m of space between desks and the difficulty in securing test sites because of the vast clusters of people.

Some Algerian institutions (schools and universities) resorted to computer based testing or online testing as a resolution to this issue and the situation was slowly stabilizing with some online at-home tests being offered for a limited period.

Nonetheless, the introduction of online at-home testing was a big challenge for the Algerian schools and universities because of several reasons such as resources, internet services, internet affordability (as regards students and

teachers), and test fairness and credibility. From one hand, pulling from my own experience; and based on the testimony of several university teachers, there did experience many difficulties while designing and administering an online test/exam.

Amongst these challenges, were internet connectivity as previously mentioned, the nature of questions bank available on the e-platform and which does not allow much freedom to the teacher design appropriate exam questions as regards validity and reliability. Also, the rate of cheating was highly probable like screen sharing, using advanced smart phones applications and getting a second party assistance.

From another hand, even though online tests were possible in some cases, it appeared that students preferred offline exams and quizzes that they had already experienced and are familiar with. Also, learners showed dissatisfaction about the nature of the test questions and complained about the time allotted. Many of them as well questioned the tests validity and reliability.

Additionally, many students were against the online testing because it was totally new and they were struggling to adapt. They complained also about the technical issue, computer literacy and the nature of instructions given by the teacher. In sum, the new situation imposed by the

pandemic has tipped the scale against decisions of the government and educational institutions to end the academic year.

We encourage professionals and researchers to submit proposals for papers on a topic of their choice relating to the colloquium theme:

TRACKS

- Testing during COVID-19 pandemic
- Challenges of online at-home testing
- Validity and reliability of online testing compared to offline testing
- Online at-home testing fairness
- Students' perceptions of online testing
- Teachers attitudes towards online testing

Submissions

- The colloquium language is English
- The colloquium will be in-person (**Physical**) if circumstances permit-otherwise it will turn into an online event.
- Teachers, researchers and doctoral students may participate.
- You are invited to submit your abstract via this email:
col.eng.testing@univ-setif2.dz
- The track chosen is to be mentioned at the beginning of the abstract

Important Dates

- The deadline for submitting a detailed abstract (500 words) and full author details is 03 November 2021.
- Selection of papers is based on the abstract, and presenters will be notified whether abstracts have been accepted or refused by 15 November 2021.
- The full paper is due on 25 November 2021

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