

Introduction

Questionmark Perception is an 'assessment management system' that allows authors to develop tests, quizzes and surveys with different types of questions that are offered to participants online using a browser on any device. Assessments can also be printed out or held on a CD. It is possible to add media such as animations, graphics, audio and video to the questions, schedule when tests should be taken and set up assessment reports in several different formats. Questionmark Perception's web-based delivery of assessments requires accessibility considerations common to all websites as suggested in the W3C WCAG guidelines.

Considerations

- **Questionmark Perception was developed primarily for mouse navigation.** Keyboard users may have significant issues with the design of some question (especially Drag-and-drop) as will screen-reader users and alternative formats will need to be offered. There may also be issues navigating between some questions so ease of navigation needs to be checked before submitting an assessment.
- **All keyboard entries should be visible on-screen.** However, in some cases you must press the alt key. It is possible that Questionmark Secure will disable the control key (Ctrl) to prevent 'accidental' exiting of an assessment.
- **If graphic resources are used make sure you add 'alt tags' to describe pictures** but if the graphics are being used as part of the assessment, alternative descriptive text will need to be provided to those with visual difficulties that does not compromise the assessment.
- **Multimedia elements will require alternative formats.** Examples of alternative formats are transcripts of audio presentations, text descriptions for graphical representations, captions for video and flash animations. These should not be allowed to compromise proposed learning and teaching outcomes.
- **A secure plug-in may defeat any on-screen aids** so it may not be possible to change or zoom text or use preferred colours, although in most cases browser accessibility options should be available. Make sure participants can use screen-reading, external magnification or virtual coloured overlays.
- **If you are a University of Southampton author use the templates provided.** These automatically provide participants with a pale yellow anti-glare background with 14pt black Arial type (as advised by the Learning Differences Centre).

Additional Resources

- Questionmark Perception UK homepage.
<http://www.questionmark.com/uk/perception/index.aspx>
- How to set Assessment properties – University of Southampton guidance
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/computing/elearn/CAA/Perception/how_to_set_assessment_properties.html
- JISC CETIS Guidelines and specifications for accessible assessment
http://wiki.cetis.ac.uk/Guidelines_and_specifications_for_accessible_assessment
- University of Leeds guidance for making Questionmark Perception more accessible
http://www.leeds.ac.uk/perception/v4_summative_use.html
- Policy and guidance on the inclusive assessment of students from University of Bradford
<http://portfolio.pebblepad.co.uk/bradford/viewasset.aspx?oid=105781&type=thought>
- TechDis online accessibility self evaluation
<http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getevaluated>
Growing out of a series of pilots and online discussions with Regional Support Centres, JISC TechDis have developed six role related online self evaluations, i.e. Learning Support Managers/Disability Officers, Staff developers/Learning technologists, Marketing managers, Senior managers, Network managers, and Library staff. TechDis state:

“Although technical accessibility guidelines exist (such as PAS78 and WCAG) there has been little in the way of plain English, contextual advice for individuals undertaking particular roles to help them;

* identify which areas need attention, and
* identify what that attention might entail.