A Preliminary Study on the Validity of the Paperless College English Test Based on the Computer Network Platform-Take the iTEST Test System As an Example

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Abstract. Paperless exams are increasingly used in college English school-based exams, and the effectiveness of these exams cannot be ignored. Computers and modern information technology have promoted the reform of language testing methods. More and more exams are based on computer and network paperless tests. This article first analyzes the feasibility of paperless English test based on the network platform iTEST. Then, this article analyzes the effect of paperless testing. Finally, some suggestions were made.

Keywords: College English Paperless Test, ITEST Test System, Eexamination Results, Network Platform

1. Introduction

Testing is an important means of testing and evaluating whether foreign language teaching and learning have achieved the desired results, which has always been an important part of language teaching process. Computer and modern information technology have exerted great influence on language testing and evaluation, test management, test design, task presentation, scoring, performance analysis and reporting. Paperless testing based on computer and network has gradually become the mainstream. International influential language tests such as TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, BEC and GMAT have been fully implemented. From December 2008 to June 2009, China began to carry out online examination for CET-4 and CET-6[1]. In the qualification examination for professional technicians published by the Ministry of Personnel and Social Affairs in 2018, computer-based examinations have been carried out in the economic and technical qualification examination, ACCA and the national vocational qualification appraisal examination. The iTest University Foreign Language Testing and Training System is a comprehensive testing and teaching service system specially provided with high-quality foreign language test database resources, self-built test database management functions and online evaluation services. Through iTest system, colleges and universities can carry out computer-based examination reform of College English curriculum, which is an important measure to promote the construction of College English curriculum.
evaluation system. According to the teaching needs of the college and the training objectives of the departments, we can promote students’ autonomous learning, which will alleviate the contradiction between the reduction of College English class hours and the improvement of teaching quality.

2. Feasibility analysis of college English paperless examination

The paperless examination is mainly as follows. Students do not answer questions on paper, but directly extract and combine a set of questions from the question bank. Students need to complete their answers within the time required for the exam\(^2\). Then the computer can assist in evaluating the test results. Paperless examination is also known as the "new examination method", "green examination", "computer-aided examination" or "computer-aided examination". The advantages of efficient College English paperless examination are described below.

2.1. Good comprehensive effect

There are a large number of College students. There have been many drawbacks in the written College English test, such as the difficulty in organizing the exam, the investment of more human and material resources. In view of teachers’ ability of marking papers, the subjectivity of examination paper evaluation is greater, and so on\(^3\). However, the implementation of paperless examination can improve this situation to a certain extent. Paperless examination has the following advantages. First, the effectiveness of teaching quality. By increasing the accuracy of test feedback, paperless examination will be conducive to the assessment of teachers’ teaching quality and teaching effect. Second, economic benefits. Through the implementation of paperless College English examination, colleges and universities can save a lot of printing and examination fees, which will greatly reduce the workload of teachers’ invigilation, marking and analysis of examination papers. Third, social benefits. Through the implementation of paperless College English examination, colleges and universities can enhance the visibility of efficient College English teaching.

2.2. Establishment of a scientific examination question bank

College English is a public subject highly respected by students\(^4\). The establishment of test questions bank not only meets the requirements of the development of College English test in China, but also meets the requirements of the University Examination Center for the establishment of crying for each subject. Therefore, it is self-evident that the advantages of establishing test question bank are self-evident. By alleviating the burden on teachers, this can effectively ensure the confidentiality of the test questions. By scientifically testing the quality of teaching, we can better realize the regulatory function of teaching management. Online classroom is an open platform for students to learn independently from time to time, which can provide students with adequate pre-test exercises. By cultivating students’ autonomous learning ability, colleges and universities can stimulate students’ learning initiative and enthusiasm. At present, College English is constructed through sub-sections, such as listening, vocabulary and grammar, reading, translation, cloze, writing and so on.

2.3. Improving the validity and reliability of tests

Validity refers to whether the test validates the desired content. Reliability is whether the test results are stable and reliable. It is difficult to guarantee the validity and reliability of the traditional written College
English test. Firstly, it is difficult for teachers to cover all knowledge points in their propositions, which often leads to the phenomenon that the knowledge points they hope to assess are not detected. Therefore, validity cannot be guaranteed. Secondly, the reliability of raters is difficult to guarantee. Therefore, the reliability of subjective questions is often difficult to guarantee. College English computer examination can improve the validity and reliability of the examination\cite{5}. Question bank is a validity test for all knowledge points, which will improve the validity of the test. The paperless question bank of College English can organize the grading of teachers who have experience in marking papers, and it can also be graded by computer. Therefore, the reliability of the examination can also be greatly improved. By enhancing the scientificity of the examination, we can play the backwash role of the test in the process of English teaching, which will better promote the college English teaching reform.

3. The problems of college English paperless examination

A total of 1000 questionnaires were issued, and 961 questionnaires were valid, with an effective rate of 96.1%. The specific analysis is as follows.

3.1. Rational acceptance of paperless testing

With the improvement of familiarity and utilization of computers and networks, most students are not afraid of paperless testing subjectively. On the internet, computer answers and paper-and-pencil examinations have little impact on students’ performance\cite{6}. A small number of students with anxiety may be anxious from the test, rather than paperless. According to the survey results, students’ adaptability and psychological tolerance to paperless testing are poor, accounting for 54.4% and 50.1%, respectively, as shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Rational acceptance of paperless testing](image_url)

3.2. Less paperless examination teaching

The reform of examination methods will inevitably affect the teaching methods. Computerized examination has put forward higher requirements for teachers’ teaching ability and examinees’ language ability. In order to adapt to the trend of multimodal language testing, teachers need to change their teaching methods. By changing the classroom language input environment, students need to actively adapt to the changes in test forms. However, the domestic research only includes the combination of listening, speaking, reading and writing, which shows the students’ attitude towards paperless examination. In view of the exam anxiety of students, our country does not mention the coping strategies. Less paperless examination teaching will cause a series of problems. According to the survey results, test anxiety and unsuitable for examination mode are the main problems, accounting for 71.9% and 65.9% respectively, as shown in Figure 2.
4. Measures to improve college English paperless education

4.1. Construction of college English paperless examination database

College English paperless examination is restricted by technological development, allocation of resources and equipment, renewal and other factors. It can only be regarded as an important part of formative test in the teaching process. The test content can be closely combined with the teaching content. By examining the students’ staged learning situation in an all-round way, we can feedback the teaching effect and quality more effectively, which will promote the curriculum construction. Combining with the teaching content, we can compile standardized test questions or after-class exercises. Each semester’s exam questions have to be re-compiled and updated. The content of the exam can also use the real or simulated questions of College English Test 46. At the same time, various types of test questions gradually accumulate and build the test database. Teachers can also use the rich resources of the Internet to find practical test data. Through continuous optimization and improvement, we will promote paperless examination proposition to be more standardized, scientific and standardized, which will ensure the fairness of the examination. By effectively preventing leaks, we can build a powerful and rich paperless test database through the computer network platform.

4.2. Improving college English teachers’ information literacy

Teachers are the main executors of the teaching and testing process. The informationization level of College English teachers is directly related to the smooth progress of paperless College English examination. We must promote teachers to actively adapt to new technological changes such as information technology and artificial intelligence, in order to actively and effectively carry out education and teaching. College English education has entered the digital era, and the traditional teaching mode is being challenged. Therefore, College English teachers should strive to master modern educational technology, expand the space of English education, renew ideas, reshape the role of teachers, improve information literacy, and actively adapt to the requirements of the new era. Colleges and universities need to promote quality education in an all-round way. By facing modernization, the world and the future, we can vigorously improve the modernization level of educational technology and educational informatization. Only by keeping pace with the times can college teachers be competent for the educational tasks of College English teachers in the digital age.

5. Conclusion

With the growing generation of the Internet, college students are more likely to receive information-based learning and testing models. Computer and modern information technology have exerted great...
influence on language testing and evaluation, test management, test design, task presentation, scoring, performance analysis and reporting. Paperless testing based on computer and network has gradually become the mainstream. College English paperless examination can be used to design and analyze data, which provides students with personalized learning path. At the same time, paperless examination provides teachers with data-based learning prediction and teaching suggestions, which will achieve intelligent teaching and learning. Therefore, the reform practice of paperless college English test based on the network platform has practical significance.

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