

SCHOLAR

Celebrating 10 years of development and success



The SCHOLAR Forum is a partnership led by Heriot-Watt University providing flexible, interactive educational resources for Higher and Advanced Higher subjects. SCHOLAR is one of the world's largest interactive internet based programmes and is available to all secondary schools in Scotland.

| Available | Advanced Higher | Higher | Intermediate 1/2 |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| Accounting | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Biology | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Business Management | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Chemistry | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Computing | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Economics | ✓ | ✓ | |
| German | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Human Biology | | ✓ | |
| Information Systems | ✓ | ✓ | |
| French | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Mandarin | | | In progress |
| Maths | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Physics | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Psychology | | ✓ | |
| Spanish | ✓ | ✓ | |

Learning materials on the internet are now commonplace. So what makes SCHOLAR different? SCHOLAR sits in a Virtual Learning Environment backed up by Pass-It, a sophisticated formative assessment technology. The Virtual Learning Environment allows teachers to set pupils work, track how they are doing, pick up on errors and misconceptions – bringing the whole process of formative assessment and feedback into this modern technology.

But that isn't what strikes people most when they see SCHOLAR for the first time. The sophisticated activities and simulations make science and computing come alive. Maths graphs draw themselves on the screen illustrating the impact of key variables. Listening activities in languages can be undertaken at the learner's own pace.

Of course, being internet based, pupils can work at home – anywhere where they have internet access. Evaluations show that usage at home is just as high as use at school with page hits last year at over 8,000,000.

Supported from the beginning by the Education Authorities and the Scottish Government, SCHOLAR is truly an e-learning success story.

<http://scholar.hw.ac.uk>

Launch of the new site

In summer 2009 we launched the new SCHOLAR site. The SCHOLAR team has visited schools to seek the advice of students and teachers on the functionality of the website.

The aim has been to make the site more modern and engaging. We hope the navigation, in particular, is more intuitive for young people and reflects current web practice.

We also took the opportunity, by adding new features, to enhance the functionality and useability.

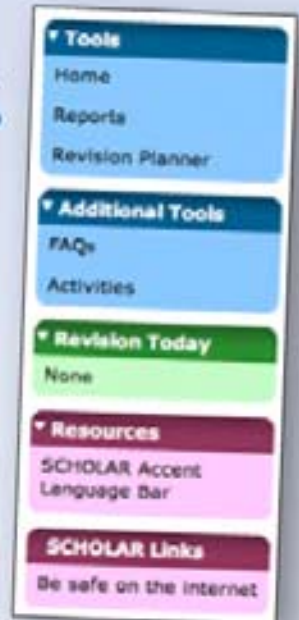


On the menu page the choice of colours improves the accessibility of the site and the menus at the side give a more modern feel. The Search feature is now integrated and is similar to a search facility on other sites.



The icons that describe the type of learning activities have been revised.

A Revision Planner has been fully integrated into the resources. The Planner will alert the students to their daily tasks. The flag will also be a hyperlink giving fast access to the learning activity.



Our SCHOLAR Accent Bar for foreign languages has been extended to include German and Spanish. The bar can be downloaded and then made available for any work the student or teacher is doing. It works with Microsoft Office and web facilities such as email - so it's a valuable asset for SCHOLAR languages.

For the Mandarin courses we have developed activities that support the recognition and writing of characters... and ensured the site supports all the required characters.



| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Person 1 | Hi, Charles! 嗨, 查里斯 (Charles)! |
| Person 2 | Good bye! 再见! |
| Person 3 | Good night Maria! 晚安, 玛丽亚 (Maria)! |
| Person 4 | Good evening! 晚上好! |
| Person 5 | Hello, Mr Chan! 陈先生, 你好! |

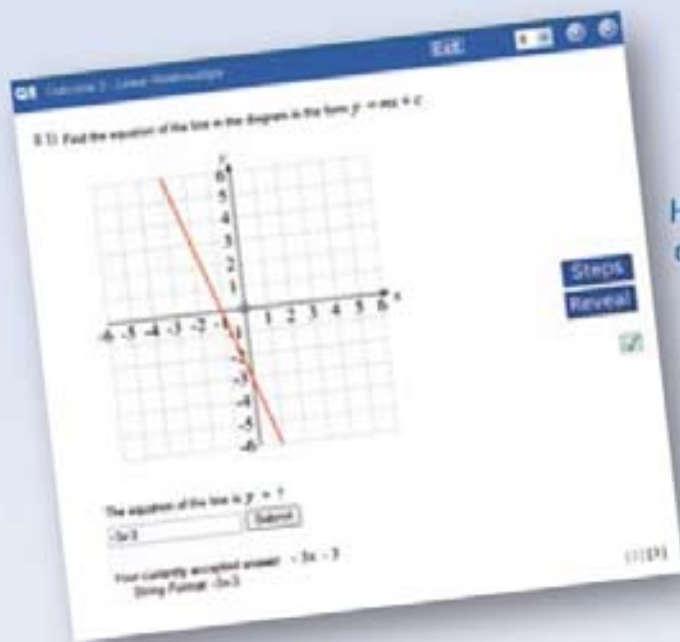
At present we will not be developing an Accent Bar for Mandarin; around 2000 characters is a challenge too far!

A new traffic light system lets you know if you have the required plug-ins. At home you can easily download them. In school refer to your IT support.



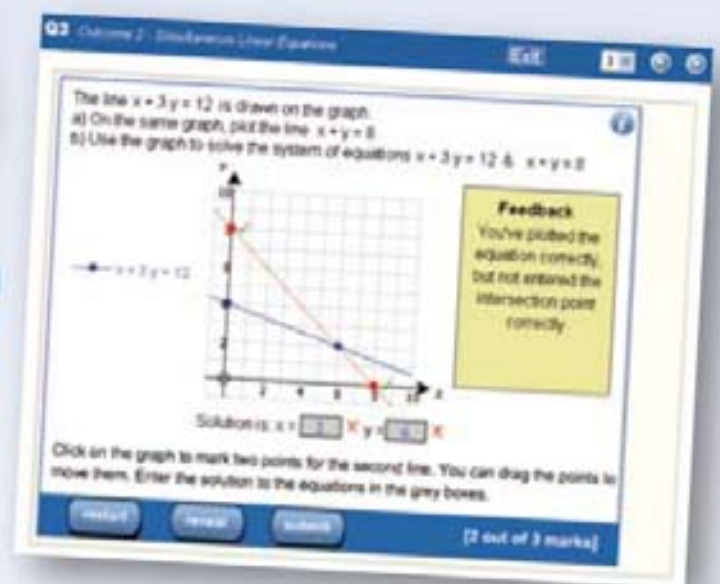
SCHOLAR's assessment system

Pass-It is a sophisticated assessment technology with all the features needed in an advanced assessment system providing the ability to randomise numbers, algebraic expressions, graphics and interactivities.



Here a straight line is generated randomly every time the question is accessed.

Specialist tools that allow manipulation and drawing of graphs also feature. Complex questions are marked automatically, in parts, giving immediate rich feedback to the student as well as allowing the teacher to review the answers.



For extended response answers the teacher can allocate marks or provide comments which are held within the system.



Teacher reports are concise and easy to use.

| Last Name | First Name | Total Mark (34) | LO1 | LO2 | LO3 | LO4 |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Class | Average | 31.65 | | | | |
| | | 33 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | 33 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | 27 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | 33 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | 33 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | 32.5 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

For further information contact info@scholar.hw.ac.uk