

# **A Case Study of Effects of Delivery Mode on Test Performance and Markers' Rating**

Rachel Yi-fen Wu & Ingrid Chiashan Chao  
The Language Training & Testing Center (LTTC), Taiwan  
rwu@lrtc.ntu.edu.tw; td@lrtc.ntu.edu.tw

## **Abstract**

Prior to 2010, the GEPT Advanced Writing Test was paper-based only. Considering that the candidates were required to write approximately 500 words in total, and that the majority of them were mature adult learners, the LTTC proposed the addition of a computer-based mode that would more realistically reflect the candidates' real-life writing preferences. Thus, the LTTC conducted a study to compare the candidates' performance and markers' rating on the current paper-based test with those of the proposed computer-based test.

In 2009, 56 candidates were invited to take part in an Advanced Writing Pre-test conducted using both writing modes. Their performance generated in the pre-test was later compared with that generated by the paper-based mode in the operational test which took place two weeks later. The results showed that differences in candidates' analytical scores, their overall performance and raters' leniency/harshness did not reach significant level. In addition, candidates expressed satisfaction with the instruments and facilities provided for the computer-based mode. The computer-based GEPT Advanced Writing Test was subsequently launched in 2010 alongside the paper-based mode.