

SCHOOL PROFILE

An independent 13+ boarding school for boys in Kent

SPaRCS Test

Spelling
Processing Speed
and
Reading
Comprehension
Speed

USE:

An up-to-date, accurate, useful, and time-saving assessment tool that quickly identifies students in need of additional support and intervention.



Ms. Thomson needed a testing solution that was designed with UK students in mind.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Thomson, the Access Arrangements Assessor at boarding school for boys in Kent England, has spent the last four years assessing students to determine if they need additional academic support. Her background is in English Language Learner teaching. To be sure she gets an accurate report on her students' abilities, without cultural misunderstandings or biases, Ms. Thomson is mindful to provide her students with culturally aware testing. Ms. Thomson is also conscious to provide her students with thorough assessments. Often she does this by assessing each student with different combinations of individual assessment tests to gain a deeper and more detailed understanding of each student's areas of difficulty.

THE CHALLENGE

Recently Ms. Thomson noticed that her go-to tests were perhaps too 'Americanized'. Constantly having to account for differences in word spellings, misunderstandings of word meanings, and the inaccurate comparison of her UK students' scores to the standard scores on these tests, all made her question the validity of her assessments. In addition to worries about cultural bias, she also became concerned that these tests were a bit outdated. While Ms. Thomson did occasionally use newer online testing materials to combat these anxieties, she felt the need to confirm their results with those of pen and paper assessments. Ms. Thomson needed a testing solution that was designed with UK students in mind, was modern, and up-to-date. She also wanted a test in pen and paper.

THE SOLUTION AND RESULTS

Once Ms. Thomson found the SPaRCS test, it quickly became a staple in her battery of tests. She appreciates that the SPaRCS test is designed for her UK students and that it is easy for them to understand and fast for her to administer and score. Because the SPaRCS test is modern, while retaining validity, she feels confident in its ability to accurately assess her students. She also feels she won't have to replace it again anytime soon. While Ms. Thomson uses the SPaRCS test in conjunction with other tests, she finds it handy that, on its own, the SPaRCS test covers the three most sought-after Access Arrangements accommodations: reader, scribe, and extra time.

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"It definitely is one of the go-to ones in my test battery now. That's mainly because it's new, so it's modern, and it's British, which makes a nice change from all the American tests that you sometimes have to use because there are no alternatives."

— Ms. Thomson