



Prison Studies - ExamReader™ support for One-Day Courses, Workshops and Functional Skills: Mathematics and English

The voices of the prisoner:

"The pen is easy to use, it helped me to stay calm and less stressed."

"It gives people who struggle to read the chance to be at the same level as others."

"I thought the pens were great because they are simple to use and it empowers the learner to learn for themselves. It is functional and can be used in a lot of different situations."

"I wanted to use the ExamReader™ in my Functional Skills Maths and they let me, I asked if I could buy one to use in my cell and I was chuffed when the Governor said I could, it's my pen and it helps me so much."



Encourages and supports poor readers to independently take exams



Supports ESOL learners to complete courses, pass tests/exams and helps improve their understanding of English



Approved for use in exams, including Functional Skills and NVQs



Headphones; all can undertake examinations in one exam room

Independent Researcher, and member of the PLA — Prisoners Learning Alliance, Christine Franklin, has undertaken a series of studies exploring issues affecting the educational outcomes of learners in prison. Her findings indicated the positive impact of Scanning Pen technology to support independent learning and improve educational outcomes for prisoners when undertaking examinations.

Christine's studies took place in public Category C Prisons in the South West, East and North of England. The studies provided evidence of increased examination pass rate in Workshop and One-Day courses when the learners used a ReaderPen™ during lesson time and ExamReaders in tests and examinations. Additionally, longer courses were completed in a shorter period of time.

WORKSHOP TUTOR: *"The pass rate for my course rose from 70% to over 80% for the learners who used reading pens to help them to study. I think this success is because they used the ReaderPen to complete the workshop learning and the ExamReader to support them in the exams. They showed greater confidence and independent learning skills in comparison to their peers, who did not use the ReaderPens. They also completed my course quickly and with less tutor support for reading tasks."*

The ReaderPen™ was used by the students in their day to day lessons. A tutor reported, *"My group use the ReaderPen™ during workshops. The course content is quite technical and involves in depth reading to support the practical tasks. I have found the time taken to teach the content when the ReaderPen™ is available is much less. I also spent less time having to explain the meaning of words because they could use the dictionary function independently."*

OUTCOMES: Prisoners using the ReaderPens in their day to day classrooms become confident readers. Therefore they make use of the examination board approved ExamReader™ during their Functional Skills, One-Day courses and Workshop examinations. Furthermore, Exam Officers have spoken of the impact ExamReaders can have when no longer waiting for a Learning Support Assistant to be available to read in examinations. In turn, this has improved the confidence of the prisoners and supports them in gaining transferrable skills to use when leaving prison. The prisoner recognises themselves as an independent learner. One prisoner is currently studying Level 3 in Mathematics and English, he used the ExamReader™ in his previous Levels 1 and 2 course work and examinations.

