

# Using Clarity programs:

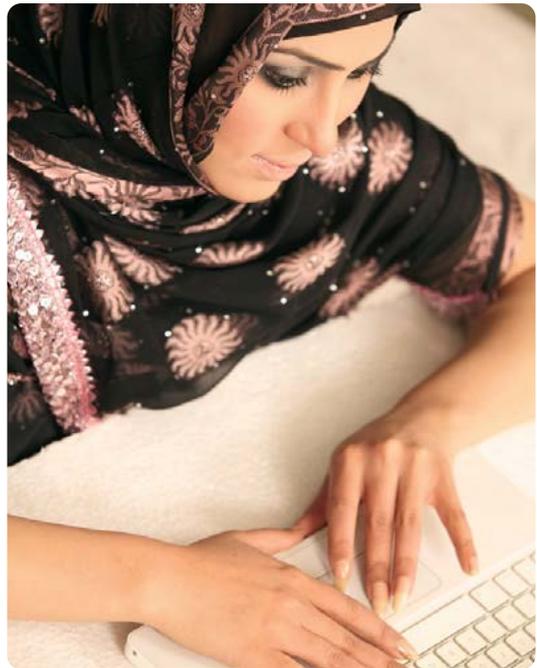
The experience of a group of colleges in the United Arab Emirates

## Higher Colleges of Technology

The Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) are a community of more than 18,000 students and almost 2,000 staff based on 17 campuses throughout the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – the largest higher education institution in the UAE. HCT adopted Clarity in 2005 and has extended the number of students using the system on an annual basis. Approximately 10,000 students now use Clarity.

Clarity programs are delivered in a number of ways.

- 1** Clarity is extensively used in class, and different parts of the Clarity system are integrated into the curriculum. Students (and teachers) access the programs through a specially designed front screen which lists the programs available. As a classroom activity, teachers specify which activities students should tackle. These activities can be done by students individually, or as pair work. The Clarity programs run online, and teachers additionally set activities for homework.
- 2** HCT uses Blackboard, and is moving towards driving all its courses through this Learning Management System. As Clarity is SCORM compliant, it is straightforward to integrate units of Clarity programs into courses delivered through BlackBoard. This is happening with an increasing number of English courses.
- 3** Author Plus is seen as an essential part of the Clarity system. For example, teachers at Abu Dhabi Men's College used Author Plus to create a reading program called i-Read. i-Read was launched in 2009 and won the prestigious Nikai Award for Teaching Innovation. It is now used throughout HCT. Author Plus has allowed teachers to create materials that are relevant, culturally
- 4** sensitive and focused on students' specific educational needs. HCT is an IELTS testing centre and the colleges run a separate stream for IELTS preparation. Some students come to class and others prepare away from the colleges. Clarity's Road to IELTS is used extensively for classwork, and is available online at home to all students preparing for the test.
- 5** Central to the Clarity system is Results Manager. This provides essential data on the time students are spending on the system, as well as the scores they are achieving. For example, i-Read is a 30% credit bearing element of one course, with data coming from Results Manager. In other courses learners are required to spend a specific amount of time working on the Clarity resources online. Results Manager provides the data. ■



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