

Schola Europaea
Office of the Secretary General
European BaccaLaureate Unit

**The European
BaccaLaureate
NEWSLETTER #1:**

MARCH 2017



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The European Bacculaureate Unit Newsletter

The **European Bacculaureate Unit Newsletter** is aimed at keeping the European Schools community well informed about all relevant matters, projects and developments concerning the European Bacculaureate.

Should you like to receive further information about the topics dealt with or others, you may always reach us at:

ES-BACCALAUREATE@eursc.eu

We hope you enjoy the reading!

Best regards,

Manuel Bordoy
Head of the European Bacculaureate Unit



1.- New Staff in the European Bacculaureate Unit



At the beginning of 2017, the European Bacculaureate Unit has welcomed two new staff members.

New Assistant at the European Bacculaureate Unit

Ivan Albestain (ivan.albestain-gonzalez@eursc.eu) comes from Bilbao (Spain) and he is a computer engineer with plenty of experience in IT solutions for administration.

Project Support Officer

Pascal Mathis (pascal.mathis@eursc.eu) comes from Strasbourg (France). He is the Project Support Officer for the implementation of the on-line correction system. He was a teacher and researcher in computer science at the University of Strasbourg in the field of computer graphics and artificial intelligence.

2.- The On-line Correction Platform

2.1.- Neoptec

Neoptec will be providing tools and services for on-line correction of the European Bacculaureate scripts as a result of the award of the public tender launched last year. See here: <https://www.eursc.eu/en/Office/public-procurement>

Neoptec is a company specialized in the digitization of paper examinations scripts through production scanners and software for their on-line correction. They have **plenty of international experience** in this field. The company's headquarters are in Montpellier (France)



2.2.- Production Scanners

All schools have equipped themselves with **the most suitable production scanners** in terms of compatibility with the Neoptec software, their speed and reliability, and the numbers of scripts to scan per day.



Many schools have purchased a back-up scanner and there will also be a back-up scanner at the European Bacculaureate Unit.

2.3.- Viatique

Viatique by Neoptec is the on-line correction platform that the European and Accredited Schools will start using from the next 2017 European Bacculaureate session. It has the **highest security measures** and complies with European data protection standards. It has very user-friendly, multilingual and intuitive interfaces. This application will **facilitate the work of the correctors and help increase the transparency and quality of the European Bacculaureate assessment.**

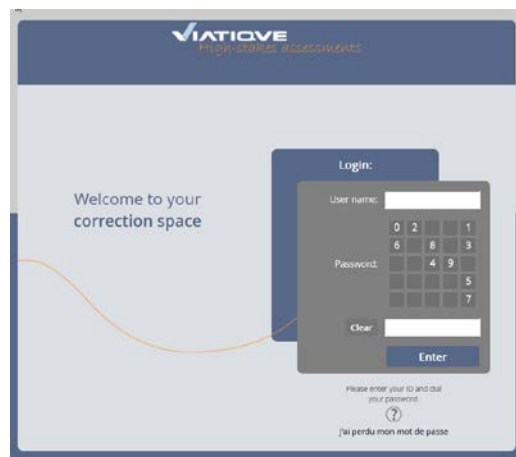


Figure 1- Login screen to the on-line correction platform

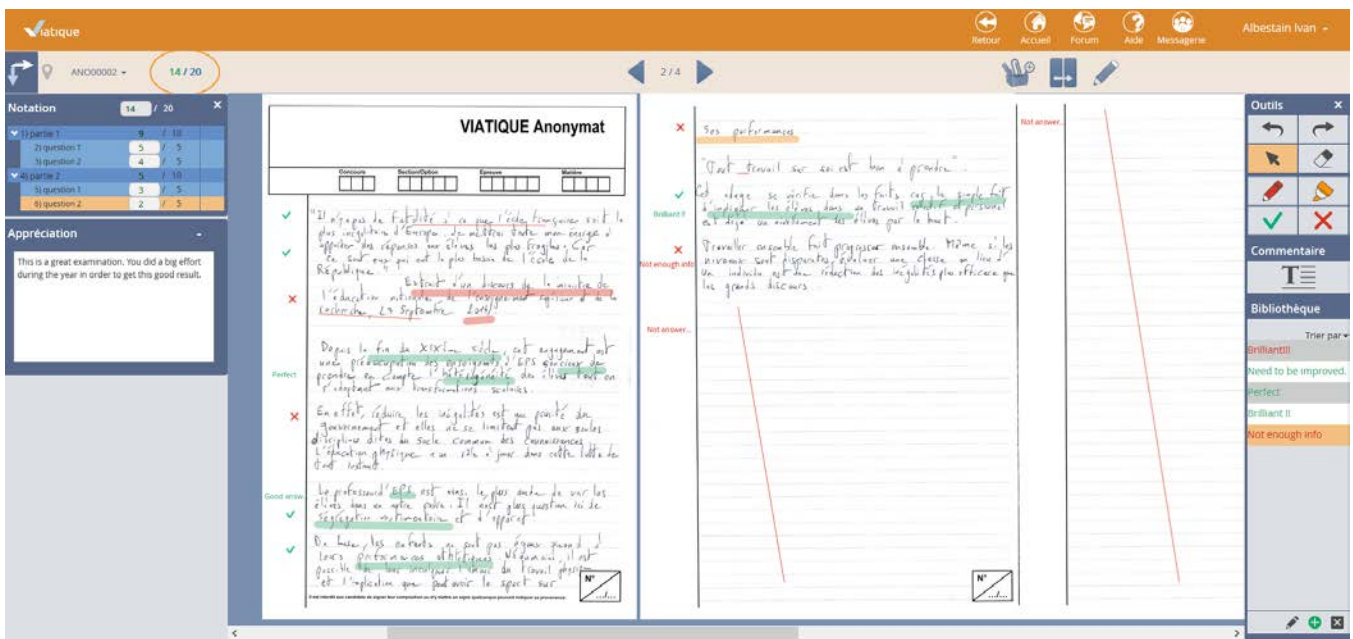


Figure 2 - Correction screen for the teachers and the external correctors

2.4.- Main On-line Correction Features

Viatique has been **customized to comply with the European Baccalaureate regulations**. It allows double correction of the examination scripts, prevents communication between the pairs of correctors, checks marks agreement between the first and the second corrector, checks that final comments on the performance of the candidates have been filled in by both correctors, etc. It also adds up new important elements such as the anonymization of the scripts and different possibilities for the allocation of scripts to the second correctors.

2.5.- Module for Pedagogical Supervision

The inspectors play the role of pedagogical supervisors in the correction of European Baccalaureate scripts through a specifically dedicated module. They can access data and statistics in real time as the corrections are taking place. The inspectors can also issue additional correction instructions and put in place standardization or moderation actions through the platform, if they consider it convenient.

2.6.- External Correctors

External correctors already expressed their interest in participating in the on-line correction project. Last year we launched a survey which showed that 20% of our external correctors had already had experience with on-line correction tools. 85% of our correctors confirmed that they were willing to participate in the project. We are very happy to keep their valuable expertise for the 2017 European Baccalaureate session. A turn-over of around 15% of the external correctors is the normal figure every year.

3.- Special Measures for the European Baccalaureate Session 2017

Following a request of INTERPARENTS, and **in order to assure zero risk**, both the traditional correction system and the on-line correction system will overlap in the European Baccalaureate session 2017.

Once scanned, the paper examination scripts will be accessible to the teachers for consultation in the schools, if necessary.

Just like every year, once the correction period in the schools ends, the paper examination scripts will be shipped by courier to the correction centres, so that they can be accessed by the external correctors, only if necessary.

However, all corrections must be performed using the on-line tools.



4.- Blended Model

We have opted for a blended model. This means that the external correctors will still attend the correction centres. For the European Bacculaureate session 2017, the external correctors will be present in the correction centres during the same number of days as in previous years. **Neoptec experts and the European Bacculaureate Unit will also be present in the correction centres to support the external correctors and the inspectors during the correction period.**

5.-Training and Support

5.1.- Inspectors

The inspectors had an introductory training to the correction module and the pedagogical supervision module on the last 6th of February

5.2.- Scanning Operators and IT technicians

The setting-up of the scanners and the training for scanning operators and IT technicians at the schools has already started. All four Brussels schools have already had their training. The **simplicity and robustness of the system** was very reassuring for everybody involved. The rest of the schools will follow in the next weeks.

During the scanning period, the schools will have all the necessary support from Neoptec and the European Bacculaureate Unit so that everything runs smoothly and on time.

5.3.- Deputy Directors Secondary

The deputy directors of the secondary schools will have a training session on the use of the on-line correction tools on the next 14th of March.

5.4.- Teachers and External Correctors

During the months of February and March we have started launching the on-line training for the **year s7** teachers in the European Schools and Accredited European Schools **who are concerned with the correction of the 2017 European Bacculaureate written examinations**, as well as for the external correctors.

The on-line training includes short video tutorials in French with subtitles in FR, DE and EN, brief manuals (four pages) in FR, DE and EN and a self-training module where correctors may practice all the correction features with test scripts. The interface of the self-training module is also available in FR, DE and EN.



In less than one hour self-training most correctors feel confident and are able to use all correction features effectively.

The European Baccaalaureate Unit will support the training of the teachers through our **help-line** ES-BACCALAUREATE@eursc.eu Do not hesitate to write to us, should you have any queries or worries.

During the correction period in the schools, the European Baccaalaureate Unit will also offer on-site support, if necessary.

We will appreciate a lot your kind cooperation and enthusiasm so that this project keeps rolling out in a smooth and successful way.

Thank you very much in advance!

