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Design and Development of a Web-Based Examination Application Using Django Framework at SMA Negeri 7 Sarolangun

Afi²⁰ Muhammad^{1*}, Thomson Mary^{2*}, Ami Anggraini Samudra³

^{1,2} Program Studi Teknologi Informatika, Universitas PGRI Sumatera Barat

³ Pendidikan Informatika, Universitas PGRI Sumatera Barat

^{1*} afim822@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The implementation of examinations at SMA Negeri 7 Sarolangun previously encountered operational challenges due to an unintegrated workflow, where exam authoring was conducted via Google Forms and exam delivery relied on an Android-based third-party application paired with a custom keyboard. This workflow caused severe device incompatibility, system crashes, and manual score recapitulation delays lasting up to one week. This research aims to design and develop an integrated web-based examination application utilizing the Django framework under the Rapid Application Development (RAD) model to support Midterm (PTS) and Final (PAS) semester exams. The application features master data management, manual question authoring and bulk imports via Excel, token-protected scheduling, asynchronous AJAX auto-saving on computer-based test (CBT) sheets, live proctoring controls, auto-grading, score visibility authorization (Hide Score), and dynamic class-filtered report exports in Excel and PDF formats. System evaluation was conducted through Alpha testing (White Box and Black Box testing) and Beta testing (ISO/IEC 25010:2011 quality evaluation by system experts and End-User Computing Satisfaction/EUCS by end-users). Alpha testing verified that all 29 independent logic paths in White Box testing executed without branching errors and Black Box testing achieved 100% validity across 13 functional modules. Beta testing with 2 system experts yielded an average score of 98.25% (Very Good), and end-user testing involving 27 respondents achieved an average satisfaction score of 84.75% (Very Good). Thus, the developed system is highly feasible, reliable, and effective for school examination operations.

Keywords: *Computer-Based Test (CBT), Django Framework, End-User Computing Satisfaction, ISO/IEC 25010, Rapid Application Development*

INTRODUCTION

Learning evaluation in secondary education requires an assessment platform that guarantees accessibility, security, and operational efficiency [1]. At SMA Negeri 7 Sarolangun, semester examinations (Midterm Examination/PTS and Final Examination/PAS) involving 839 students and 73 teachers previously faced significant operational and fragmentation issues [2]. Teachers authored exam items using Google Forms and submitted the links to the examination committee, while students took the exams through a third-party Android application paired with a custom keyboard (*Simple Keyboard*) [3]. This process caused severe technical complications, including platform dependency on Android, device incompatibilities across various student smartphone types, background application crashes, slow loading times during unstable internet connections, and a prolonged manual score recapitulation process that took up to one week [4]. Furthermore, access rights were restricted strictly to administrators and students, preventing subject teachers from directly managing question repositories, configuring exams, or supervising student progress [5].

Computer-Based Testing (CBT) systems have been widely investigated to overcome conventional testing constraints. Refandy and Wahyuningtyas [6] developed a web-based CBT application for

primary schools to automate scoring and reduce manual grading, yet their work utilized a traditional Waterfall model with limited single-role workflows. Siswanto and Morang [7] focused on backend performance optimization for concurrent student access using caching and queue jobs, but did not provide independent exam configuration features for teachers. Annurwan et al. [8] implemented a web-based online exam platform for madrasah students, yet it lacked automated asynchronous saving mechanisms (auto-save) to prevent data loss during network disruptions. Ambiyar et al. [9] developed an examination application using the 4D development model for hybrid platforms, but it omitted bulk authoring workflows. In addition, Rosa and Abad [10] demonstrated the capability of the Django framework in developing educational assessment tools evaluated under ISO/IEC 25010, although their implementation focused on general classroom quizzes rather than formalized institutional semester exams.

To address these limitations, this study presents an integrated, multi-role web-based examination application developed with the Django framework and MySQL database [11], [12]. The system incorporates master data management, Excel-based bulk question importing, token-protected scheduling, asynchronous AJAX auto-saving on CBT worksheets, real-time proctoring state intervention, exam visibility control (*Hide Score*), and dynamic class-filtered reporting in Excel and PDF formats [13]. This study aims to design and implement the system using the Rapid Application Development (RAD) model, verify its structural logic and functional validity via Alpha testing, and evaluate software product quality and end-user satisfaction through the ISO/IEC 25010:2011 standard and the End-User Computing Satisfaction (EUCS) method.

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METHODOLOGY

This study employed the Research and Development (R&D) methodology with the Rapid Application Development (RAD) software engineering life cycle [12]. The RAD model was chosen due to its iterative structure and continuous user involvement, which enables rapid adaptation to institutional requirements [12]. The research phases are illustrated in Figure 1.

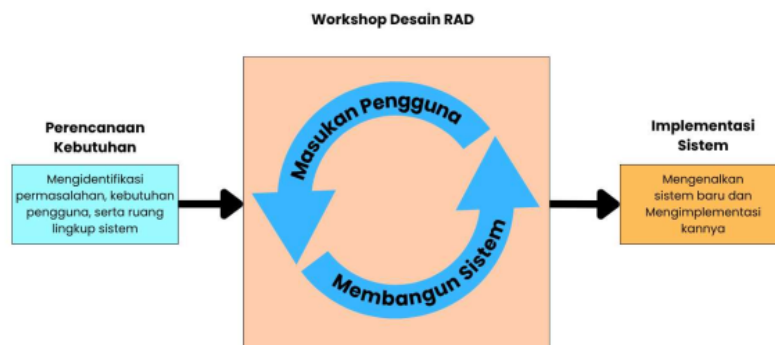


Figure 1. Rapid Application Development (RAD) Research Stages

Requirements Planning

The requirements planning stage was conducted through field observations and structured interviews with stakeholders at SMA Negeri 7 Sarolangun. This phase identified the core problems of the legacy system and formulated functional requirements across three distinct user roles: Administrator (full data control and global proctoring), Teacher (question authoring, exam configuration, and class-level reporting), and Student (CBT delivery, token access, and score review). Non-functional requirements were established to guarantee cross-platform compatibility across desktop and mobile browsers, real-time data persistence, and security during live examinations.

Design Workshop

The design workshop translated requirements into system architecture models utilizing Unified Modeling Language (UML) diagrams (Use Case Diagram, Activity Diagrams, Class Diagram, and Sequence Diagrams), relational database schemas, and responsive user interface wireframes. The database was structured into 11 normalized tables with the *cbt_* namespace prefix managed under MySQL 8.4. Responsive user interfaces were designed utilizing Bootstrap 5 to guarantee accessibility on various student smartphone screen dimensions.

System Implementation and Testing

System implementation was executed using Python 3.12 and the Django 6.0.8 framework on an AlmaLinux 8 enterprise server running Gunicorn WSGI. System evaluation was conducted using two testing paradigms:

1. Alpha Testing

Evaluates internal code logic via White Box testing (Basis Path Testing with Cyclomatic Complexity) on 8 critical algorithmic modules, and evaluates functional input-output behavior via Black Box testing across 13 operational features [13].

2. Beta Testing

Product quality evaluation by 2 system experts based on 5 characteristics of the ISO/IEC 25010:2011 standard (*Functional Suitability, Performance Efficiency, Usability, Reliability, and Security*), alongside user satisfaction evaluation involving 27 respondents (1 Administrator, 4 Teachers, and 22 Students) using the 5 dimensions of the End-User Computing Satisfaction (EUCS) framework (*Content, Accuracy, Format, Ease of Use, and Timeliness*).

The functional validity percentage in Black Box testing was calculated using (1):

$$P = \frac{\text{Number of Successful Test Cases}}{\text{Total Test Cases Evaluated}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

The percentage of expert quality and user satisfaction ratings from Likert-scale questionnaires was determined using (2):

$$Y = \frac{\sum(N \times R)}{\text{Ideal Score}} \times 100\% \quad (2)$$

where N represents the Likert scale weight (1 to 4), R represents the response frequency, and the Ideal Score represents the product of the total items, maximum scale weight (4), and total respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

System Design and Use Case Analysis

To model the dynamic behavioral interactions and role-based access boundaries of the examination platform, a Use Case Diagram was formulated as depicted in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Use Case Diagram

As depicted in the Use Case model, the system encapsulates functionalities across three main actors:

1. Administrator

Acts as the primary controller with the highest authority, responsible for managing master academic data (Users, Classes, and Subjects), supervising global exam schedules, conducting administrative interventions (Reset / Unblock Student Exam Sessions), and accessing comprehensive grade reports.

2. Teacher

Acts as the exam content creator and evaluator, authorized to manage Question Banks manually or via Excel Bulk Import («extend» relationship), configure exam parameters and access tokens, supervise ongoing classroom exams, and export filtered grade reports in Excel and PDF formats.

3. Student

Acts as the end-user test-taker, authorized to access the student dashboard, input secret exam access tokens («include» relationship prior to opening CBT sheets), take computer-based examinations with real-time countdown and doubtful markers, and review exam evaluation results according to teacher visibility settings.

System Implementation Results

The web-based examination application was successfully built and deployed across multi-role interfaces. The user authentication interface shown in Figure 3 acts as the single-entry gateway that

validates user credentials against the MySQL database and dynamically routes users to their specific role-based dashboard.



Figure 3. User Authentication and Login Interface

For exam item preparation, the interface depicted in Figure 4 enables teachers to author questions manually with image attachments or perform bulk imports from Excel spreadsheets (.xlsx) using the *openpyxl* library.

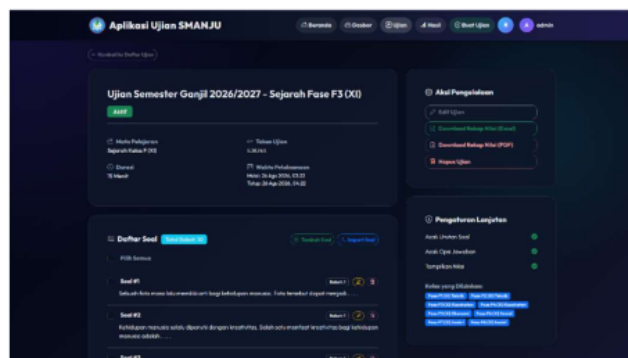


Figure 4. Question Bank Management and Excel Bulk Import Interface

Figure 5 presents the examination scheduling interface where teachers configure exam parameters, including secret access tokens, active date/time windows, allocated duration, target classes, option/question randomization, and the *Hide Score* privacy toggle.

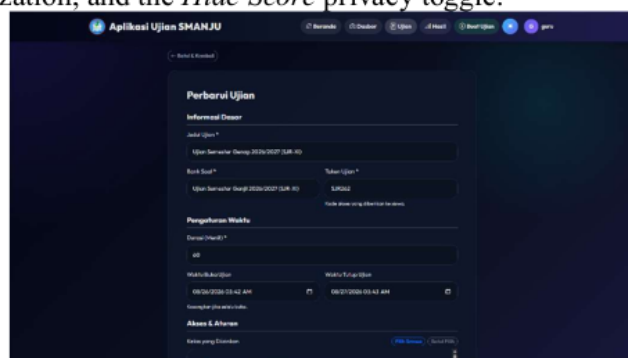


Figure 5. Examination Configuration and Scheduling Interface

The core student Computer-Based Test (CBT) delivery interface is shown in Figure 6. The interface is equipped with a real-time countdown timer, question navigation palette, doubtful question flags, and asynchronous AJAX auto-saving to record answers instantly without full page reloads.

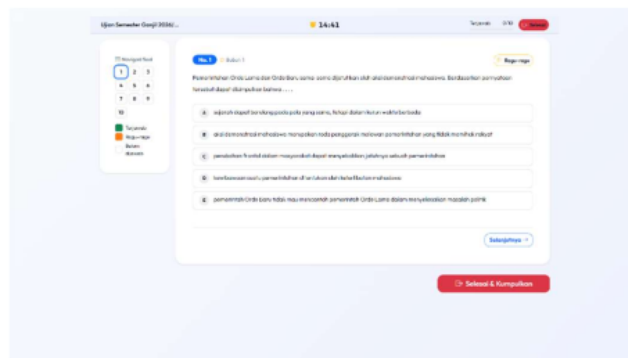


Figure 6. Computer-Based Test (CBT) Student Examination Interface

During live exam sessions, teachers and administrators utilize the live proctoring interface in Figure 7 to monitor student statuses (Ongoing, Submitted, or Blocked) and perform real-time session interventions (Force Submit, Block, or Reset Session).

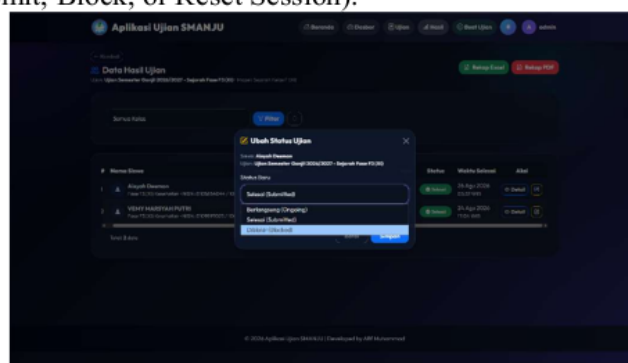


Figure 7. Live Examination Monitoring and Proctoring Interface

Following exam completion, grades are automatically calculated via the auto-grading algorithm. Figure 8 illustrates the reporting interface where teachers can filter results by classroom cohort and export comprehensive score sheets in spreadsheet (.xlsx) or printable PDF format via *xhtml2pdf*.

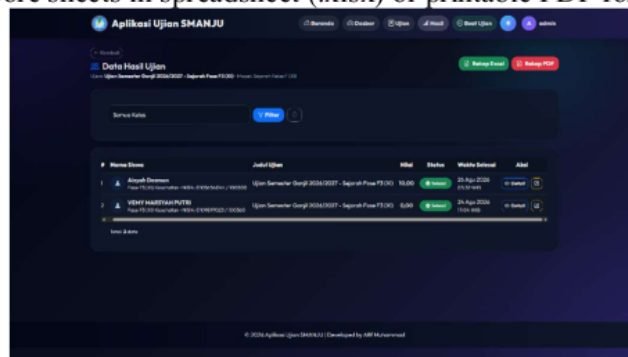


Figure 8. Grade Recapitulation and Dynamic Report Export Interface

Alpha Testing Result

Alpha testing was conducted internally to verify algorithmic correctness and functional stability:

1. White Box Testing (Basis Path Testing)

Conducted across 8 critical algorithmic modules: (1) User Authentication and Role Redirect, (2) Bulk Import Bank Soal via Excel, (3) Exam Access and Token Validation, (4) AJAX Auto-Save CBT Mechanism, (5) Automated Scoring Algorithm, (6) Class-Filtered Grade Recapitulation, (7) Score Visibility Authorization (Hide Score), and (8) Proctoring State Manipulation. Based on flowgraph mapping and Cyclomatic Complexity calculations ($V(G) = 2$ to 5), all 29 independent

execution paths were executed successfully with a 100% success rate without branching anomalies, unhandled exceptions, or infinite loops.

2. Black Box Testing

Evaluated 13 primary functional modules encompassing authentication, CRUD master data, manual/bulk question authoring, tokenized scheduling, CBT delivery, AJAX auto-save, doubtful flags, proctoring controls, Hide Score toggles, and multi-format reporting. All 13 test cases produced outputs strictly matching expected functional specifications, achieving a 100% functional validity rate ($P = 100\%$, Valid).

Beta Testing Results

Beta testing was conducted to evaluate software product quality from technical experts and user satisfaction from operational end-users.

1. System Experts Quality Evaluation (ISO/IEC 25010:2011 Standard)

Technical quality evaluation was conducted by 2 system experts across 5 ISO/IEC 25010:2011 quality characteristics through a 15-item questionnaire. The recapitulation of expert ratings is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. System Expert Quality Evaluation Results (ISO/IEC 25010:2011)

Kriteria	Persentase Nilai (%)	Keterangan
Functional Suitability	97,50%	Sangat Baik
Performance Efficiency	100,00%	Sangat Baik
Usability	100,00%	Sangat Baik
Reliability	93,75%	Sangat Baik
Security	100,00%	Sangat Baik
Rata- rata	98,25%	Sangat Baik

As shown in Table 1, the system achieved an overall product quality score of 98.25% (Very Good category). Three characteristics Performance Efficiency, Usability, and Security achieved perfect scores of 100.00%. Functional Suitability obtained 97.50%, confirming that the scoring and bulk import workflows operated accurately. Reliability achieved 93.75%, where experts noted that potential network disconnections during live testing are well mitigated by client-side retry handling and administrative session reset capabilities.

2. End-User Satisfaction Evaluation (EUCS Method)

User satisfaction testing was conducted involving 27 respondents (1 Administrator, 4 Teachers, and 22 Students) at SMA Negeri 7 Sarolangun across 5 EUCS dimensions using a 15-item questionnaire. The evaluation results are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. End-User Computing Satisfaction (EUCS) Evaluation Results

Kriteria	Persentase Nilai (%)	Keterangan
Isi (Content)	86,42%	Sangat Baik
Keakuratan (Accuracy)	83,95%	Sangat Baik
Bentuk (Format)	83,64%	Sangat Baik
Kemudahan Penggunaan (Ease of Use)	83,95%	Sangat Baik
Ketepatan Waktu (Timeliness)	85,80%	Sangat Baik
Rata- rata	84,75%	Sangat Baik

As detailed in Table 2, end-user satisfaction reached an overall average of 84.75% (Very Good category). The highest ratings were achieved in the Content dimension (86.42%) and Timeliness dimension (85.80%), demonstrating that the platform provides complete examination information

and successfully transforms score recapitulation from a one-week delay into instant, real-time automated reporting. The Accuracy (83.95%), Ease of Use (83.95%), and Format (83.64%) dimensions confirmed that the responsive UI and AJAX auto-save provide a smooth and trustworthy testing experience across diverse student mobile devices.

Discussion

The experimental findings confirm that migrating to a Django-based web platform successfully resolves the core operational bottlenecks at SMA Negeri 7 Sarolangun. The asynchronous AJAX auto-save mechanism provides robust fault tolerance, ensuring answer data persistence even during abrupt device shutdowns or intermittent signal loss. The bulk question import feature significantly minimizes teacher preparation workload, while the live proctoring dashboard empowers educators to monitor and intervene during examination anomalies independently. Furthermore, replacing Android-exclusive third-party APKs with an open web-browser architecture eliminates device incompatibility issues and background application crashes, enabling seamless cross-platform participation.

CONCLUSION

The web-based examination application for SMA Negeri 7 Sarolangun was successfully designed and developed using the Django framework and MySQL under the Rapid Application Development (RAD) lifecycle. The application integrates master data management, Excel bulk question importing, tokenized scheduling, responsive CBT worksheets with AJAX auto-saving, real-time proctoring, auto-grading, and dynamic multi-format grade report exports. Alpha testing verified the internal logic and functional validity with a 100% success rate across White Box (29 independent paths) and Black Box evaluations (13 functional modules). Beta testing confirmed high software quality, scoring 98.25% (Very Good) under ISO/IEC 25010:2011 expert evaluation, and high user acceptance, scoring 84.75% (Very Good) across 27 end-user respondents using the EUCS method. The system provides a dependable, scalable, and efficient solution for institutional examination management.

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