



# EAP Teacher as Assessment Mediator



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## Occupational English Test



For tutors/lecturers in EAP (English for Academic Purposes) <BALEAP@JISCMail.AC.UK> on behalf of ELLOWAY Anthony <Anton.Elloway@ED.AC.UK>

Tue 13/11, 15:38

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BALEAP General



Edinburgh University ch...

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Dear colleagues

We have been asked to review the Occupational English Test (OET) <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/> and decide whether it should be accepted by the University as evidence of English language ability, i.e. for university study, in lieu of IELTS, etc.

Does any UK university currently use the OET as an English language entry test? And, if so, have there been any issues?

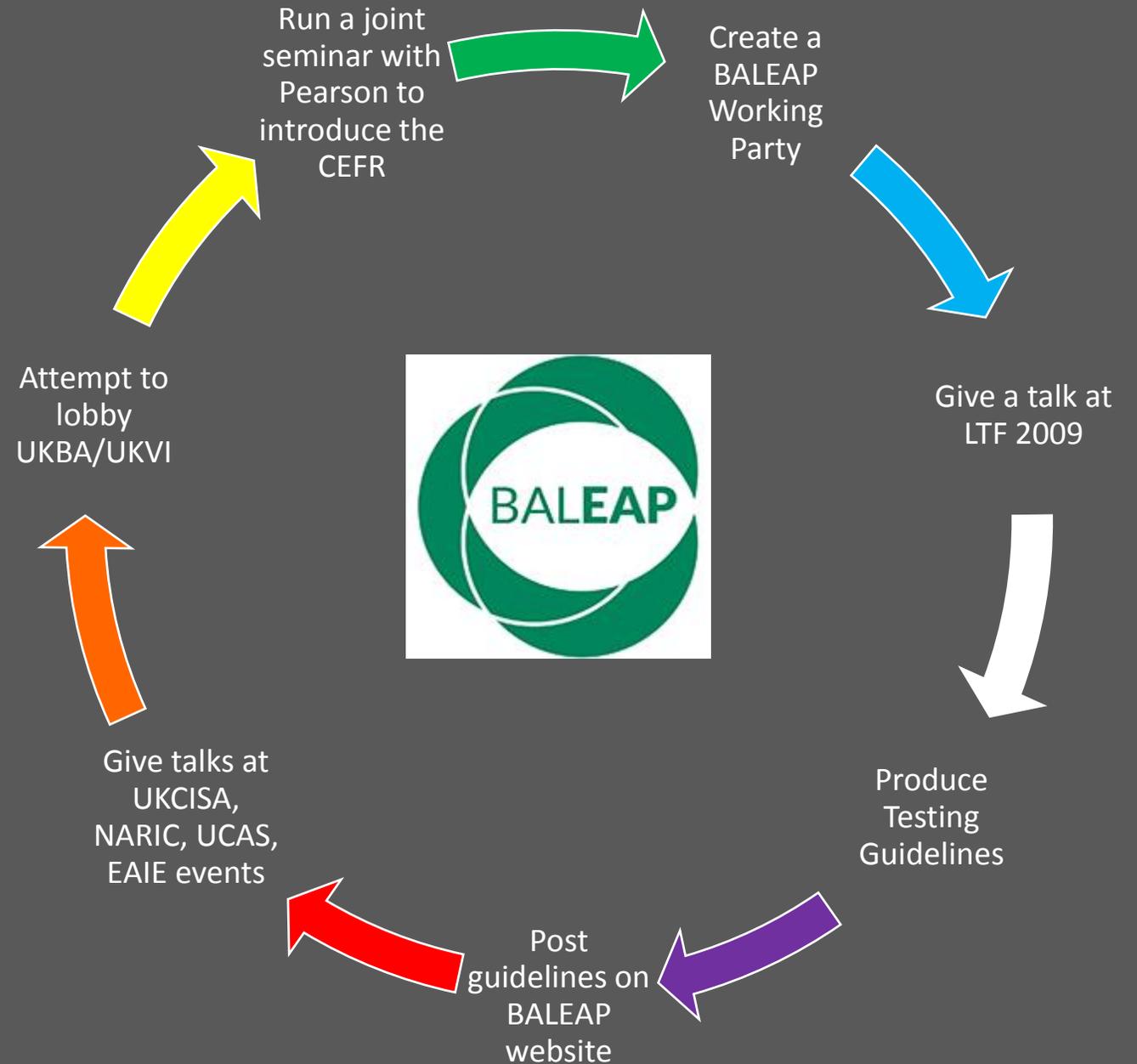
Many thanks in advance for any responses!

Anton Elloway

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<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=BALEAP&A=1>

# What's been done before?



# Key Questions (A sample)

1 What elements of language does the test evaluate?

3 How long is the test?

5 How long is a score valid?

7 What is the evidence that students accepted at a certain grade perform satisfactorily on their course?

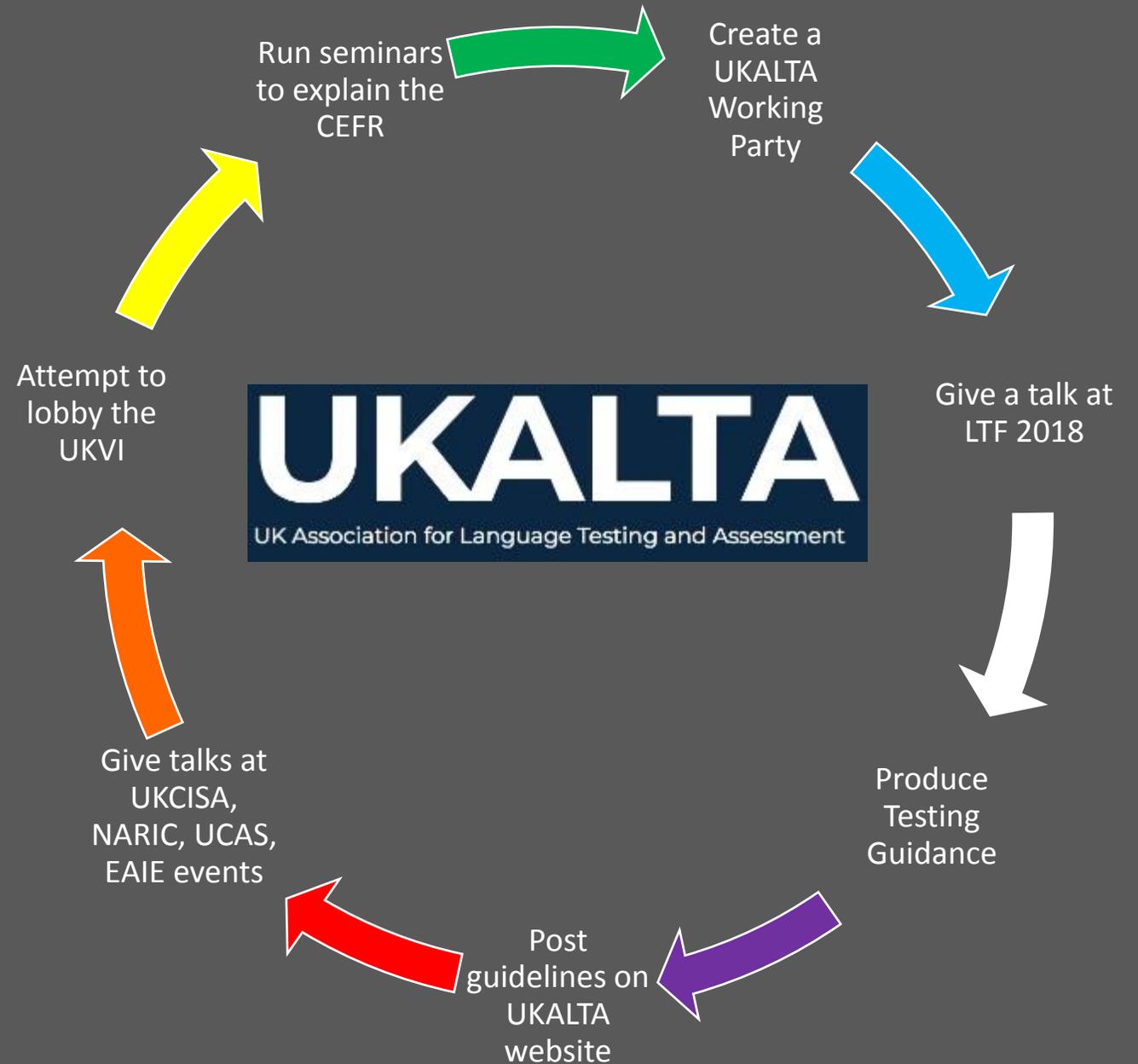
2 Does it actually test what it says it tests?

4 Does the score report or certificate tell us what we need to know?

6 At what range of scores does the test discriminate most reliably?

8 Is the test administration secure?

What do we  
need to do  
differently  
now?



# Who knows what?

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## Language Testers

How to develop, administer and score standardized tests

How to create and run benchmarking exercises

How to study test impact and washback effects

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## EAP Teachers

May develop, administer and/or mark in-house EAP assessments

May be IELTS/Cambridge examiners

May have had a module or some sessions on LT on an MA course

May teach in-session English to degree-level students

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## International Admissions Professionals

International student application trends

University international student recruitment targets

International qualifications equivalencies

May know gaps in the attainment level of international student levels compared to UK students

# What does each party want to know?

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## Language Testers

What the UKVI is planning to do next

How do universities use standardized tests

Why don't more universities run benchmarking exercises

How well do students who enter through various routes fare when they get to university

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## EAP Teachers

How does a score on one test equate to another

How do their in-house assessment results relate to external tests

How well do students who enter through various routes fare when they get to university

What additional support might they need to provide

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## International Admissions Professionals

Which tests are appropriate for university entry decision-making

Which test score is the appropriate score for university success

How does a score on one test equate to another

How to get the information they need quickly

How well do students who enter through various routes fare when they get to university

# What does each party need to know?

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## Language Testers

How university admissions teams use their tests and scores

Who makes decisions about entry requirements

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## EAP Teachers

Who makes decisions about entry requirements

How to talk about testing with testers, EAP teachers, and other score users

The background knowledge to

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## International Admissions Professionals

Who makes decisions about entry requirements

The impact of test or score misuse

- Needs analysis
- Establish communication channels to relevant stakeholders
- Communicating testing to the public

# What next for the UKALTA Working Party?

