

DEVELOPING QUALITY FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT IN A HE CONTEXT: REALITY, CHALLENGES, AMBITIONS



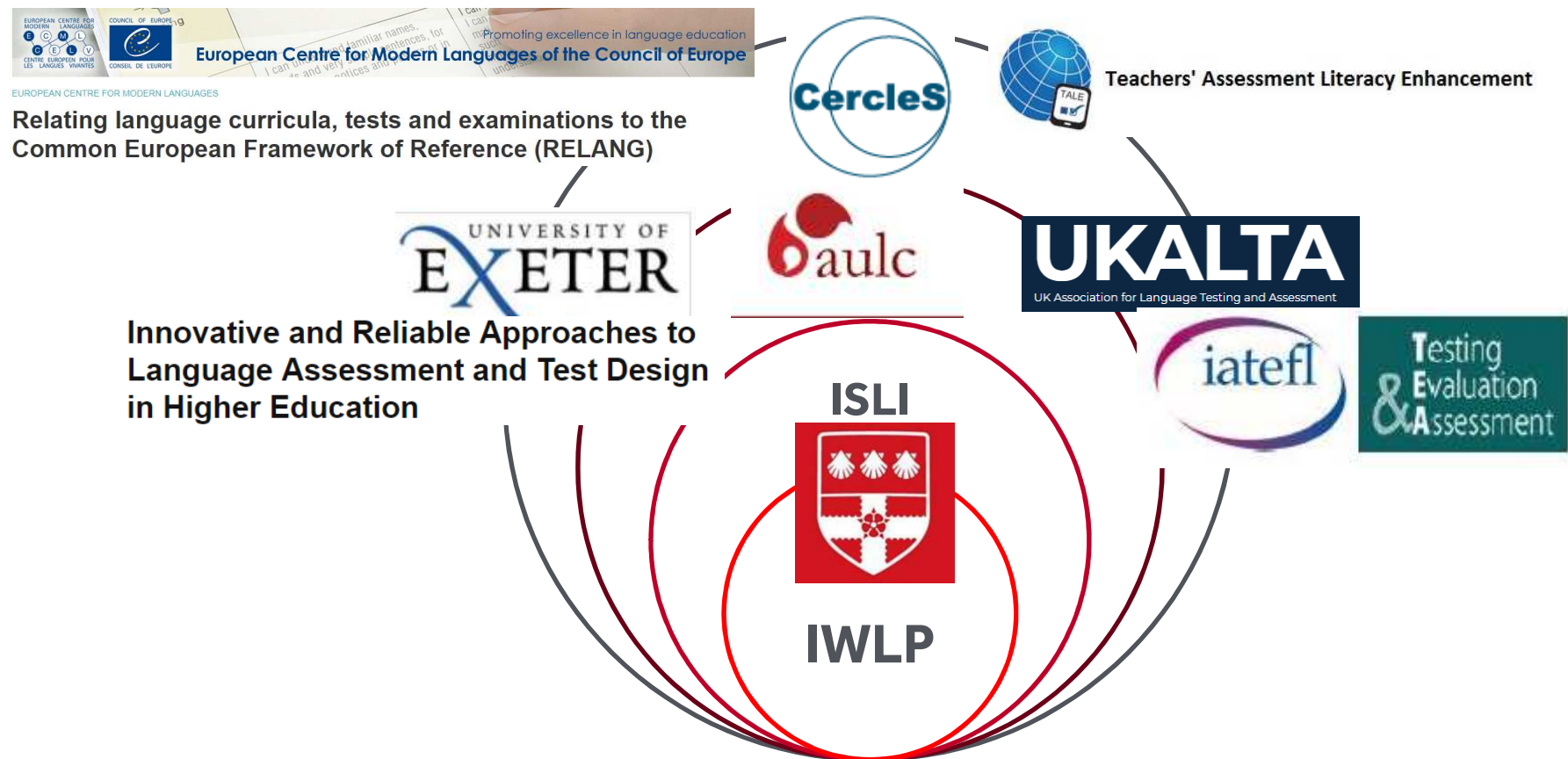
Dr Chiara Cirillo and Mrs Daniela Standen, University of Reading
UK ALTA – Language Testing forum
University of Huddersfield, 24-26 November 2017

CONTEXT – THE IWLP @ READING

- 11 languages (CEFR A1-B2)
- Communicative competence
- 4 skills
- High stakes assessments
- 74 exam papers every year
- 1,000 students

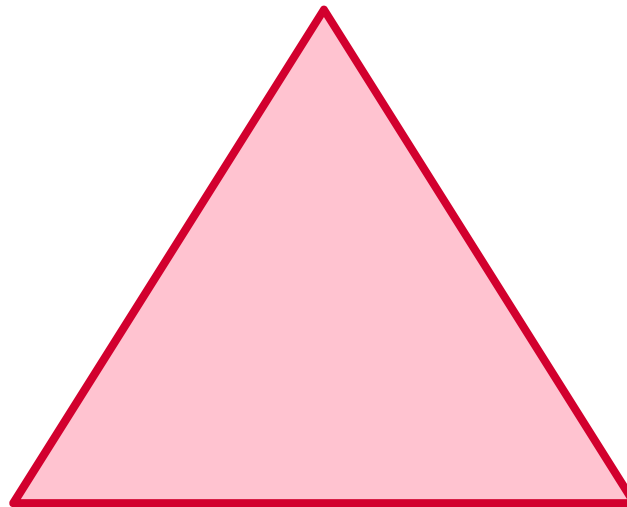


THE WIDER CONTEXT



DRIVERS

Practicability



Fairness

Consistency

CHALLENGES

‘Testing is more than a technical activity,
it is also an ethical enterprise’
(Fulcher & Davison 2007: xix)

Standardisation of
10 languages (Nunan 2014)

CEFR based

University marking
system

Arabic
BSL
French,
German
Italian
Japanese
Mandarin Chinese
Modern Greek
Russian
Spanish

CHALLENGES (2)



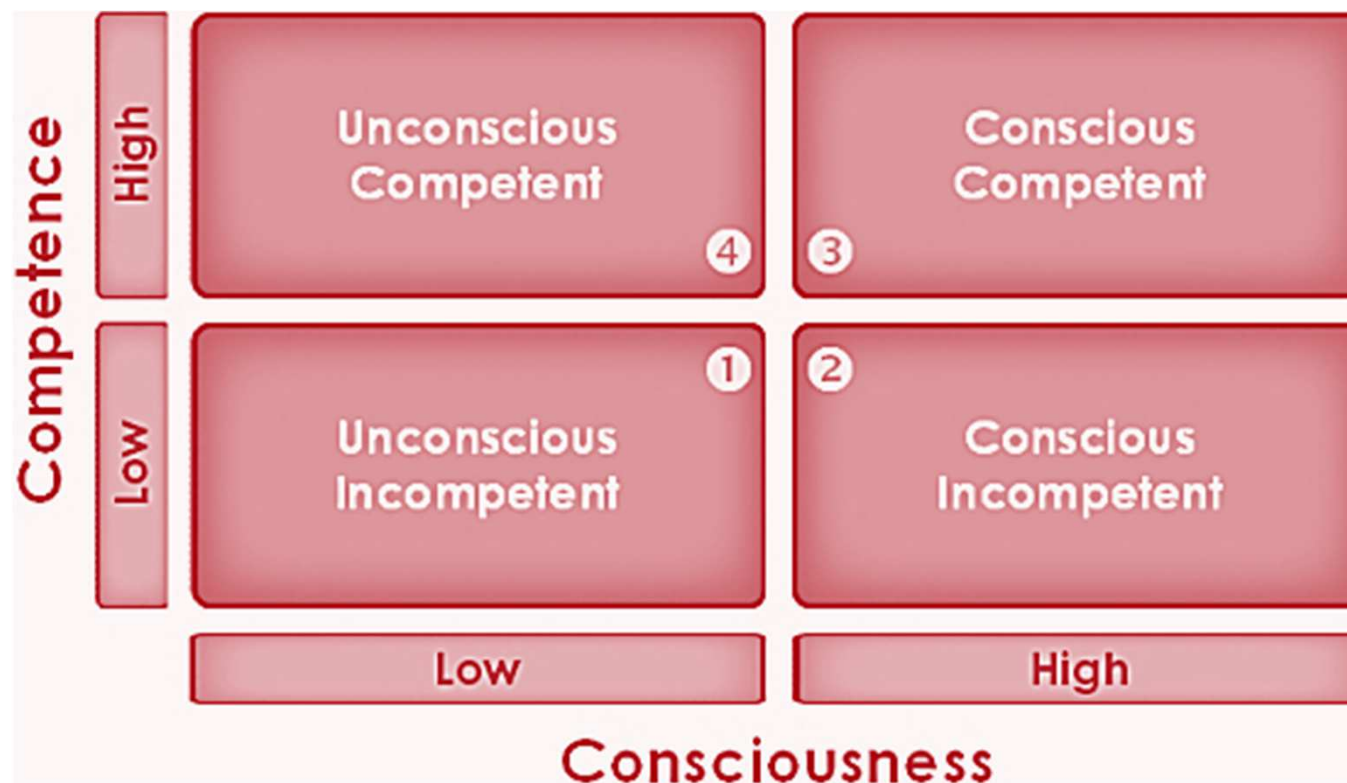
1) Lack of time

2) Little value

3) Amount of contextual change

4) Lack of knowledge

DEVELOPING COMPETENCE

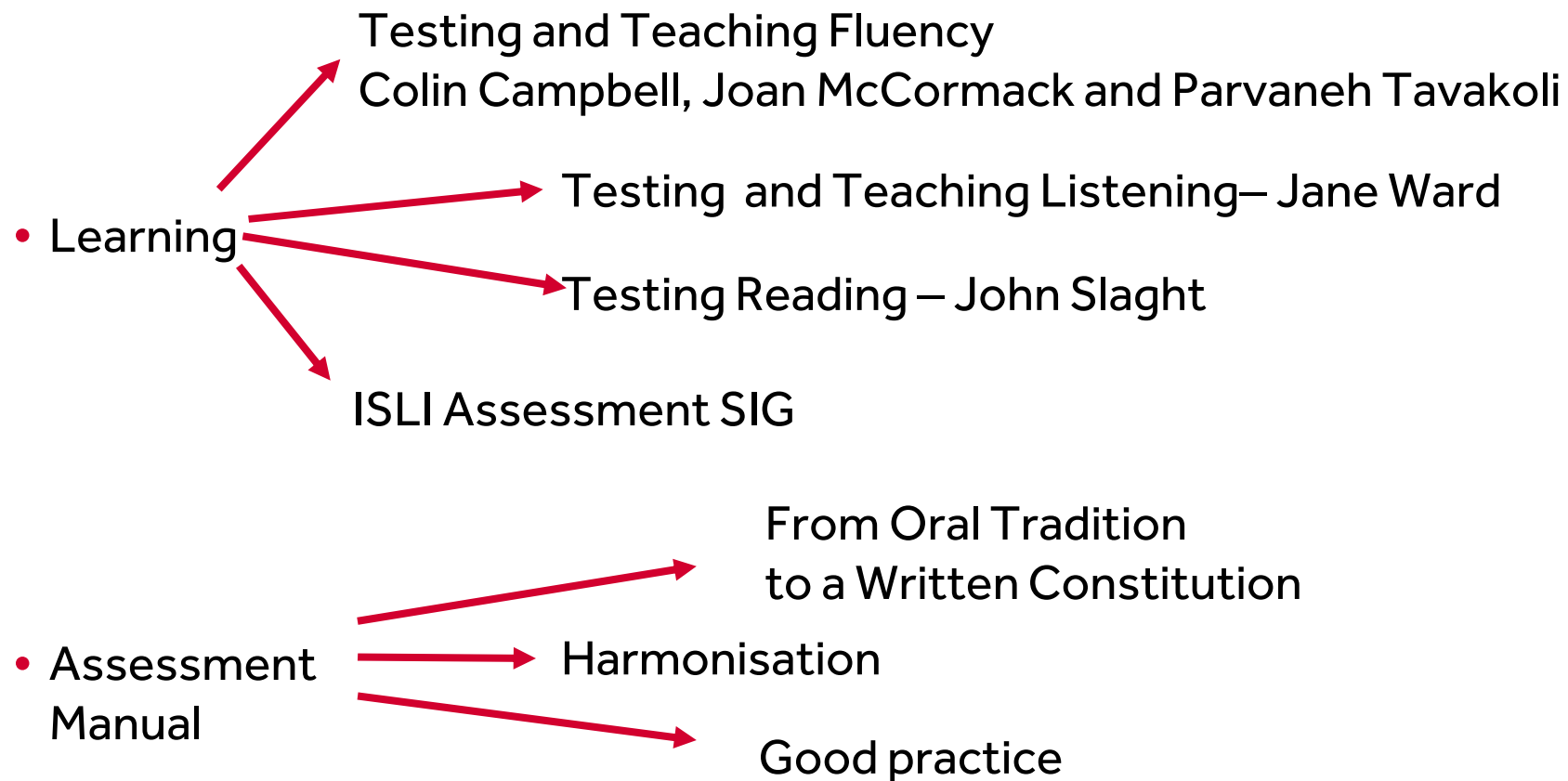


Four stages for Learning Model: Noel Burch (GTI), 1970

<https://mindwerx.com/four-stages-learning-enough-make-innovation-happen/>

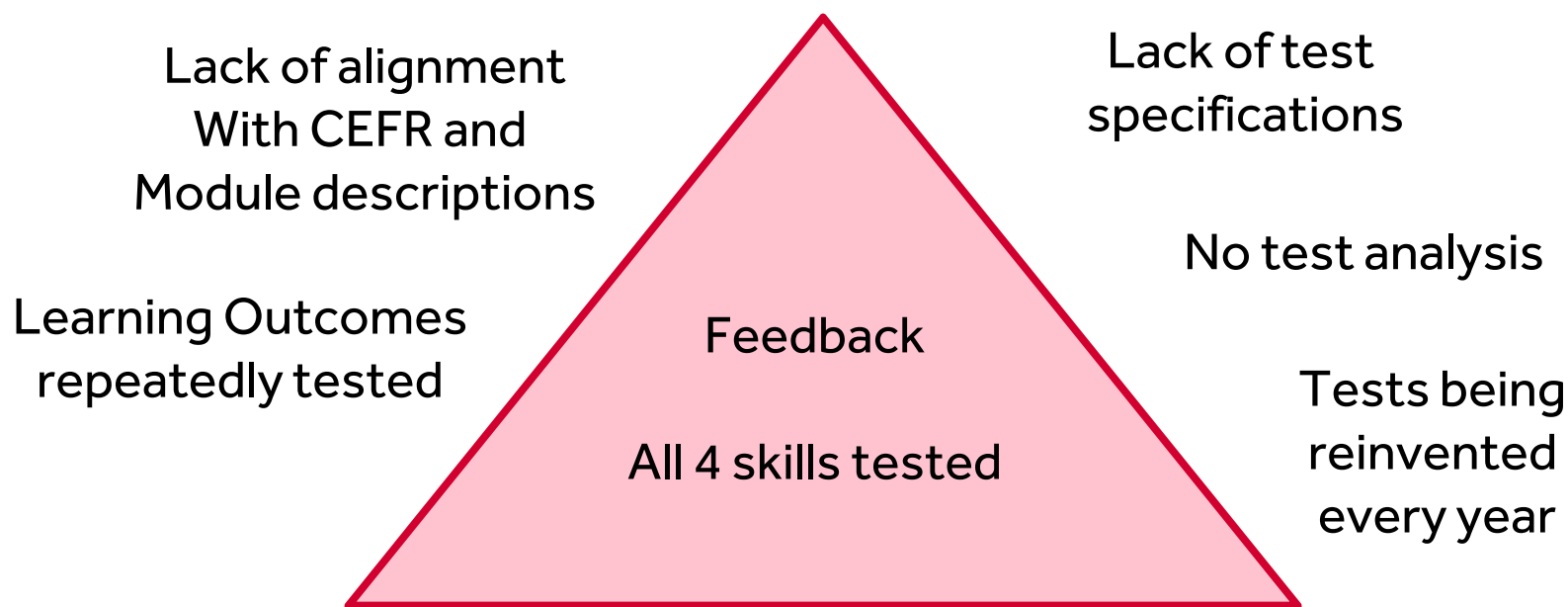
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DEVELOPING COMPETENCE (2)



NEEDS ANALYSIS

Practicability

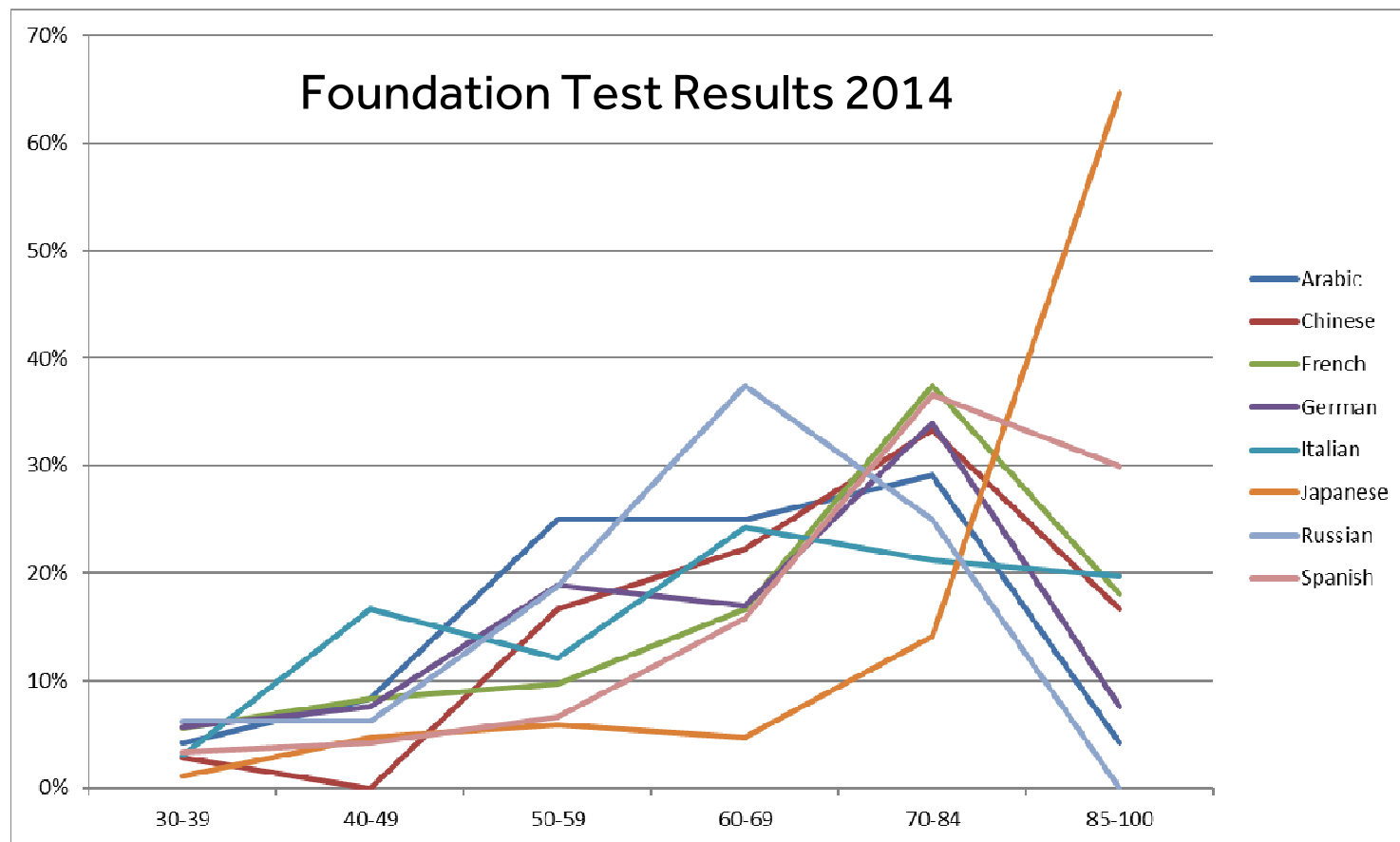


Fairness

Consistency

9

PROGRESS -HARMONISING



10

PROGRESS SO FAR - CHANGES

4 assessment points with defined criteria

- Foundation 10% (1/3 reading, 2/3 language knowledge)
- Listening 15%
- Oral 30%
- Final 40% (Writing 63%, reading 37%)

Overall:

Language knowledge	10%
Listening	21%
Reading	20%
Speaking	24%
Writing	25%

GOING BEYOND

Write a reply to the five text messages below max 20 words per text:

Ho saputo che è nato tuo nipote. Congratulazioni! Come sta la mamma? _____

Come è andato il colloquio? Hai avuto il lavoro?? _____

25.00%

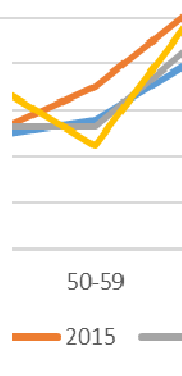
Read the forum post below and write a reply, based on one of the adverts in Reading D. Ensure your answer covers all questions, justify your answer and describe your experience in sufficient detail. Write 150 words in ITALIAN.

(23 marks)



Ciao ragazzi, sono norvegese ma ho una nonna italiana. Quest'estate vorrei migliorare il mio italiano e studiare in Italia. Qualcuno ha una buona esperienza e può darmi un consiglio? E meglio una scuola piccola o una grande? In una grande città o in un piccolo centro? Quanto tempo siete stati? Avete avuto qualche problema? Raccontatemi della vostra esperienza e, se è possibile, ditemi dove andare.

Susi98



You have recently been to Café Royal in Rome and want to leave a review on a website called www.lenottidiroma.it

You have been provided with an INFORMATION SHEET containing the details of the restaurant in Rome. You must use the information provided in the INFORMATION SHEET to:

- 1) Complete the form below
- 2) Write a review about your experience at the restaurant (100 words).

FORM	[7 marks]		
IL RISTORANTE:			
Che tipo di ristorante è? (tick 2)			
Rustico	☐	Caro	☐
Semplice	☐	Elegante	☐
Etnico	☐	Economico	☐
	Sì	No	Non lo so
Offerta valida per tutte le stagioni.			
Alcolici compresi nei menù fissi.			
Il ristorante offre uno sconto studenti.			
Parcheggio gratuito			
Locale centrale			
Party bus da prenotare in anticipo			

AMBITIONS

Want to do

- Specifications
- Marking criteria
- Administration
- Evaluation
- Literacy

Can do

- Immediate gains
- Champions
- Policies
- Relevant literacy
- Links with broader sector

QUESTIONS UNANSWERED

Should we specialise and create a testing team?

How can we mobilise more resources?

Are our priorities the right ones?

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