

## ELPA21 Field Test and Platform and System Trial

### Headset Specifications

The table below outlines features for headsets and Questar’s rationale in recommending those features. Please note that Questar does not endorse specific brands or devices.

| Recommended Features  | Reason for Recommendation  | Alternatives not Recommended  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Device:</b><br><i>Headset with attached microphone</i>                                   | Allows for recording and playback using the same device.   | Separate headphones and microphone increase the need to ensure proper connection and setup on the computer and complicate the testing site set-up.  |
| <b>Headset Design:</b><br><i>Over Ear Headphones</i>  | Comfortable to be worn for a longer period of time by students of different ages. Weight and size of headphones can be selected based on students’ age. Portable headphones are smaller and lighter and hence may be suitable for younger students.  | In ear headphones (ear buds) – for the general population - that are placed directly in the ear canal are more difficult to clean between uses. They may not be suitable for younger students. Ear bud microphones are attached to the cord, making capturing the students’ voice more problematic. |
| <b>Play Back Mode:</b><br><i>Stereo</i>   | The sound files of the assessment are recorded and played back in stereo.  | Mono headsets   |
| <b>Noise Cancellation Feature:</b><br><i>None Needed</i>                                    | Noise cancellation often does not cancel out the sound of human voices.  | Many headsets with a noise cancellation feature require a power source, this adds cost and complicates the testing set-up.  |
| <b>Type of Connector Plug:</b><br><i>one 3.5 mm Plug, two 3.5 mm Plugs or USB connector</i> | Headsets must be compatible with the computer used for testing.<br>Headsets with two 3.5 mm plugs can be converted with a “Y” adaptor to a single plug and be used with tablets<br>USB-connected headsets require driver installation and may need to be enabled as playback/recording device. | NOTE: USB-connected headsets for iPads and Android tablets are not available/supported.<br><br>Bluetooth is not recommended.  |
| <b>Special Considerations</b>   | Alternative size headsets may need to be considered for smaller children, although not required.<br>Ear buds with a microphone may be considered for students who wear head scarves or wraps, etc.   |   |

\*Questar recommends avoiding microphones with windscreens (e.g. foam covers), unless they are removable, to assist with cleaning between uses.

\*\*Please Note: These specifications are for the ELPA21 Field Test only. ELPA21 does not yet have an operational vendor.

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