



# Capitalising on Technology for EL Oral Assessment: Change Management

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AFELTA Conference: 21-22 October 2018

- **Background**

ICT in National Examinations in Singapore

- **Salient considerations**

Construct Validity & Task Authenticity

- **Value of technology**

Computer-based EL oral examinations

- **Implementation and Change Management**

A Three-staged Approach

# Background

## About SEAB

The Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board (SEAB) was established on 1 April 2004 as a Statutory Board under the Ministry of Education

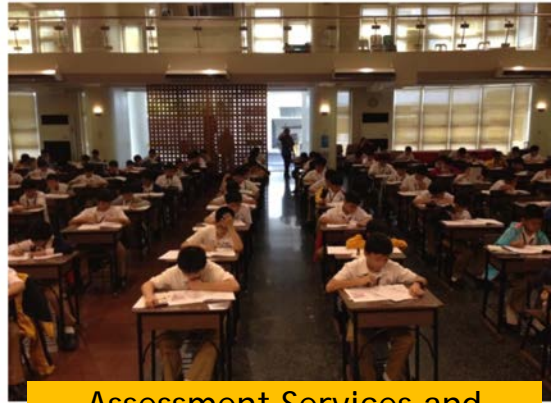
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# Our Core Business



National Examinations



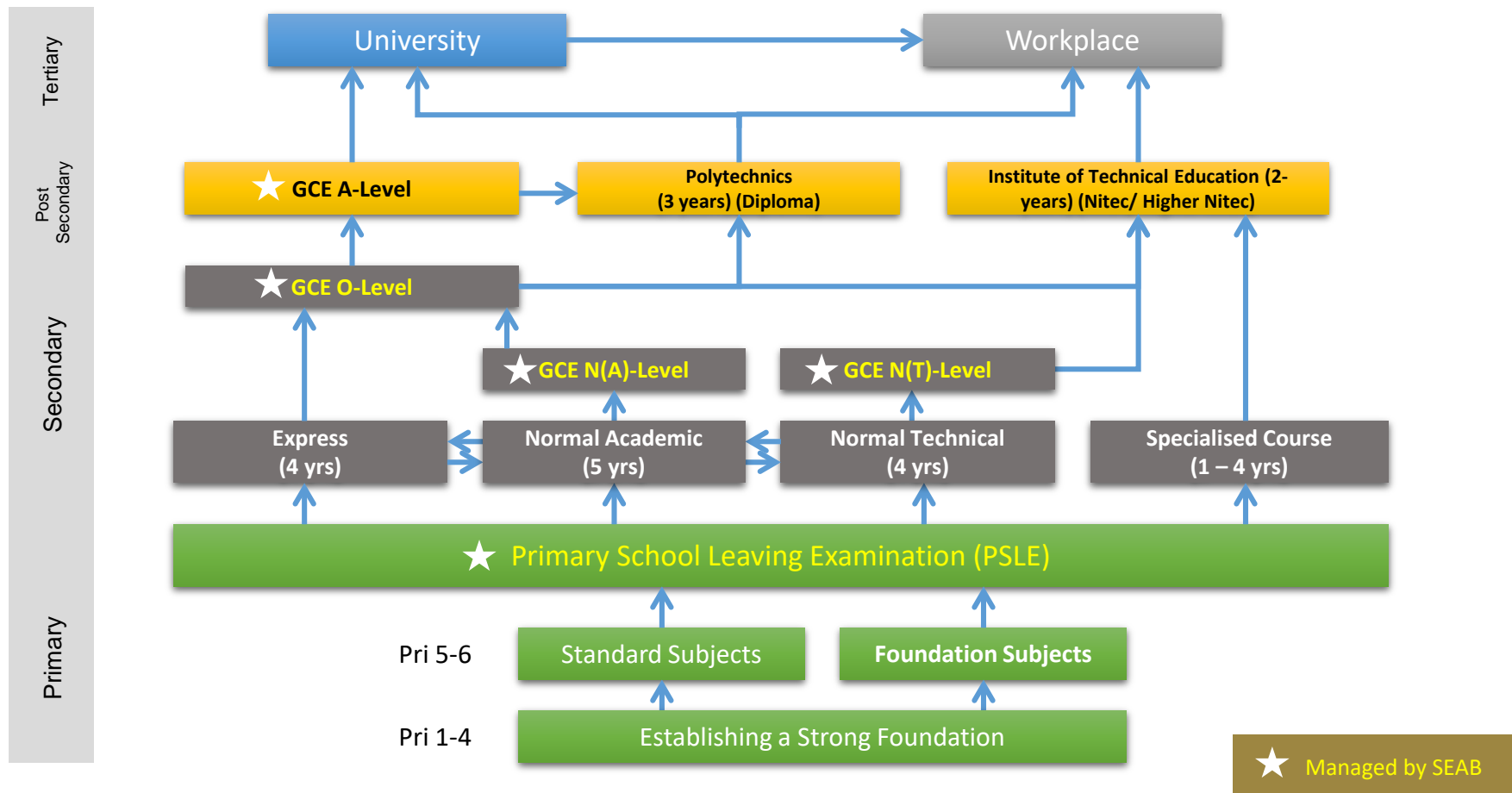
Assessment Services and Products



Training & Consultancy



# The Singapore Education and Examination System



- **First Language: English**
  - **Primary: PSLE at Grade 6**
  - **Secondary: GCE N/O-Level examination at Grade 10**
  - **Pre-university: GCE A-Level examination at Grade 12 (General Paper testing critical thinking and communication skills )**
  
- **Second Language: Mother Tongue Language (mainly Chinese, Malay and Tamil)**

# ICT in National Examinations in Singapore

## Guiding Principles for E-examinations

### Value-add for subject

- Assessing constructs that cannot be assessed in pen-paper mode
- E.g. rich media, interactive items

### Authenticity

- Real-life experiences for digital natives
- E.g. emails, blogs

### Efficiency

- E-delivery of examinations
- Greater productivity



# Approach to e-Exam Implementation



# ICT in National Examinations in Singapore

E-Oral

E-LC

E-  
Written

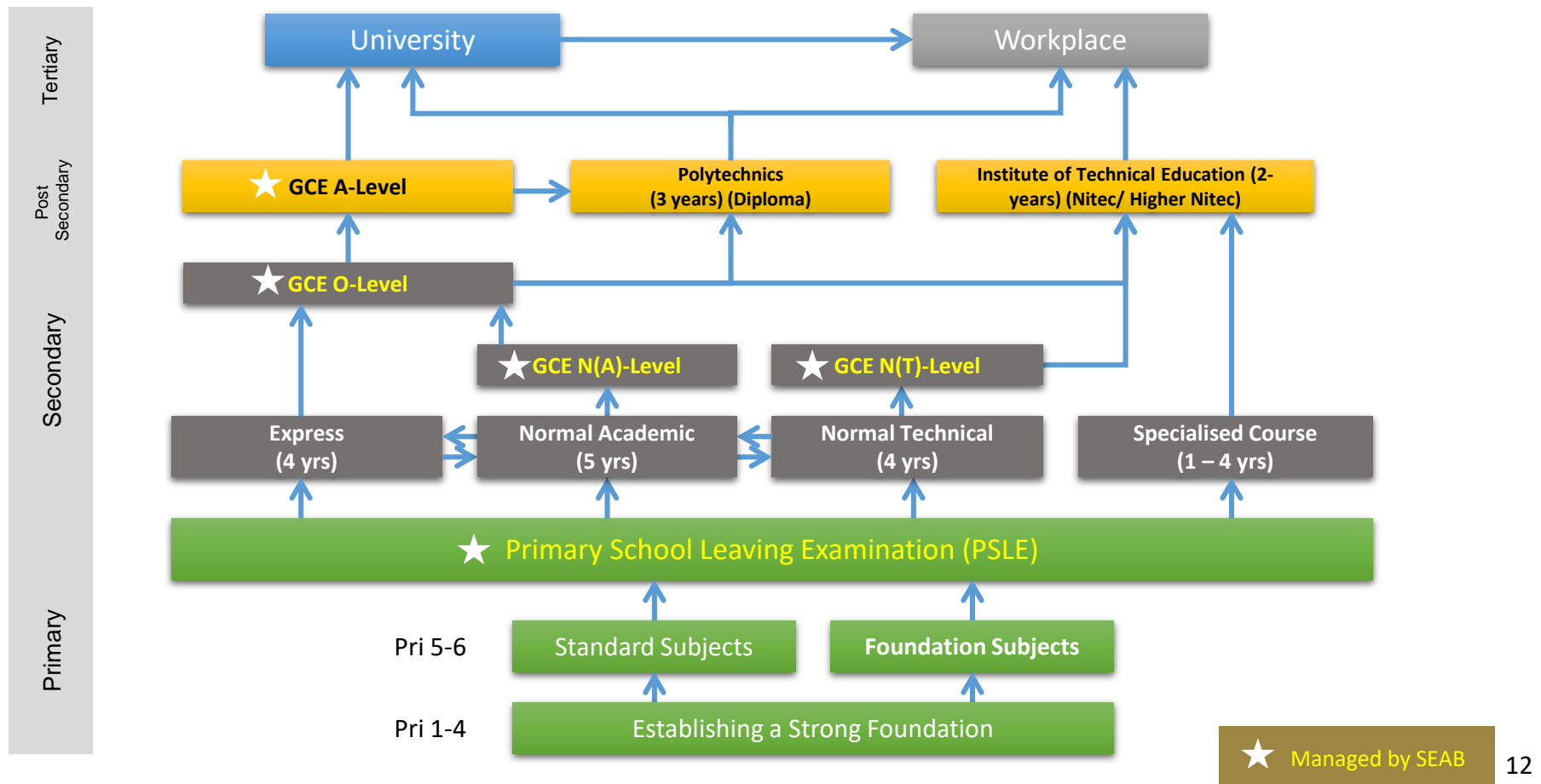
Onscreen  
Marking

E-  
Coursework



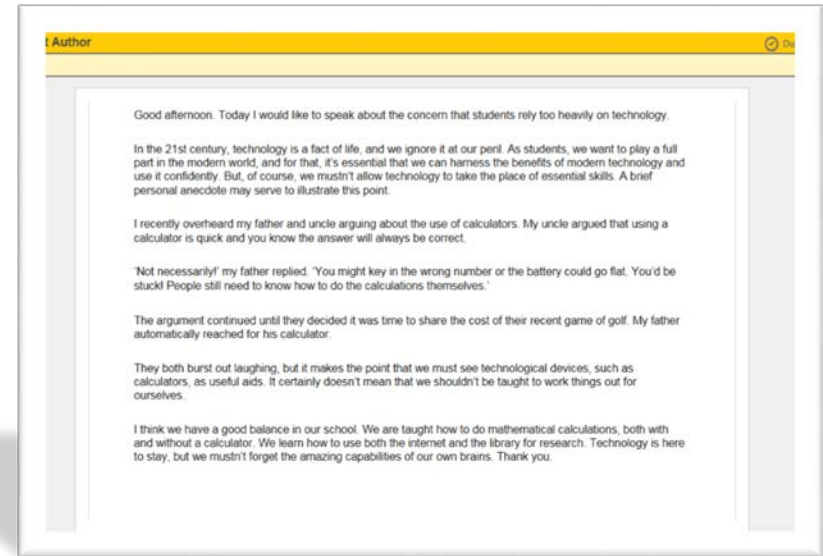
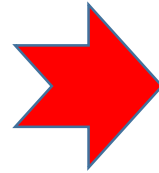
# **English Language e-Oral Examination**

# The Singapore Education and Examination System



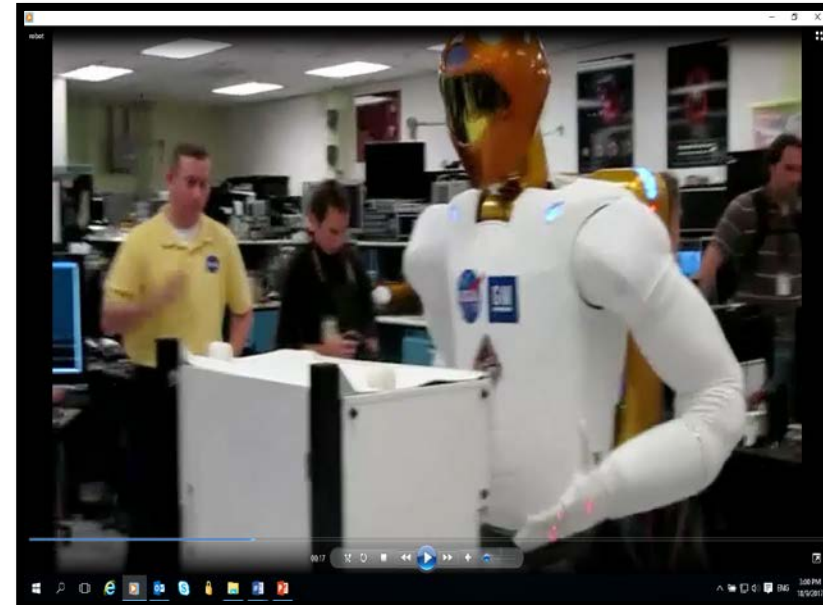
## Part 1: Reading Aloud

- Passage on computer screen



## Part 2: Spoken Interaction

- Use of video stimulus



# N(T) EL ORAL (PAPER-BASED)



PART	PAPER-BASED	ICT-ENABLED
Reading Aloud	Text is printed on a <b>piece of paper</b> .	Text is accessed on a <b>computer</b> .
Spoken Interaction	Based on a visual stimulus in the form of a <b>printed photograph</b>	Based on a visual stimulus in the form of a <b>video clip</b> .
Prompts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think is the occasion shown in the picture?</li> <li>• Tell me about a good friend of yours.</li> <li>• What do you think makes a good friend?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you were one of the swimmers in this competition, how would you feel?</li> <li>• Tell me about a sports competition you have taken part in or have watched.</li> <li>• Do you think people should only take part in sport for fun? Why, or why not?</li> </ul>

# Salient Considerations



# Construct Validity

- To ensure that assessment design will test candidates on what they have learnt from the curriculum, so that we can have confidence in the test scores.
- Revised examination needs to measure adequately the construct of the subject,
  - i.e. reading aloud and conversation skills

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- **Reading Aloud**

- Pronunciation
- Fluency
- Expressiveness

Paper passage =  
Onscreen passage

- **Spoken Interaction**

- Personal Response
- Clarity of Expression
- Interaction

Video stimulus offers  
more authentic and  
richer content

# Task Authenticity

- For candidates who are digital natives of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the assessment task relates closely to the context in which it would normally be performed in real life.
- The reading passage and video stimulus, followed by open-ended conversation prompts, enhances task authenticity.
- The features of video deemed unsuitable for examination purposes were identified.
  - specifications for synopsis, subtitles, content, topics/themes

## Broad guidelines for selection of video stimulus

- Duration: approximately 50s
- Based on 1 broad & accessible theme
- 3 conversation prompts → ***must be posed***
- Real-life characters
- Authentic background music/sounds
- No extended speech

# Value of Technology

# Value of Technology

- Video stimulus offers a richer and more engaging context
- Visual clarity in reading passage and video stimulus
- Enhanced exam administrative procedures
- An in-built timer at preparation
- Customisable text presentation

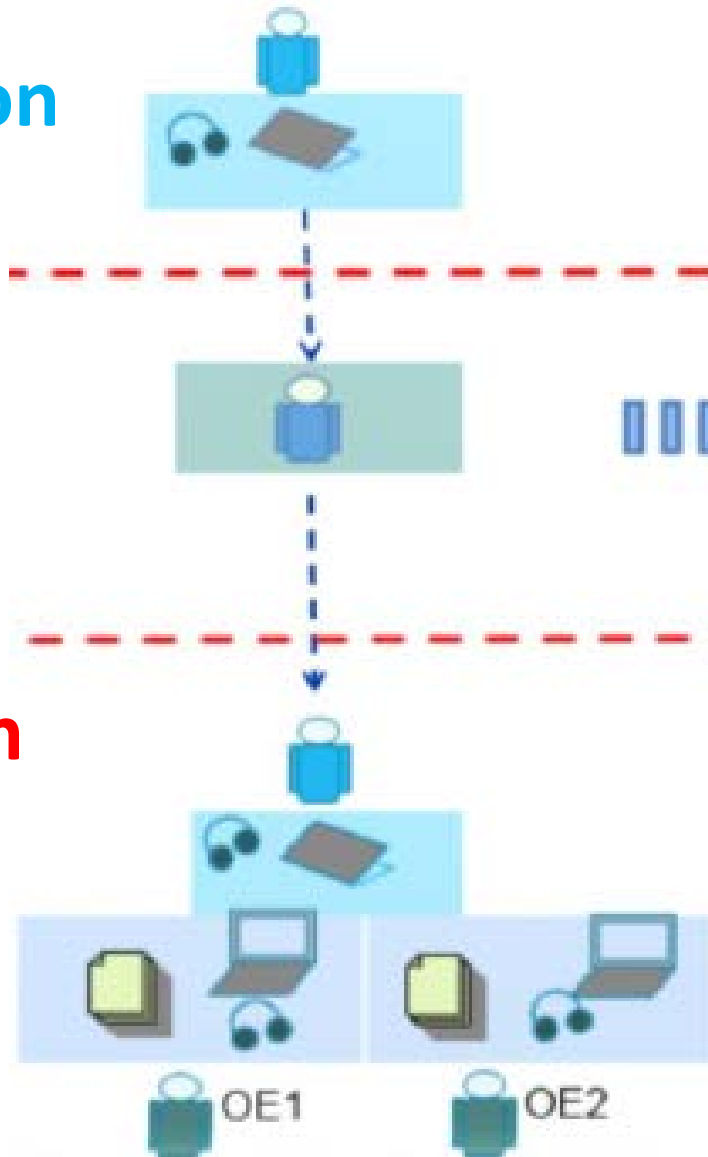


# Concerns about the use of technology

**Silent Preparation Station**

**Waiting Station**

**Oral Exam Station**



# Concerns about the use of technology

Technical issues!

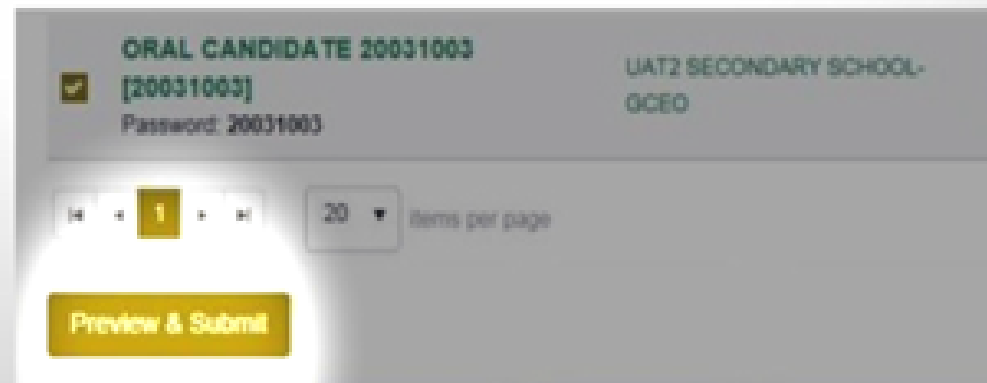
Lack of familiarity!

More complex test procedure!

Submit candidates' marks through the eExam system at the end of each exam day



- ✓ Update the status of the absentees in the eExam system to "SUSPEND" and indicate the reason
- ✓ OE1 must sync OE2's marks at the OE1 terminal
- ✓ Click on the 'PREVIEW AND SUBMIT' button:  
Ensure with OE2 that individual and agreed marks for each candidate is correct before submitting





# Implementation and Change Management

# Implementation and Change Management

- Trial studies were conducted in stages from 2009 to 2015
- In total, 1 200 students participated in the studies
- Positive feedback on use of video as a lead up to the discussion
- Trial findings were taken into consideration in designing the e-Oral examination

# Implementation and Change Management

- Practice session in April 2016
  - Full participation of schools offering N(T) course
- Data on the 2016 and 2017 N(T) EL e-Oral exams

<b>Year of Exam</b>	<b>No. of N(T) EL Candidates</b>	<b>Average End Time</b>
2016	5,012	5.05 p.m.
2017	4,743	4.51 p.m.

# Implementation and Change Management



# Implementation and Change Management



## STAGE 1: Pre-ICT

- 2009 – 2011: feasibility & trial studies
- 2011: In-principle approval for the use of ICT
- 2012: Trial study comparison of paper-based & computer-based testing
- 2013: **[First year of revised paper-based N(T) Level syllabus]**
  - we-Learn portal for teaching, learning and assessments
  - Dry run/ Technical test on the e-oral delivery system

## STAGE 2: ICT for N(T) Level

- 2014: Dissemination briefing for N(T) Level
- 2016: **[First year of ICT-enabled N(T) Level syllabus]**
  - Practice sessions before exam

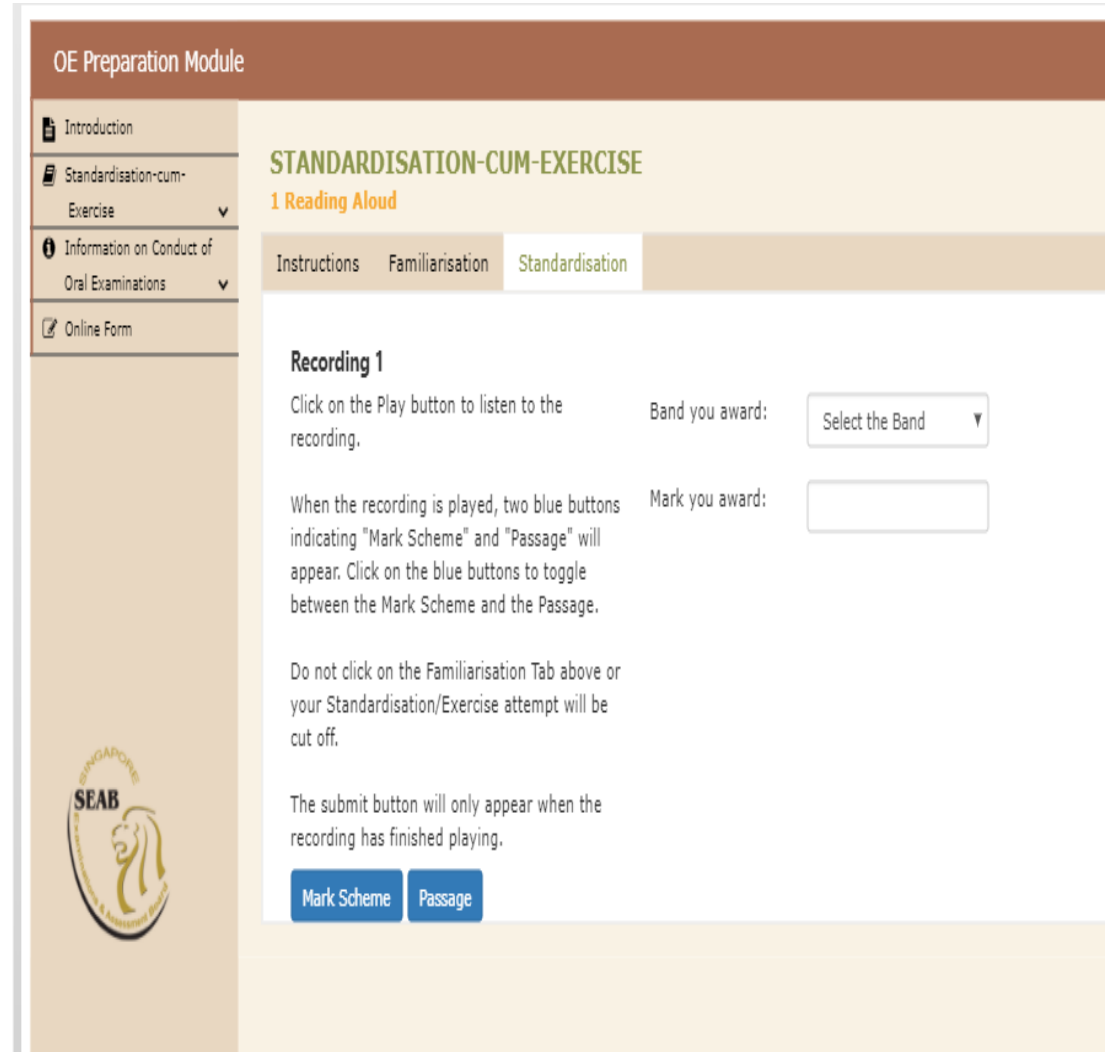
## STAGE 3: ICT for N(A) and O Level

- 2017: Dissemination briefing for N(A) & O-Level
- 2019: **[First year of ICT-enabled N(A)-Level syllabus]**
  - Practice sessions before exam
- 2020: **[First year of ICT-enabled O-Level syllabus]**
  - Practice sessions before exam



## *What's new?*

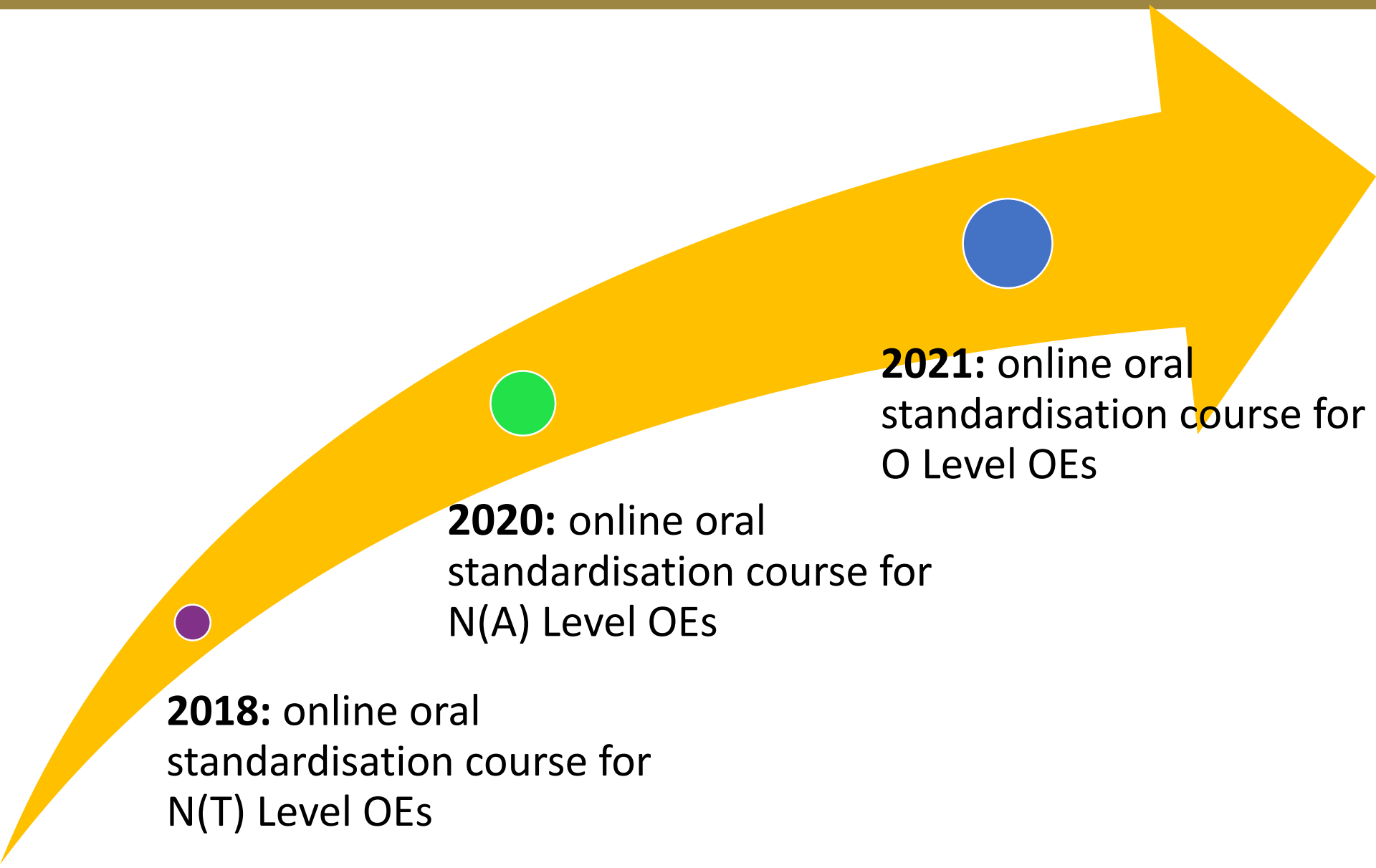
- Online Oral Standardisation Course
- for N(T) Level EL Oral Examiners (OEs)
- ***from 2018***



The screenshot displays the 'OE Preparation Module' interface. On the left is a navigation menu with items: 'Introduction', 'Standardisation-cum-Exercise' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Information on Conduct of Oral Examinations' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Online Form'. The main content area is titled 'STANDARDISATION-CUM-EXERCISE' and '1 Reading Aloud'. It features three tabs: 'Instructions', 'Familiarisation', and 'Standardisation' (which is active). The 'Recording 1' section contains instructions: 'Click on the Play button to listen to the recording.' followed by a 'Band you award:' dropdown menu set to 'Select the Band'. Below this, it states: 'When the recording is played, two blue buttons indicating "Mark Scheme" and "Passage" will appear. Click on the blue buttons to toggle between the Mark Scheme and the Passage.' This is followed by a 'Mark you award:' text box. A warning note says: 'Do not click on the Familiarisation Tab above or your Standardisation/Exercise attempt will be cut off.' At the bottom, it notes: 'The submit button will only appear when the recording has finished playing.' Two blue buttons, 'Mark Scheme' and 'Passage', are visible at the bottom of the content area. The SEAB logo is located in the bottom left corner of the interface.

- No more external OE briefings → **increased efficiency and productivity**
- Immediate feedback on own assessment at the online standardisation exercise and assessment exercises → **quality assurance**
- Access to the online course at a time of their **convenience** on the day of standardisation

# Implementation and Change Management



**2018:** online oral  
standardisation course for  
N(T) Level OEs

**2020:** online oral  
standardisation course for  
N(A) Level OEs

**2021:** online oral  
standardisation course for  
O Level OEs

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# Thank You

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recognised locally and internationally

