



American Board of Orthodontics
Scenario-based
Clinical Examination (Rev.4.11.2024)

Purpose of Presentation

- Introduction to the ABO
- Encourage to pursue board certification
- Describe the scenario-based clinical examination design and process
- Address FAQs
- Provide available resources

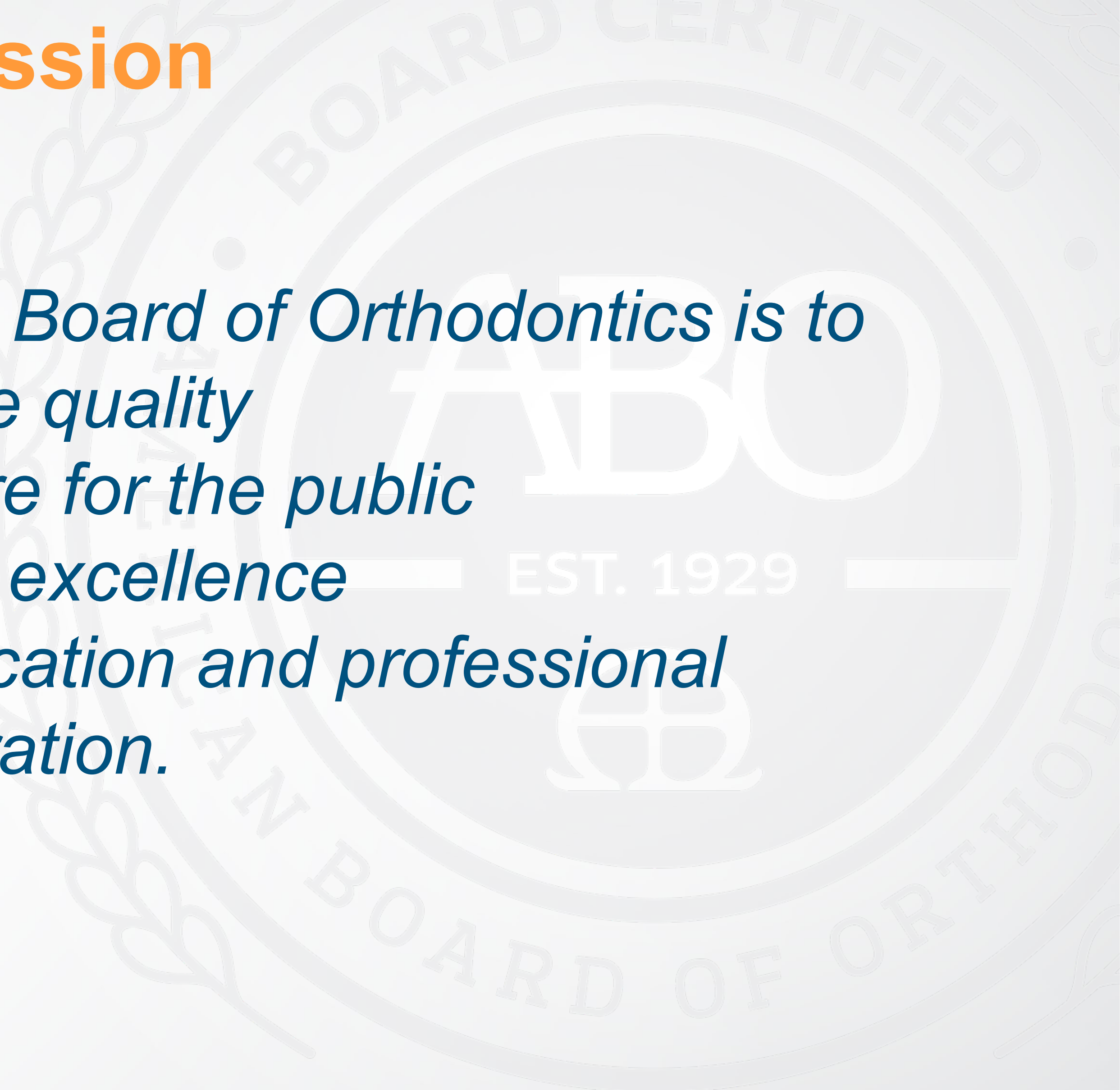
Dr. Albert Ketcham, Founder

“...to elevate the standards of orthodontia...to protect the public against irresponsible and unqualified practitioners.”



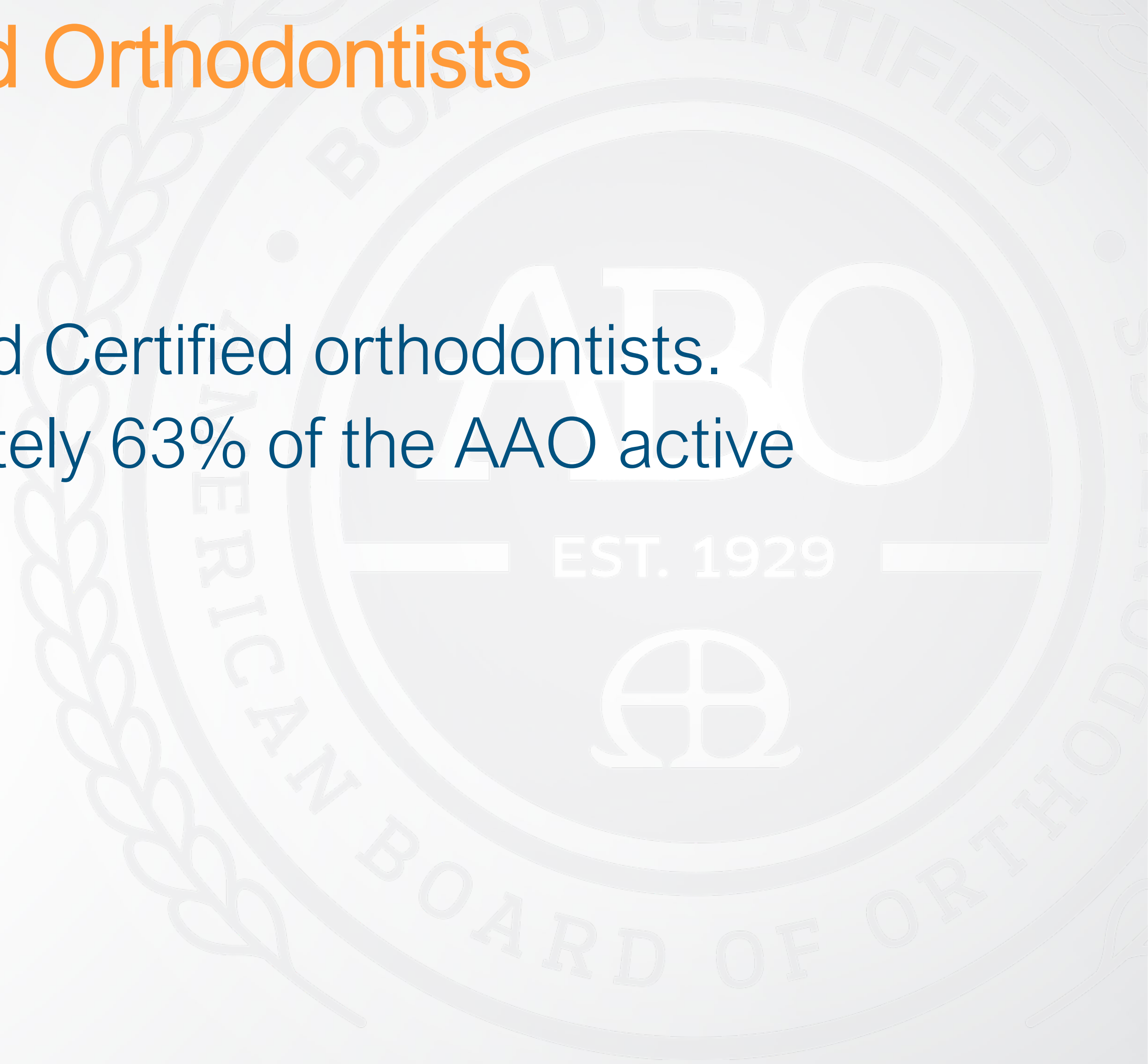
The Mission

The mission of The American Board of Orthodontics is to elevate the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education and professional collaboration.



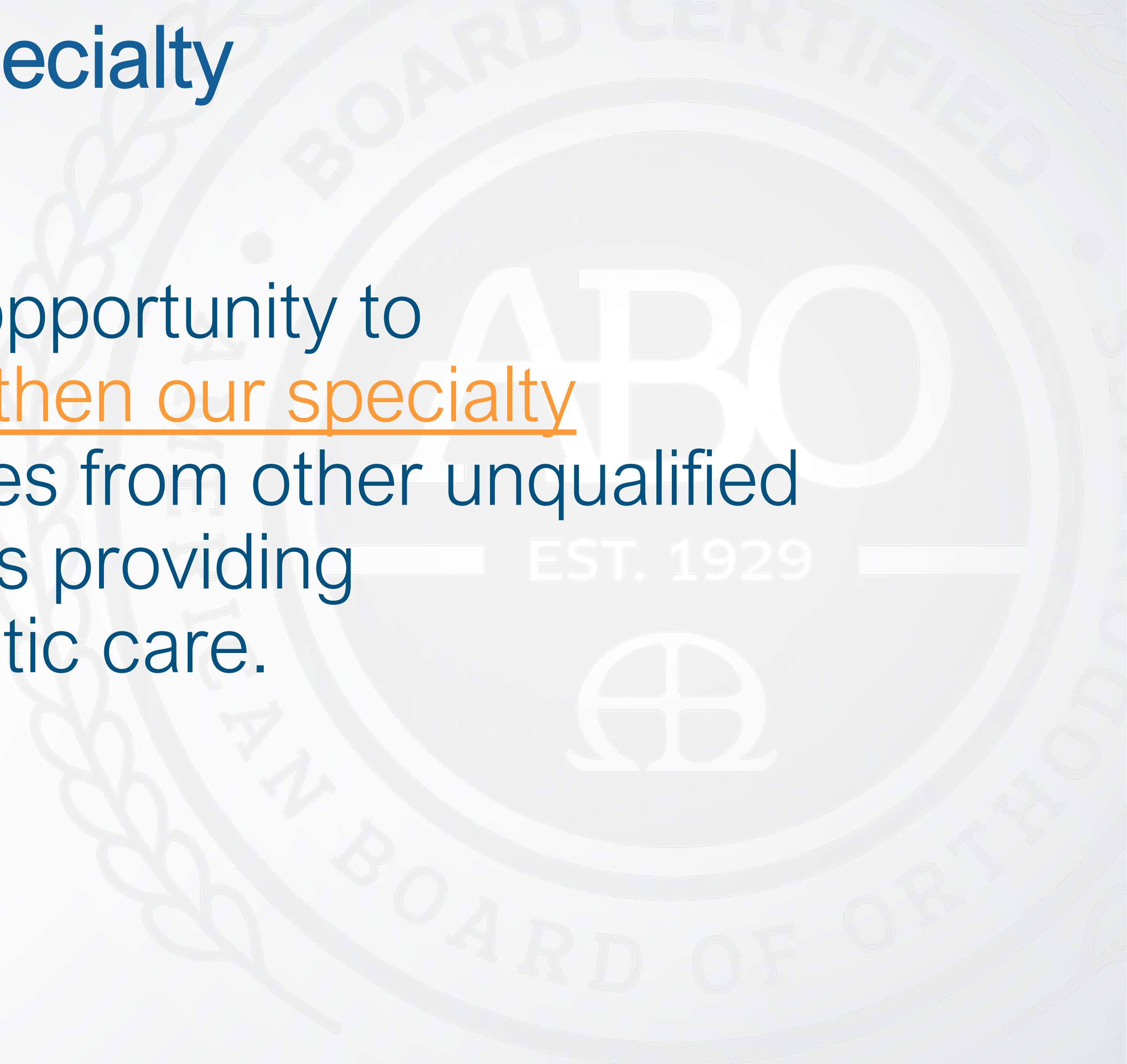
ABO Certified Orthodontists

- There are over 5,000 Board Certified orthodontists.
- This represents approximately 63% of the AAO active membership.



Our Specialty

We have an opportunity to collectively strengthen our specialty by distinguishing ourselves from other unqualified practitioners providing orthodontic care.



It Takes A Specialist Video

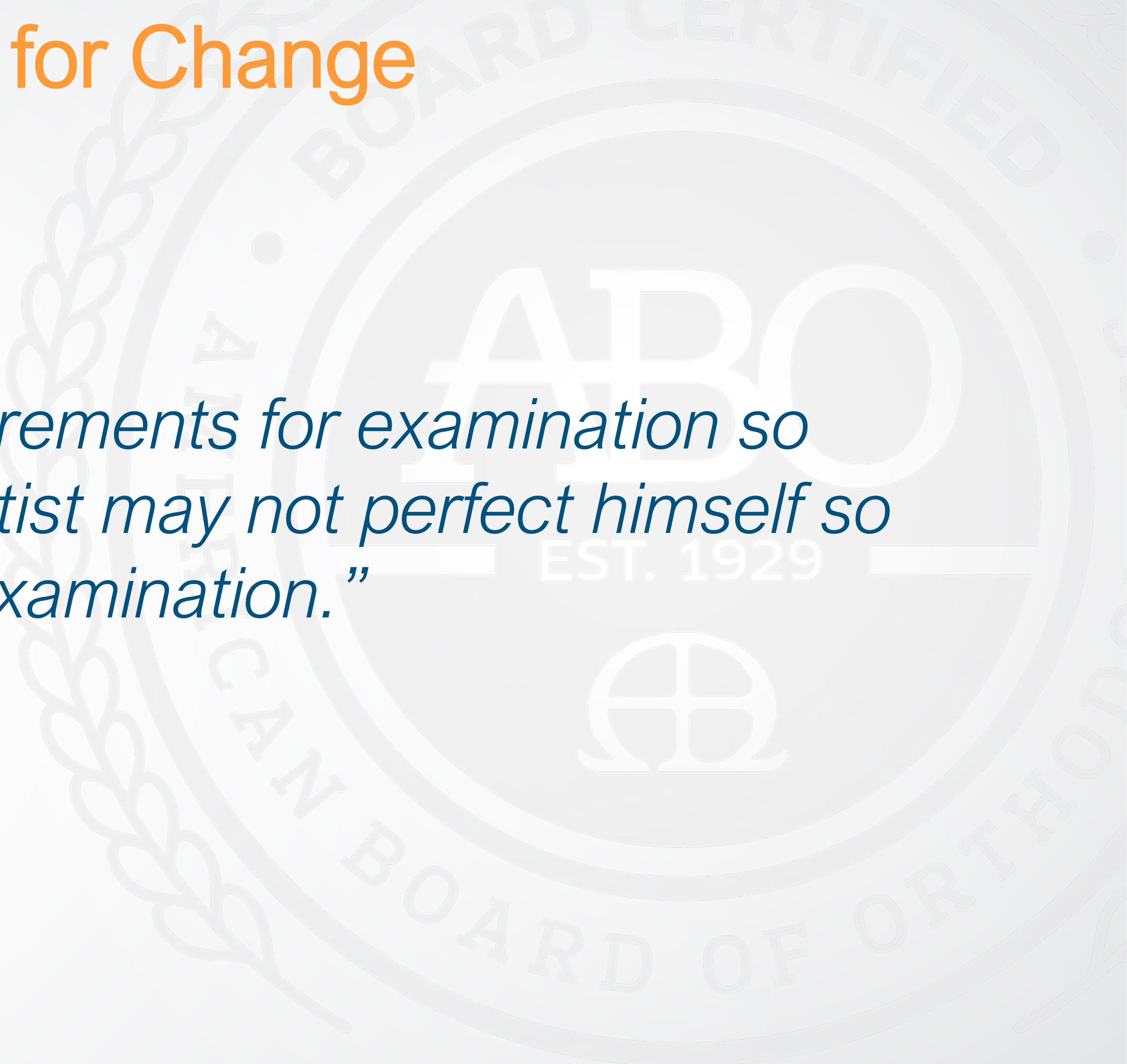
[Click Here](#)



Foundation for Change

Martin Dewey:

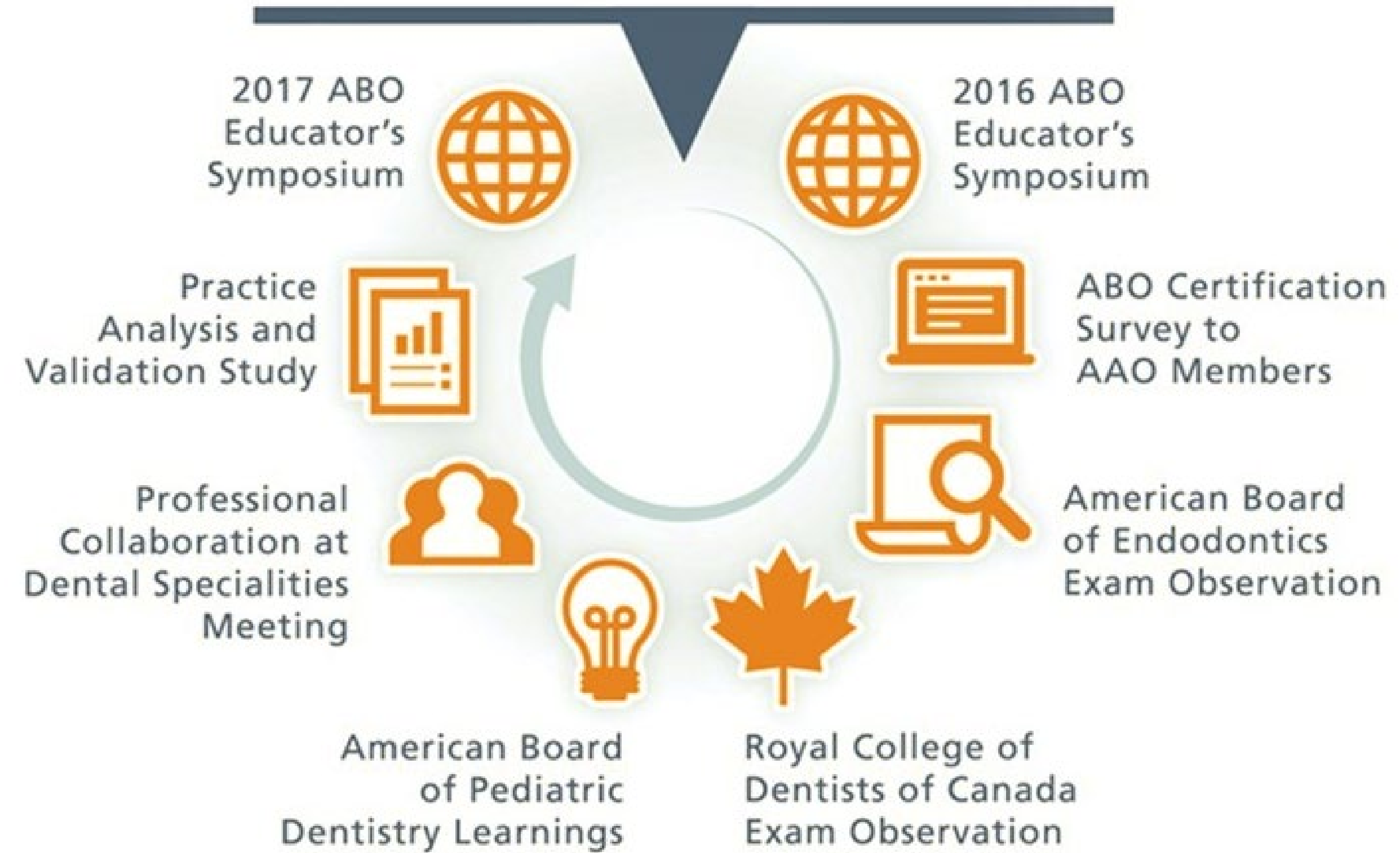
“We should not make our requirements for examination so high that the average orthodontist may not perfect himself so that he may pass the board’s examination.”



Why Change the Clinical Exam?

How The Decision Was Made

The Research Process



ABO Certification Survey

Please rank the following ABO requirements that commonly prevent orthodontists from becoming board certified:



Conditions for Change

Barriers



Educational Barriers

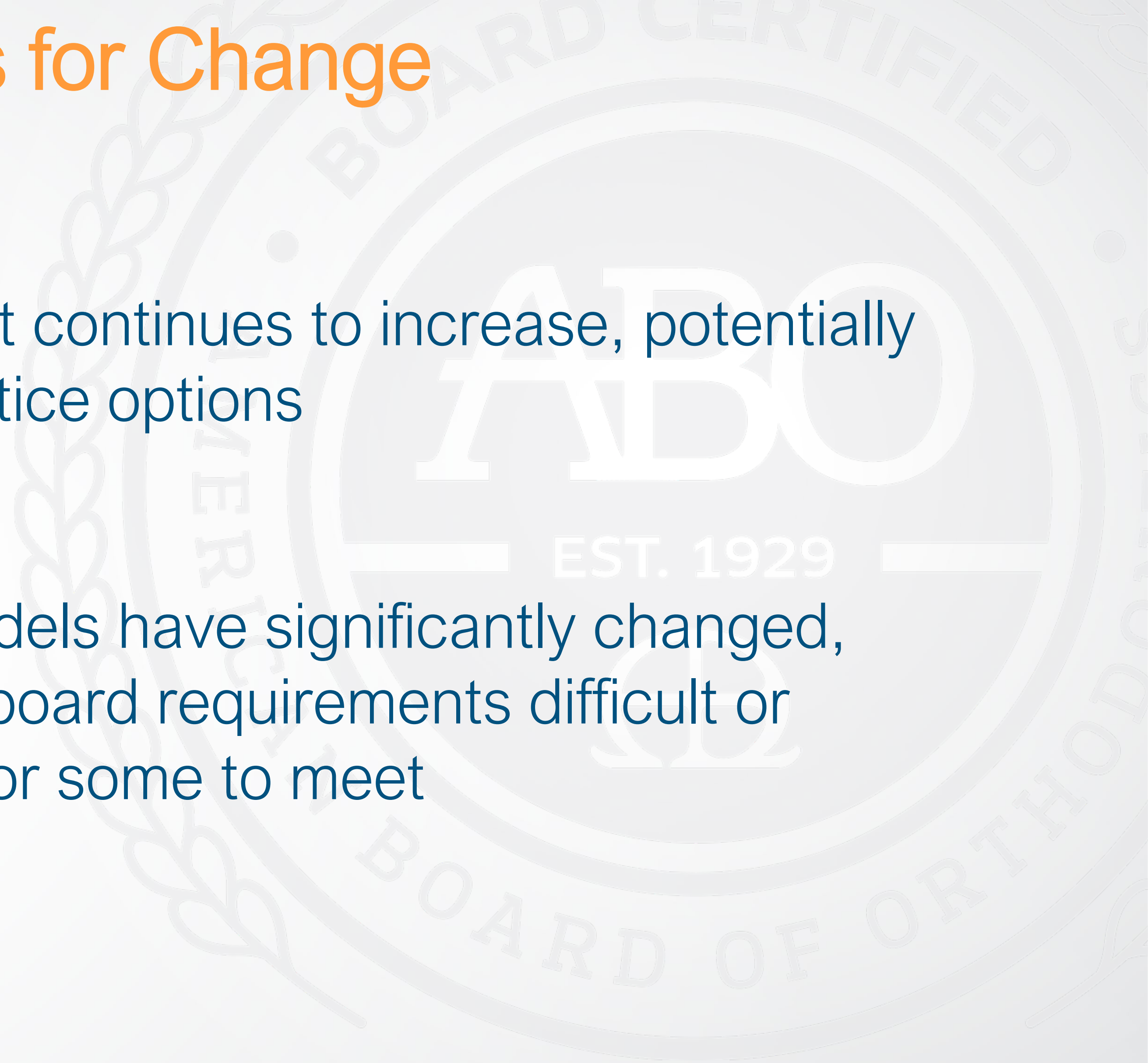
- Leadership/Faculty Commitment
- Length of Program
- Patient Population Changes
- Types of Patients
- Total Number of Patients

Practice Models

Conditions for Change

Environment

- Student debt continues to increase, potentially limiting practice options
- Practice models have significantly changed, making the board requirements difficult or impossible for some to meet



Why Cases Are Eliminated

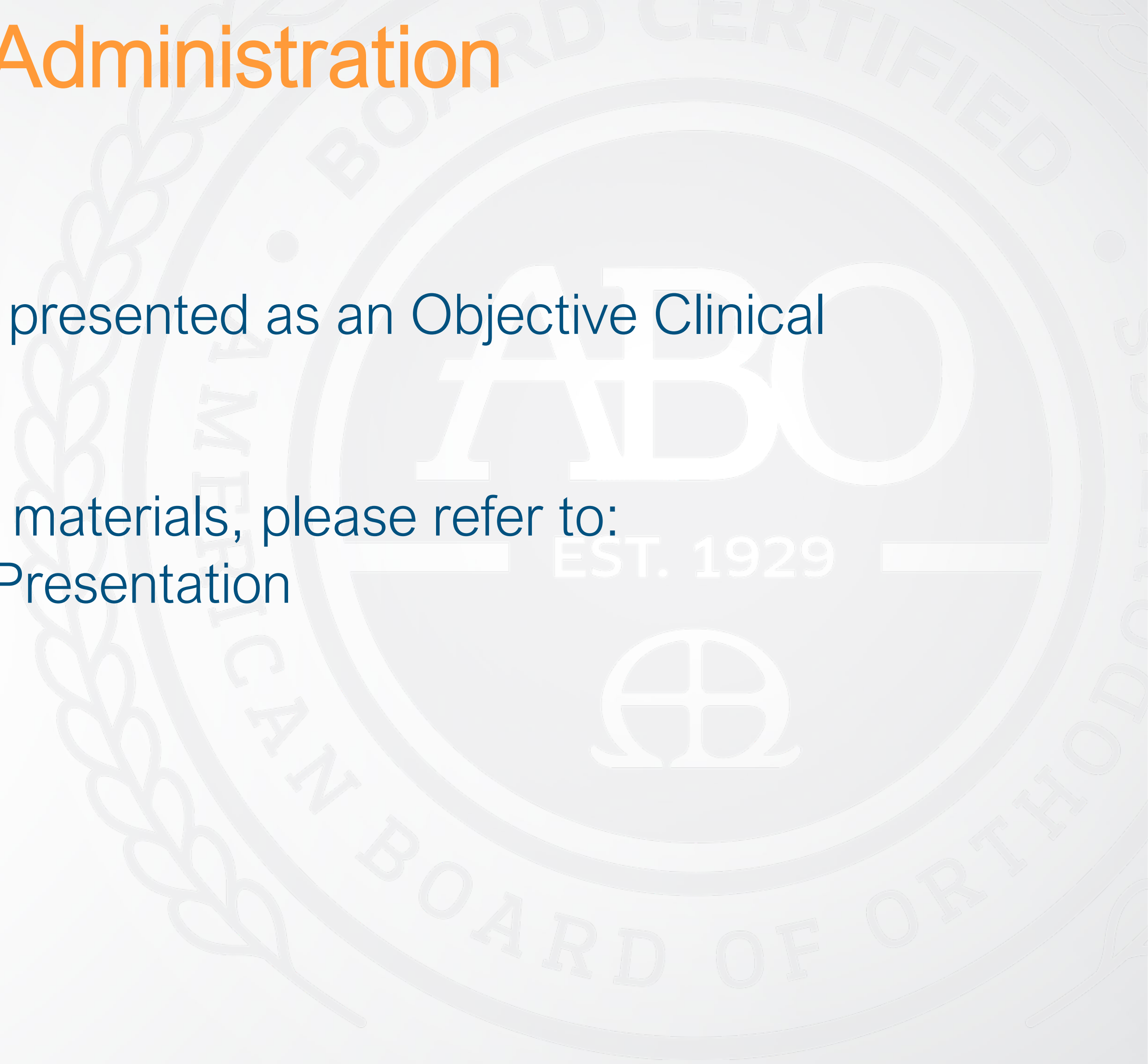
- Eliminates unnecessary barriers
 - All orthodontists have ability to go through certification process, regardless of their practice environment or where they are within their career
- More objectively tests for proficiency
- Accurately examines critical thinking in all areas of the four domains

Purpose of the Case Based Scenario Clinical Examination

- Objectively evaluate an orthodontist's knowledge, abilities, and critical thinking skills.
- Format allows for testing a large amount of material in a relatively short period of time.
- Questions are graded objectively based on pre-determined desired responses.

Examination Administration

- Scenario-based Clinical Examination presented as an Objective Clinical Examination
- For detailed examination preparation materials, please refer to:
 - Examinee Orientation PowerPoint Presentation
 - Study Guide



In the Past

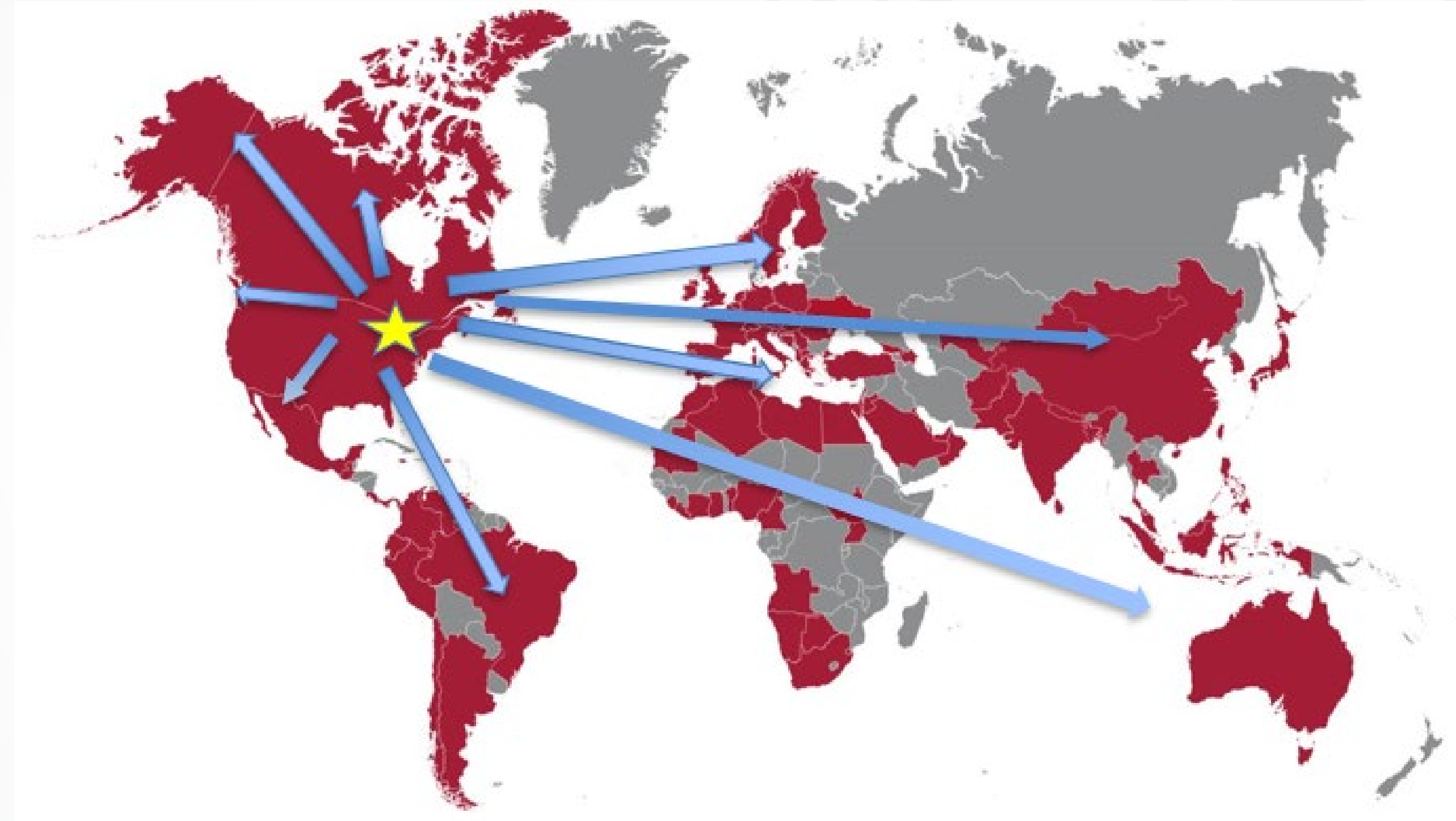
The ABO Scenario-based Oral Clinical Exam was given only at the ABO Testing Center in St. Louis, Missouri



ABO Office



The ABO now offers the Scenario-based Clinical Examination at Pearson VUE Testing Centers Worldwide



ABO Scenario-based Clinical Examination

- The ABO proactively identified a solution to modify the exam to comply with CDC safety requirements and social distancing, while protecting the health and safety of examinees, examiners and all involved.
- The change in the exam was made to maintain the integrity of the examination.
- This change enabled the ABO to uphold its mission, while administering a certification exam in the most valid, reliable, and safer method possible.
- By reducing barriers, more orthodontists have the opportunity to go through the certification process.

Examination Administration

- Patient records and pertinent documentation are provided for each question.
- Questions measure proficiency related to the tasks and skills required by the domains that the scenario is intended to test.
- Examinee responses will all be in a written, numbered format.
- Examinees should respond with evidence-based answers when applicable and cite references to support answers as appropriate.

Benefits of the New ABO Scenario-based Clinical Examination

Fair, reliable and **valid** testing methodology using high standard psychometric procedures and concepts

- Fair, standardized for all examinees
- Reliable, consistently good in quality and performance
- Valid, psychometrics are applied to all aspects of the examination.
- Demonstrates clinical proficiency in an objective manner

Examination Components

| Domain | Weighted % of Exam |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Data Gathering and Diagnosis | 25% |
| 2. Treatment Objectives and Planning | 25% |
| 3. Treatment Implementation and Management | 25% |
| 4. Critical Analysis and Outcomes Assessment | 25% |

Domain 1: Data Gathering and Diagnosis

Tasks:

- Perform a screening examination using established guidelines to determine if and when treatment is indicated.
- Gather pertinent records to properly diagnose the nature of orthodontic and dentofacial problems and their etiologies.
- Develop a comprehensive diagnosis based on the patient's chief concerns, medical and dental history, dentofacial condition, growth and neuromuscular status, and psychosocial concerns for proper treatment planning.

Domain 1: Data Gathering and Diagnosis

Sample Questions:

- Identify all of the dental problems for this patient. Please respond in numbered list format below.
- Identify the skeletal factors associated with the open bite. Please respond in numbered list format below.

Domain 2: Treatment Objectives and Planning

- Develop evidence-based facial, skeletal, and dental treatment objectives based on the diagnosis.
- Develop evidence-based treatment plan(s) to address the identified concerns and achieve specific objectives.
- Obtain informed consent in accordance with established documentation procedures in order to enhance the patient and guardian's understanding of treatment options, recommendations, benefits, limitations, and risks.

Domain 2: Treatment Objectives and Planning

Sample Questions:

- What would be your treatment plan for this patient? Please respond in numbered list format below.
- What are your dental treatment objectives? Please respond in numbered list format below.

Domain 3: Treatment Implementation/Management

Tasks:

- Manage dentofacial problems in accordance with the treatment plan using appropriate mechanotherapy.
- Evaluate the treatment progress and its relationship to the objectives and timeline.
- Collaborate in providing interdisciplinary treatment using effective communication and documentation procedures to enhance treatment outcomes

Domain 3: Treatment Implementation/Management

Sample Questions:

- What steps are appropriate to regain control of this case? Please respond in numbered list format below.
- Which treatment adjustments are necessary to finish the case with acceptable results? Please respond in numbered list format below.

Domain 4: Critical Analysis/Outcomes Assessment

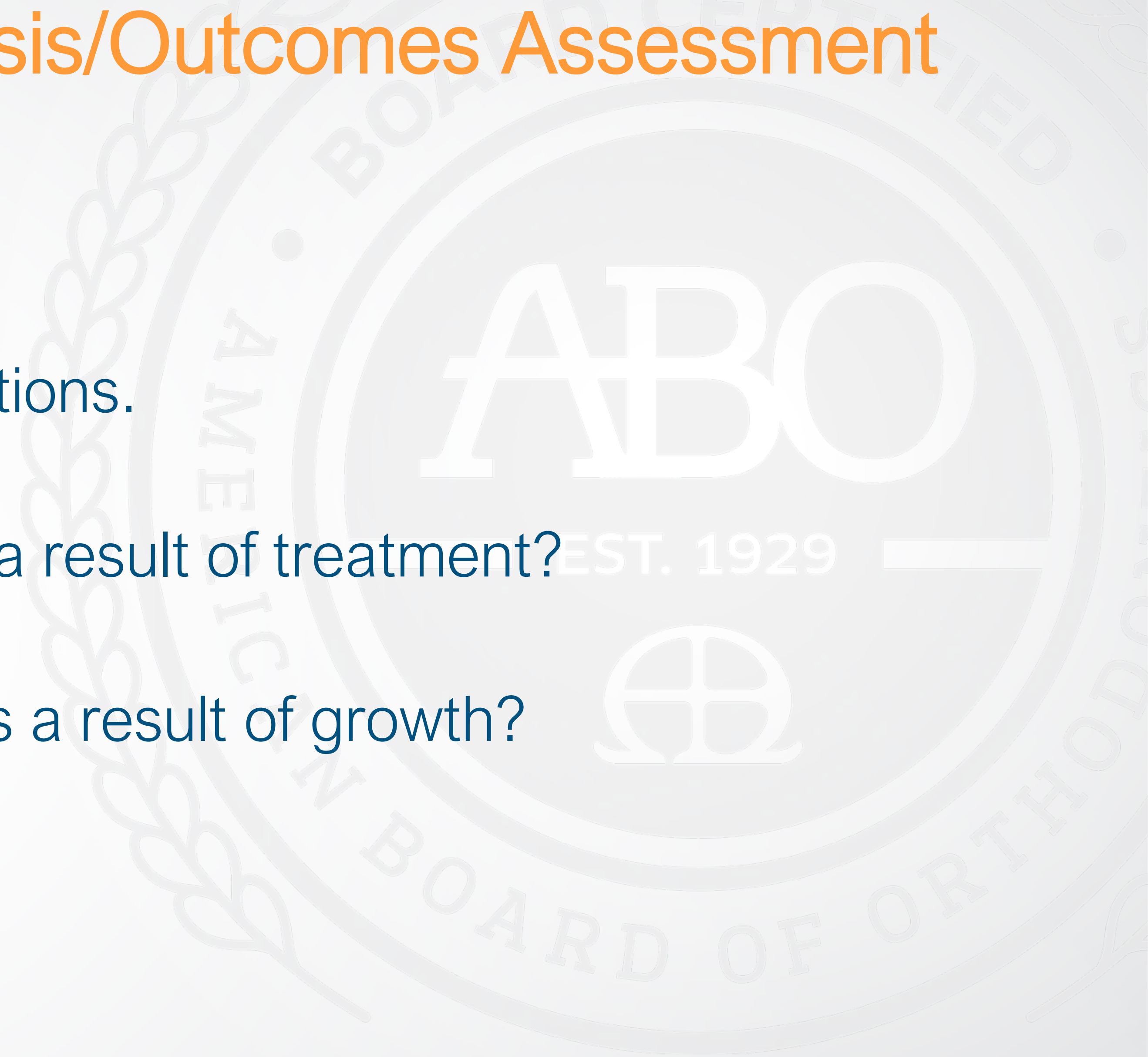
Tasks:

- Assess post-treatment facial esthetics using appropriate guidelines.
- Assess dental, periodontal, and neuromuscular health using appropriate guidelines.
- Evaluate post-treatment occlusion using accepted standards assess the overall efficacy of treatment.
- Evaluate treatment outcomes comparing pre-treatment and post-treatment records to assess dental and skeletal changes.

Domain 4: Critical Analysis/Outcomes Assessment

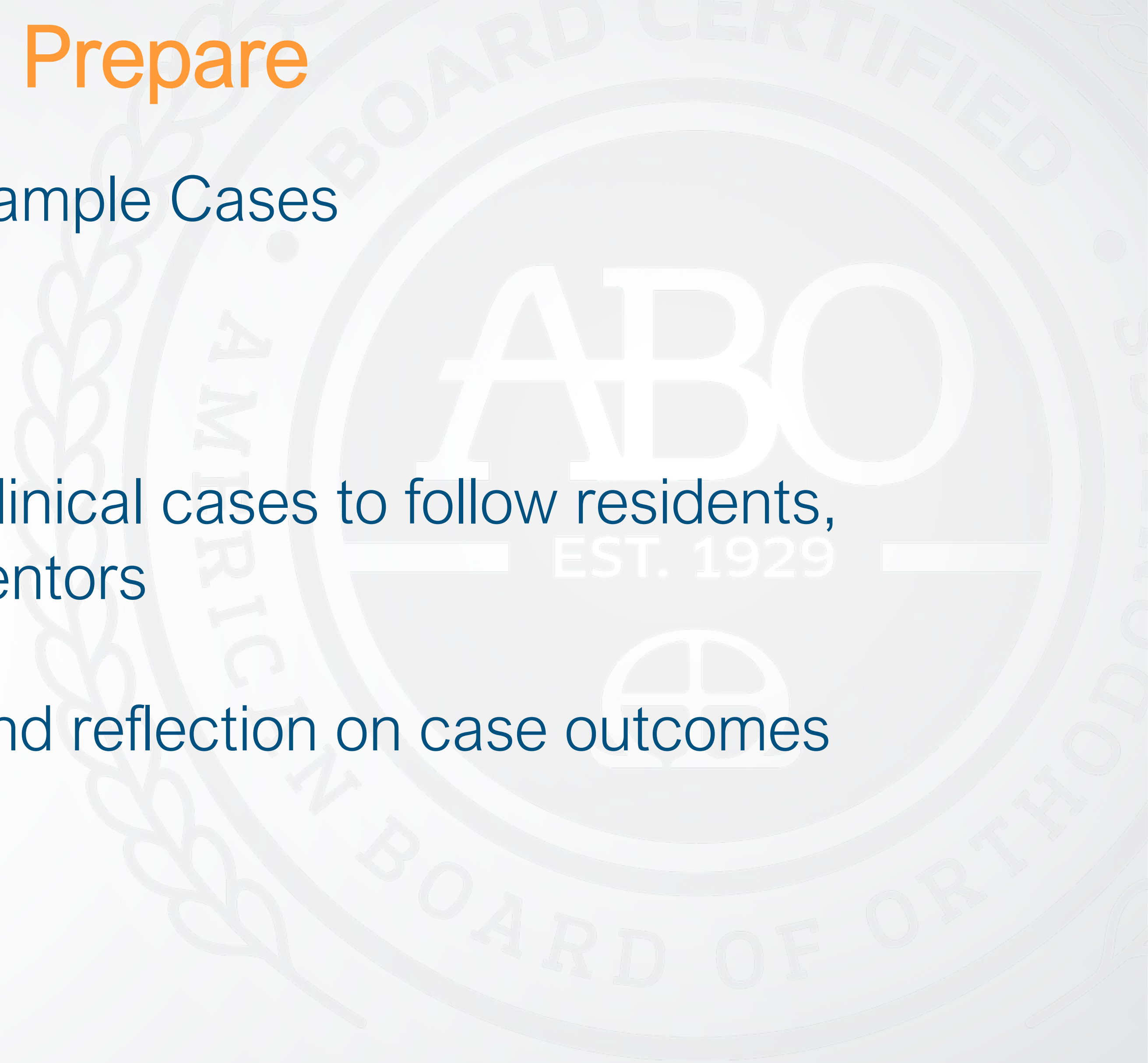
Sample Questions

- Interpret the provided superimpositions.
- What dental changes occurred as a result of treatment?
- What skeletal changes occurred as a result of growth?



How to Prepare

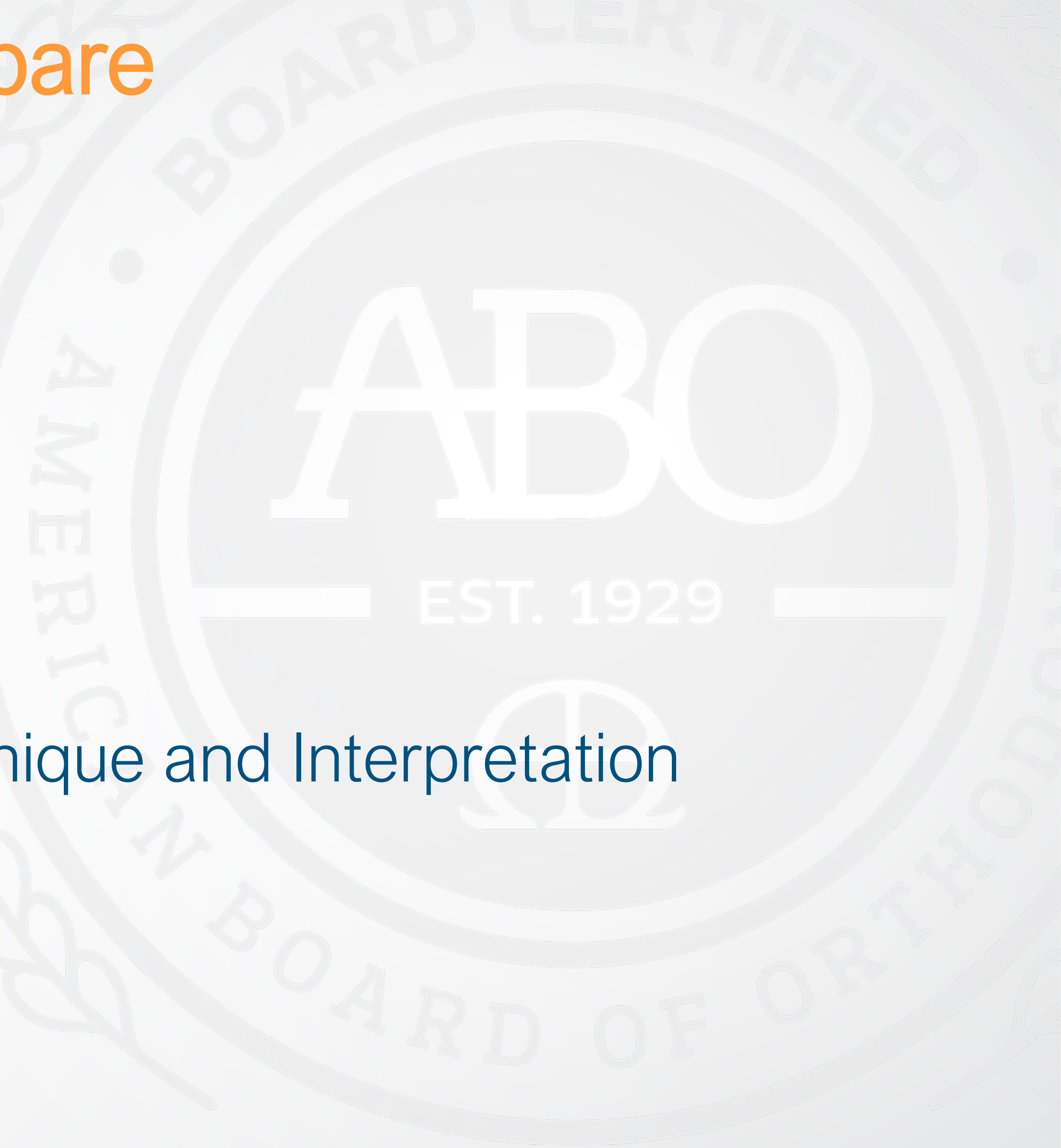
- Review ABO Study Guide and Sample Cases
- Critical thinking exercises
- Presenting an examinee's own clinical cases to fellow residents, colleagues, educators and/or mentors
- Opportunity for self-evaluation and reflection on case outcomes



How to Prepare

ABO case outcomes assessment tools:

- Cast Radiograph Evaluation (CRE)
- Case Management Form (CMF)
- Cephalometric Superimposition Technique and Interpretation



Rating Scales and Examiner Training

- Responses independently scored
- Anchored rating scale
- Examiner training calibration program



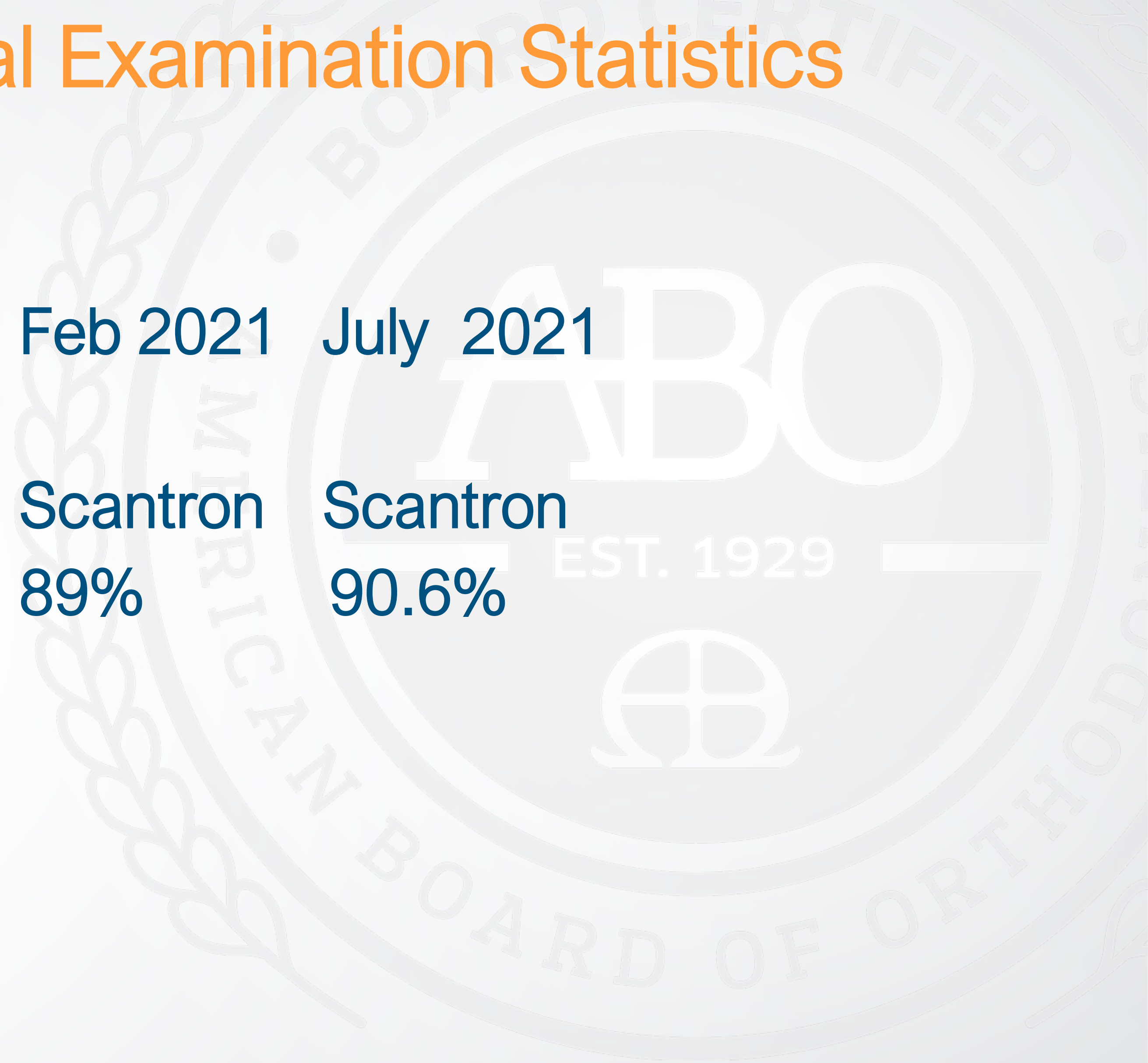
Exam Results

- Weighting system
- Psychometric assessment
 - Reliability, validity and objectivity*
- Results presented in a pass/fail format



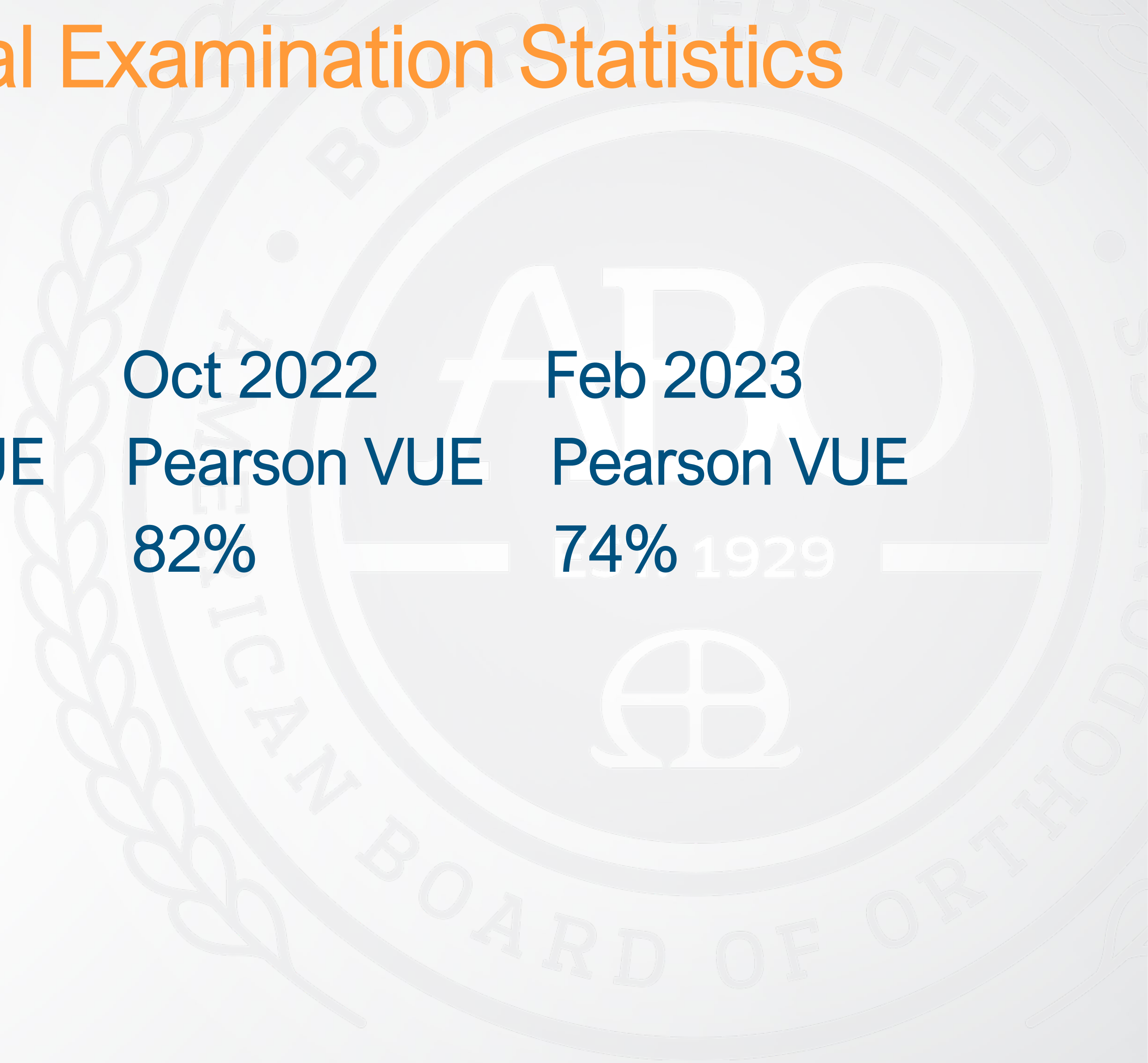
Scenario-based Clinical Examination Statistics

| | Nov 2020 | Feb 2021 | July 2021 |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Exam Type | Scantron | Scantron | Scantron |
| Pass Rate | 75% | 89% | 90.6% |



Scenario-based Clinical Examination Statistics

| | Nov 2021 | Feb 2022 | Oct 2022 | Feb 2023 |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Exam Type | Pearson VUE | Pearson VUE | Pearson VUE | Pearson VUE |
| Pass Rate | 64.4% | 78.8% | 82% | 74% |



Scenario-based Clinical Examination Statistics

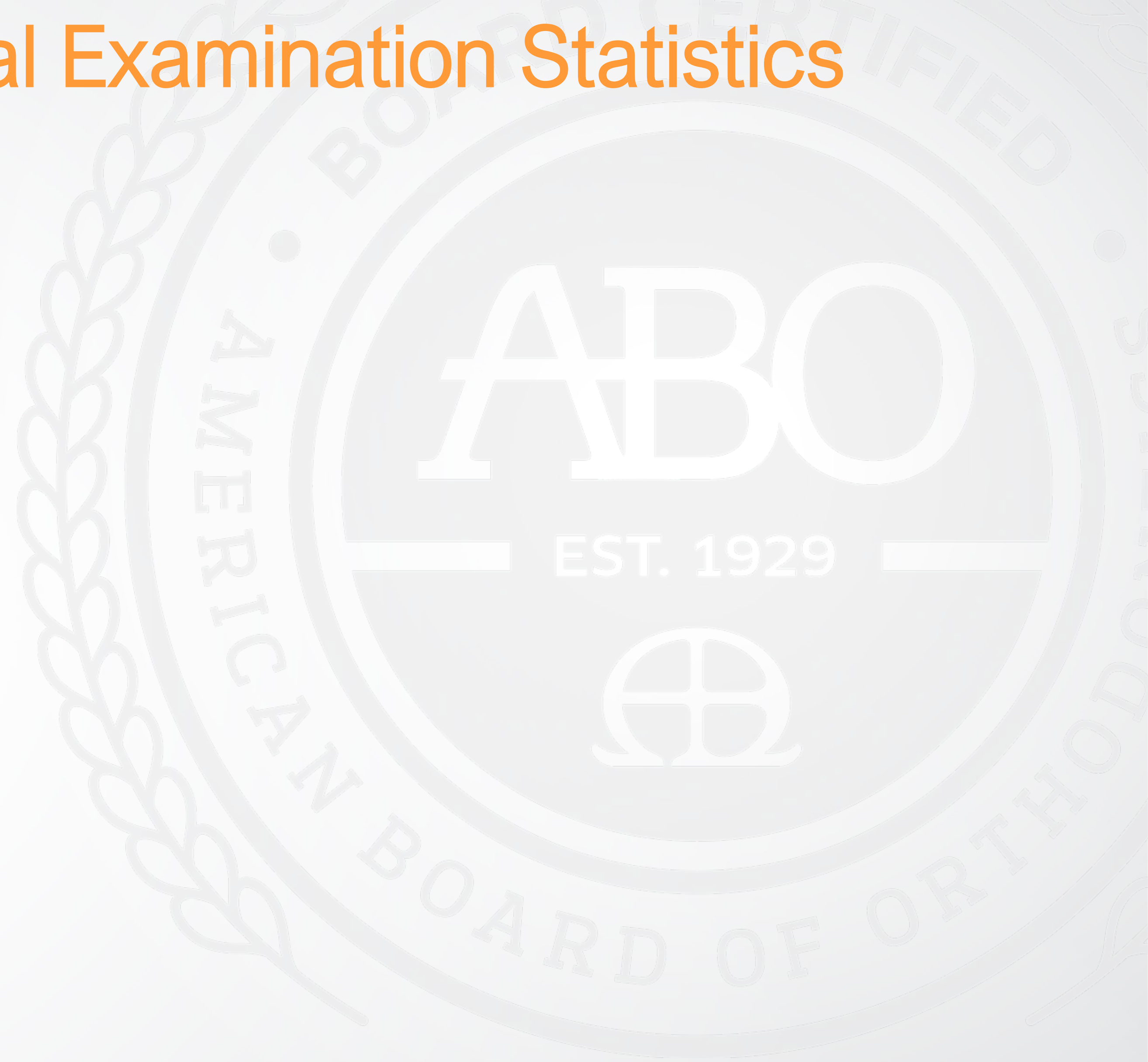
Feb 2024

Exam Type

Pearson VUE

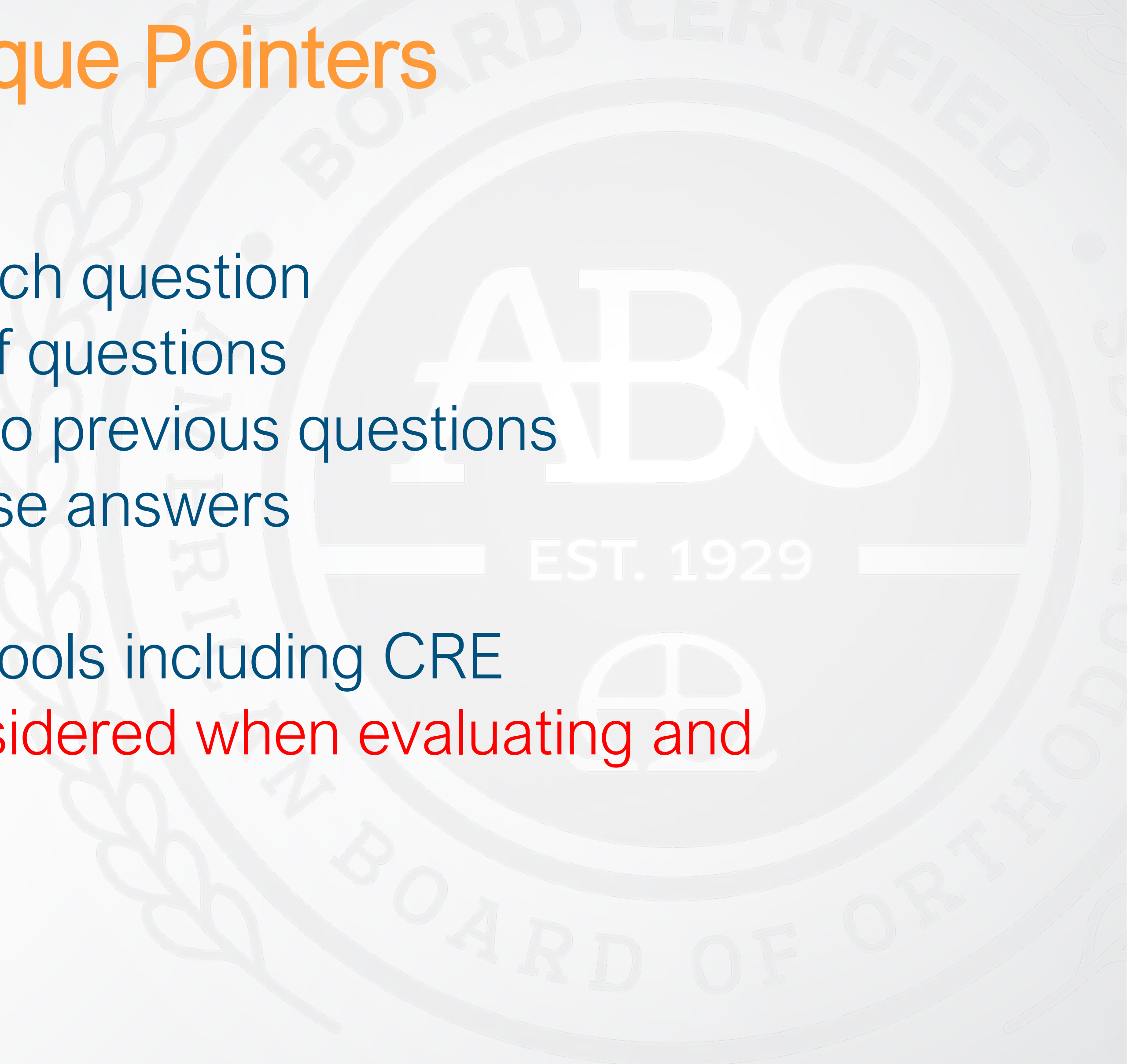
Pass Rate

89.1%



Test Technique Pointers

- Read the question carefully
- Use the images presented for each question
- Be mindful of time and number of questions
- Remember you cannot go back to previous questions
- Provide detailed short and concise answers
- Review ABO study guide
- Practice outcomes assessment tools including CRE
- All written responses will be considered when evaluating and scoring the question



Prepare!!!!

With each patient ask yourself:

- What happened
- Where did it happen
- Why did it happen (is it good/bad?)
- What is next?
- Are we still on target?
- *Prepare by being a continuous serious student!!!*



Certification Makes a Difference

- **For you**....personal accomplishment, ongoing self-assessment, commitment to being a continual learner
- **For your future**....a way to differentiate yourself, for future employment and from other practitioners performing orthodontics
- **For our specialty**....commitment to the highest standard of patient care

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Thank You!