



**American Board of Orthodontics**  
**Scenario-based**  
**Clinical Examination** (Rev.04.02.2025)

# 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
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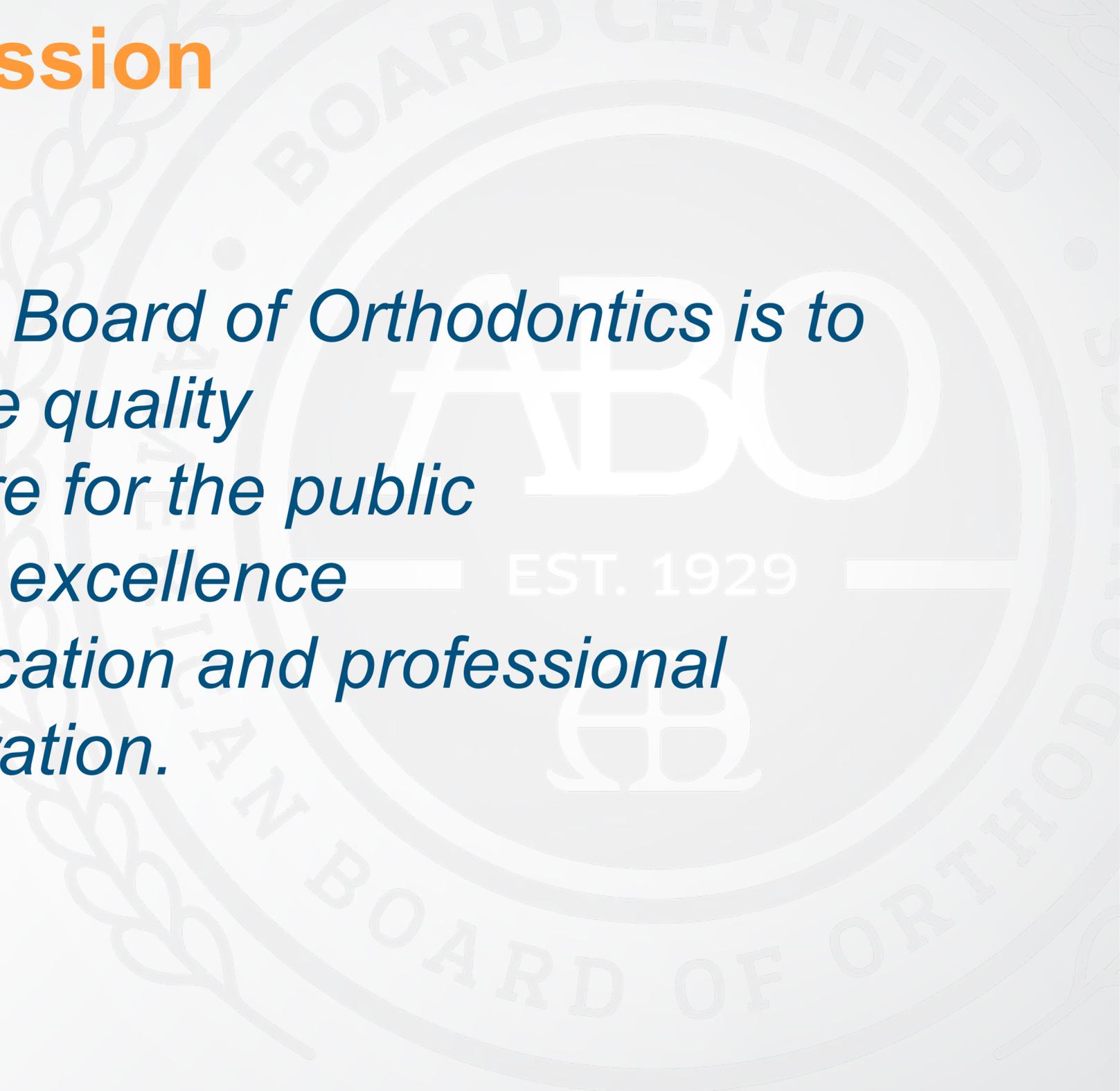
# Dr. Albert Ketcham, Founder

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



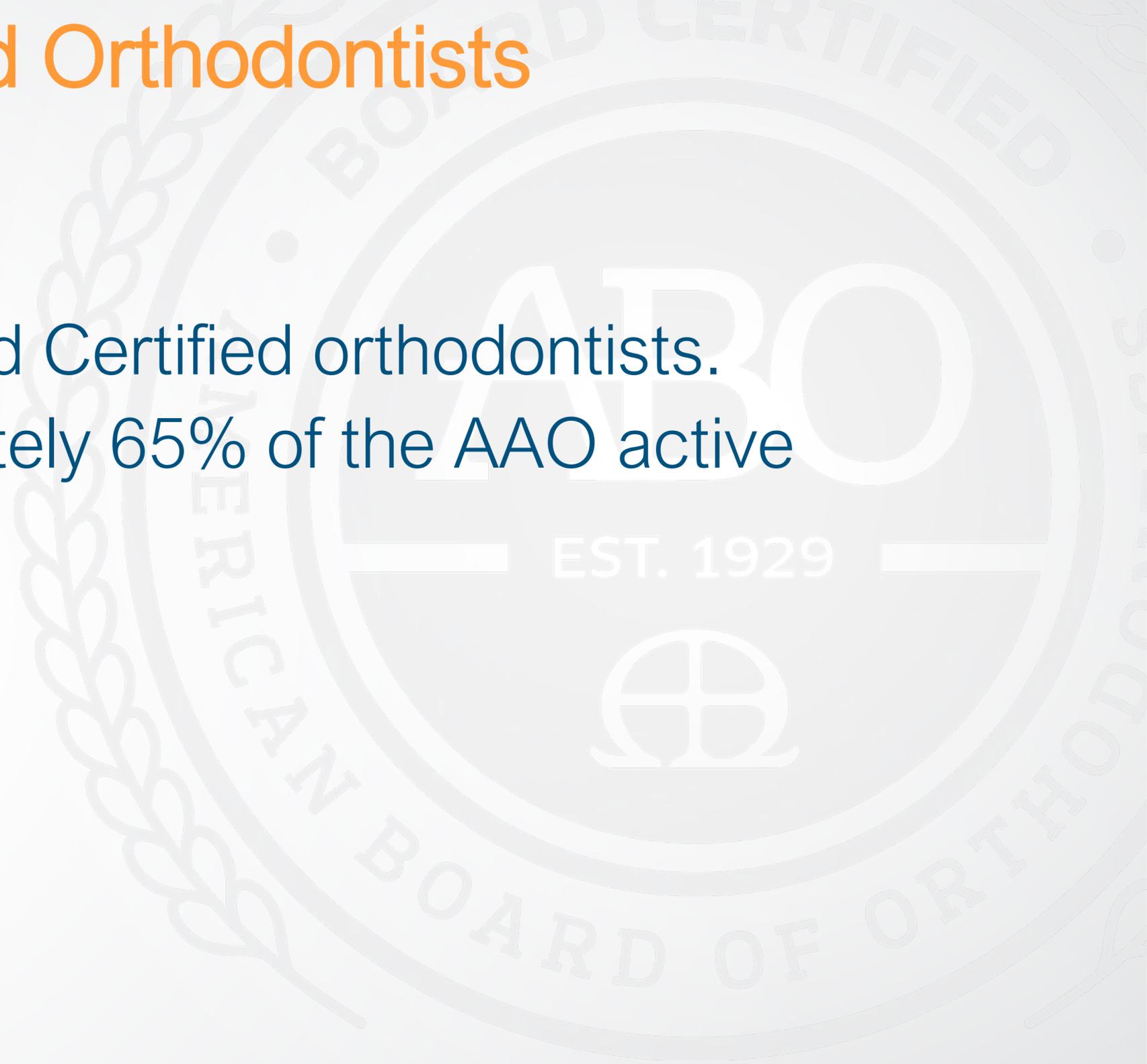
# The Mission

*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.*



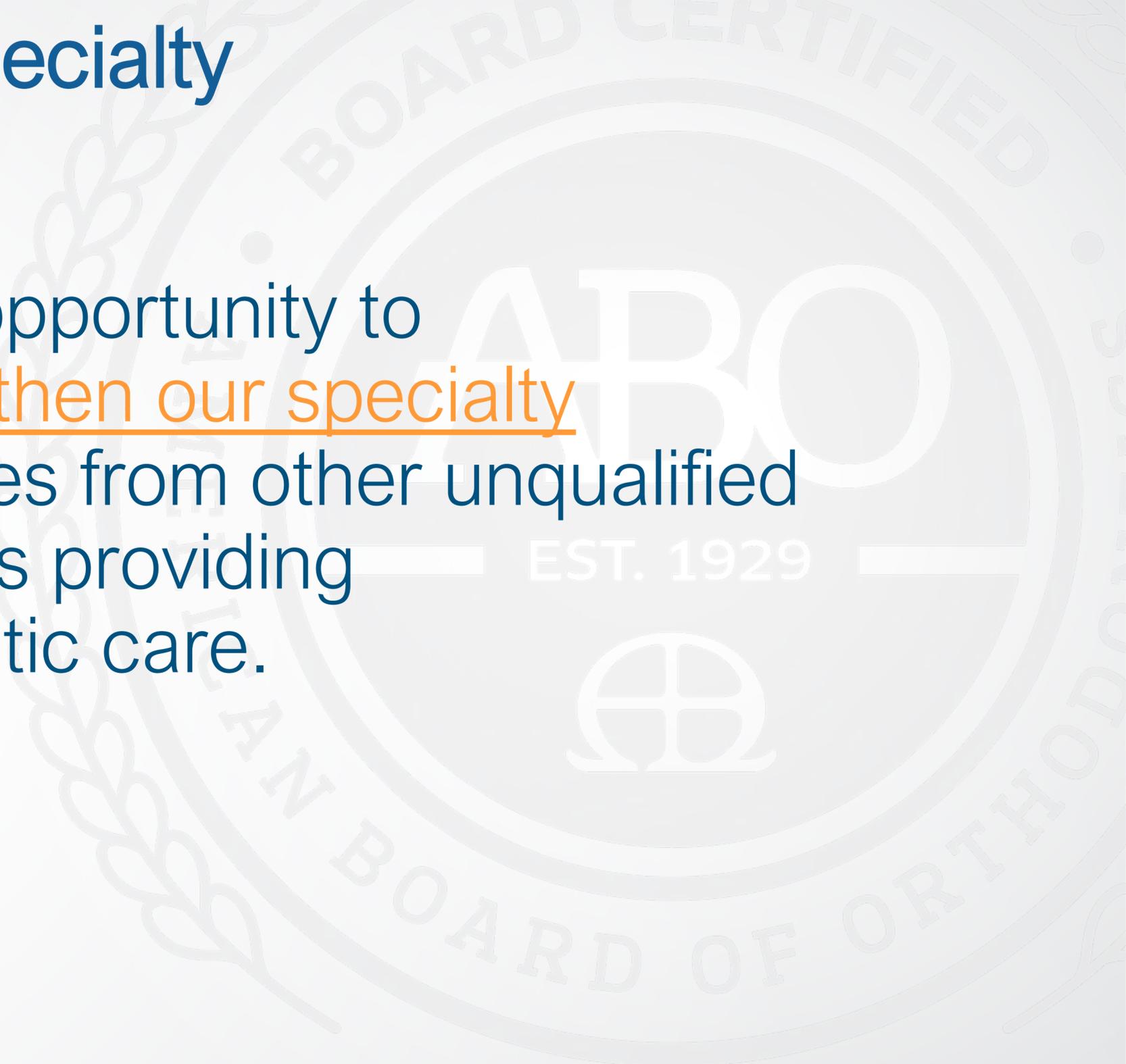
# ABO Certified Orthodontists

- There are over 5,000 Board Certified orthodontists.
- This represents approximately 65% 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

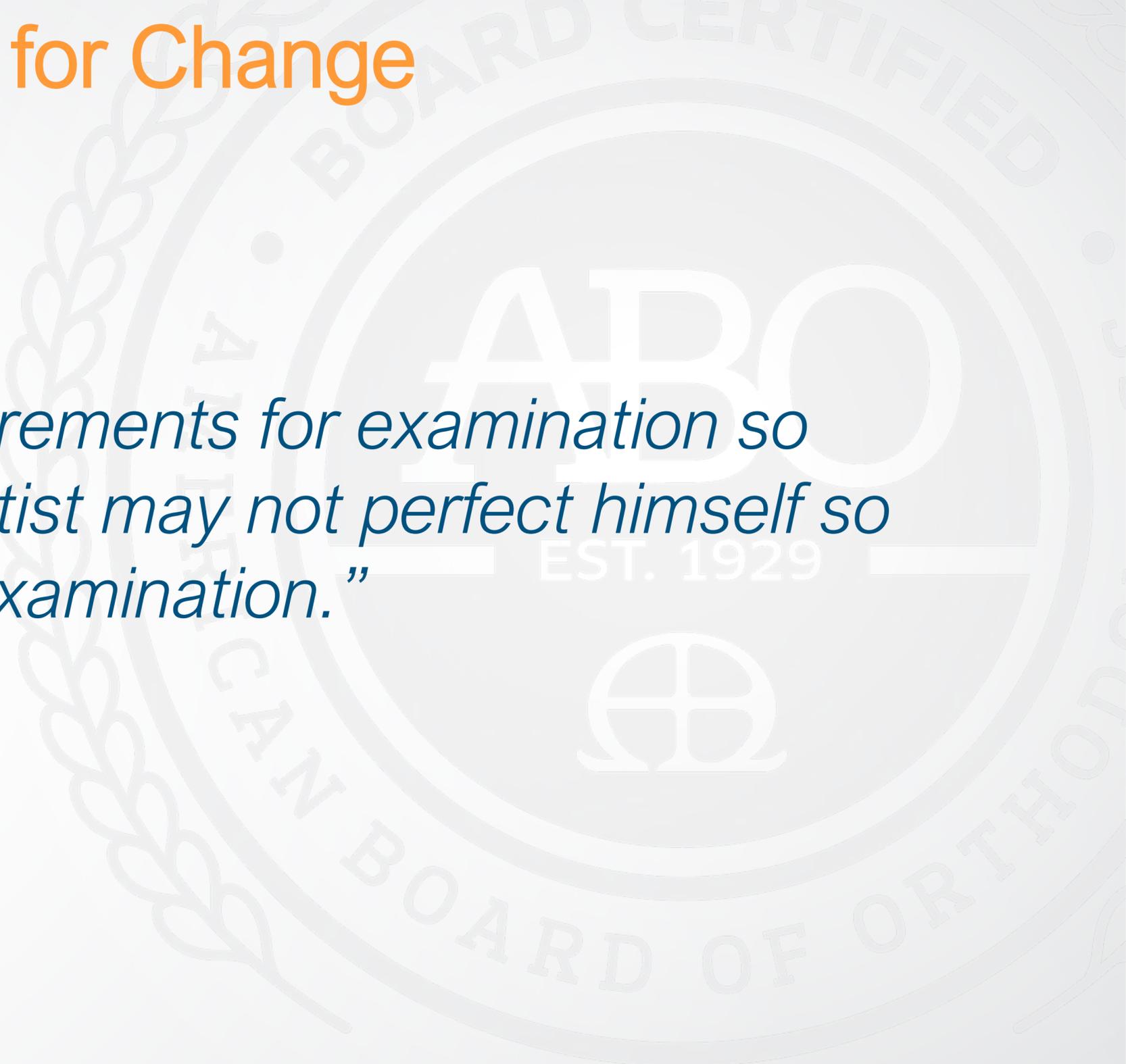
[Click Here](#)



# Foundation for Change

**Martin Dewey:**

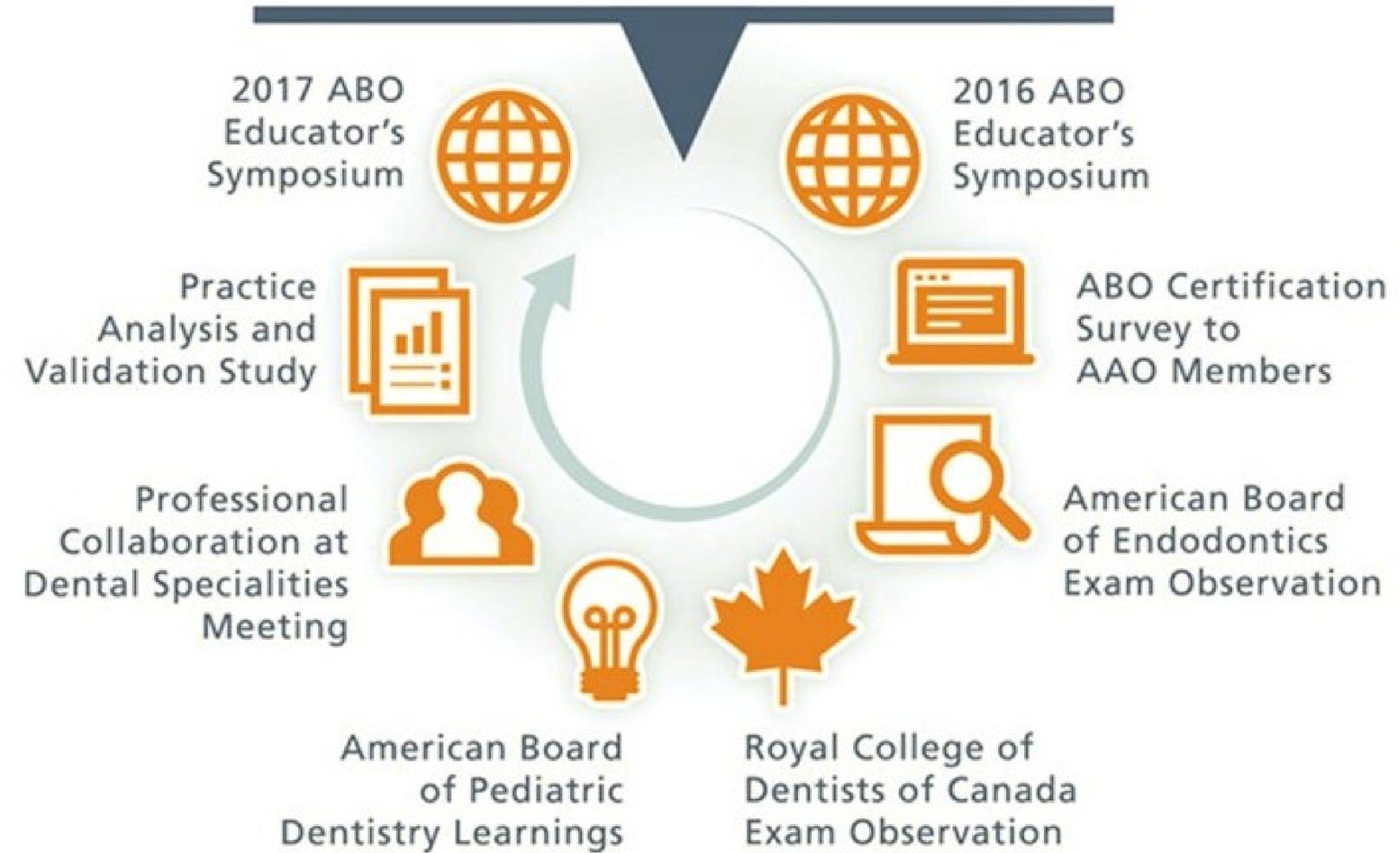
*“We should not make our requirements for examination so high that the average orthodontist may not perfect himself so that he may pass the board’s examination.”*



# Why Change the Clinical Exam?

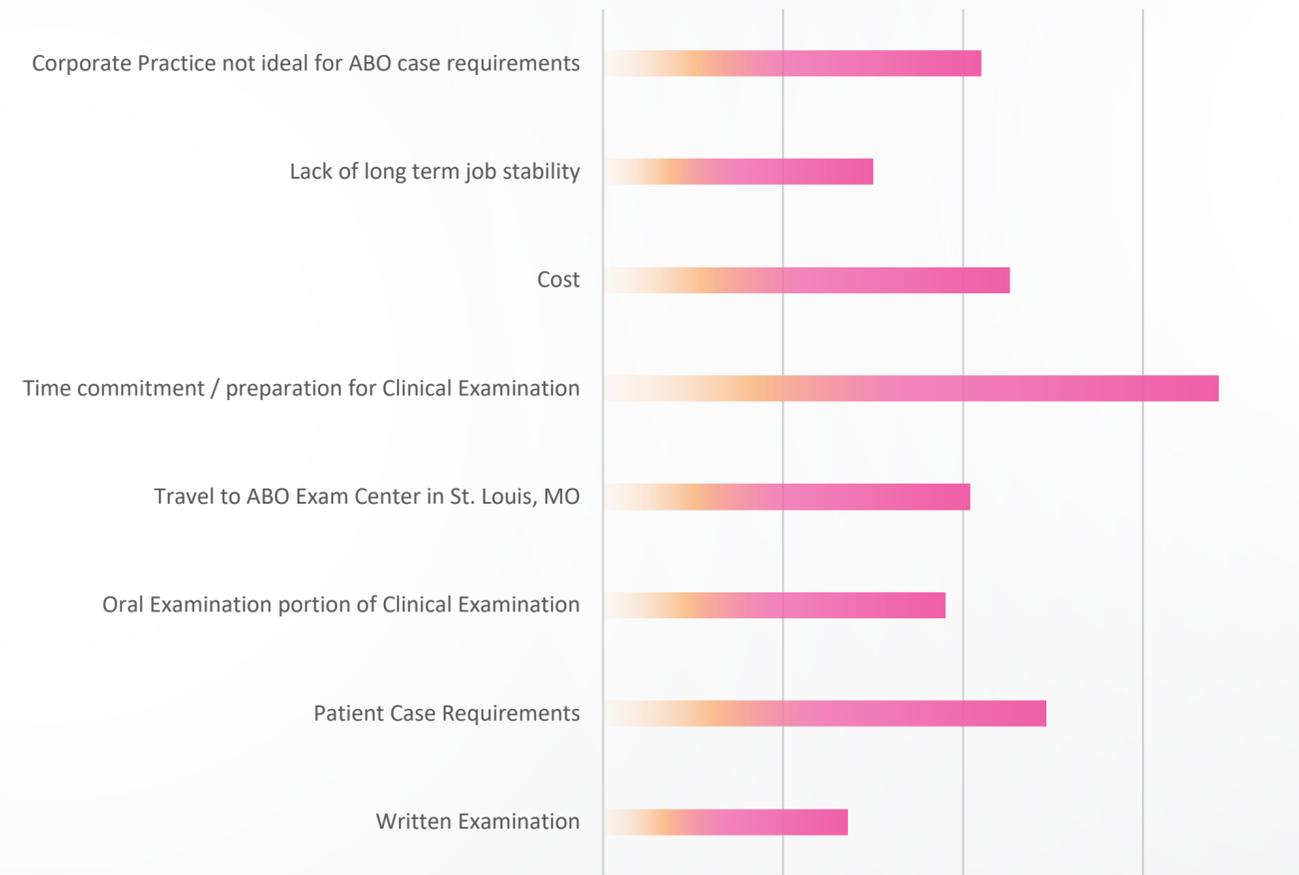
## How The Decision Was Made

### 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

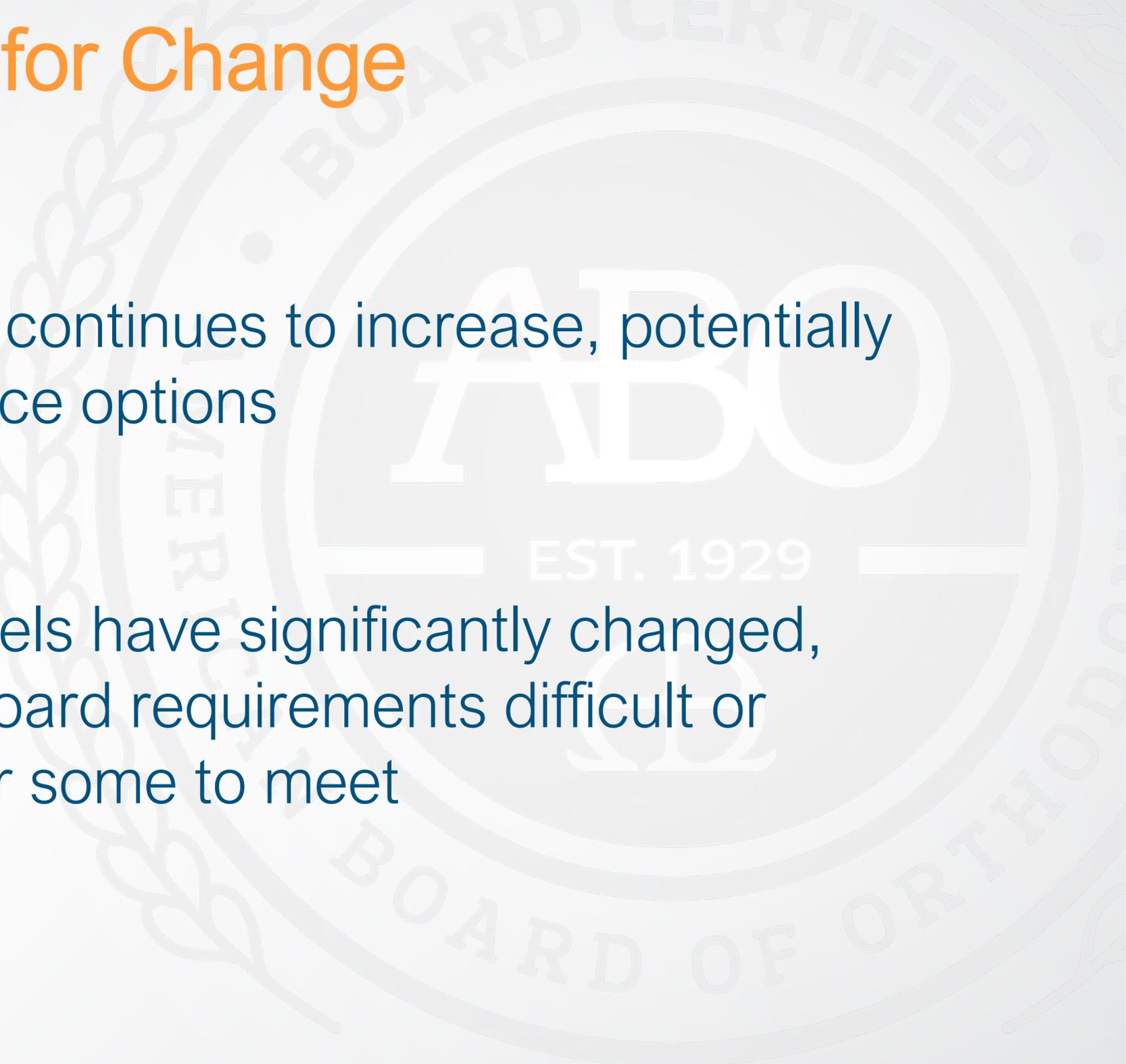
- Leadership/Faculty Commitment
- Length of Program
- Patient Population Changes
- Types of Patients
- Total Number of Patients

### 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

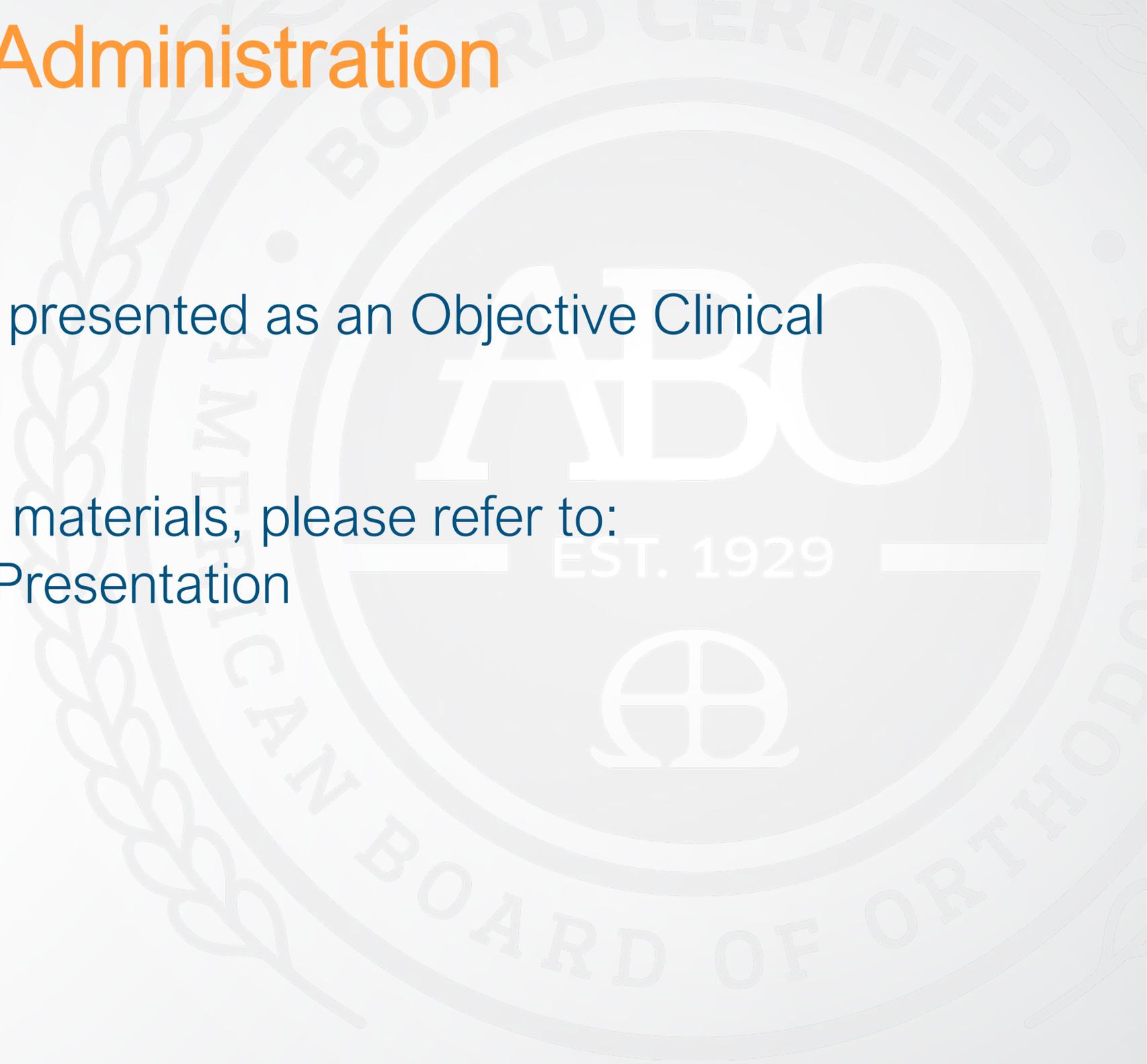
- Eliminates unnecessary barriers
  - All orthodontists have ability to go through certification process, regardless of their practice environment or where they are within their career
- More objectively tests for proficiency
- Accurately examines critical thinking in all areas of the four domains

# 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

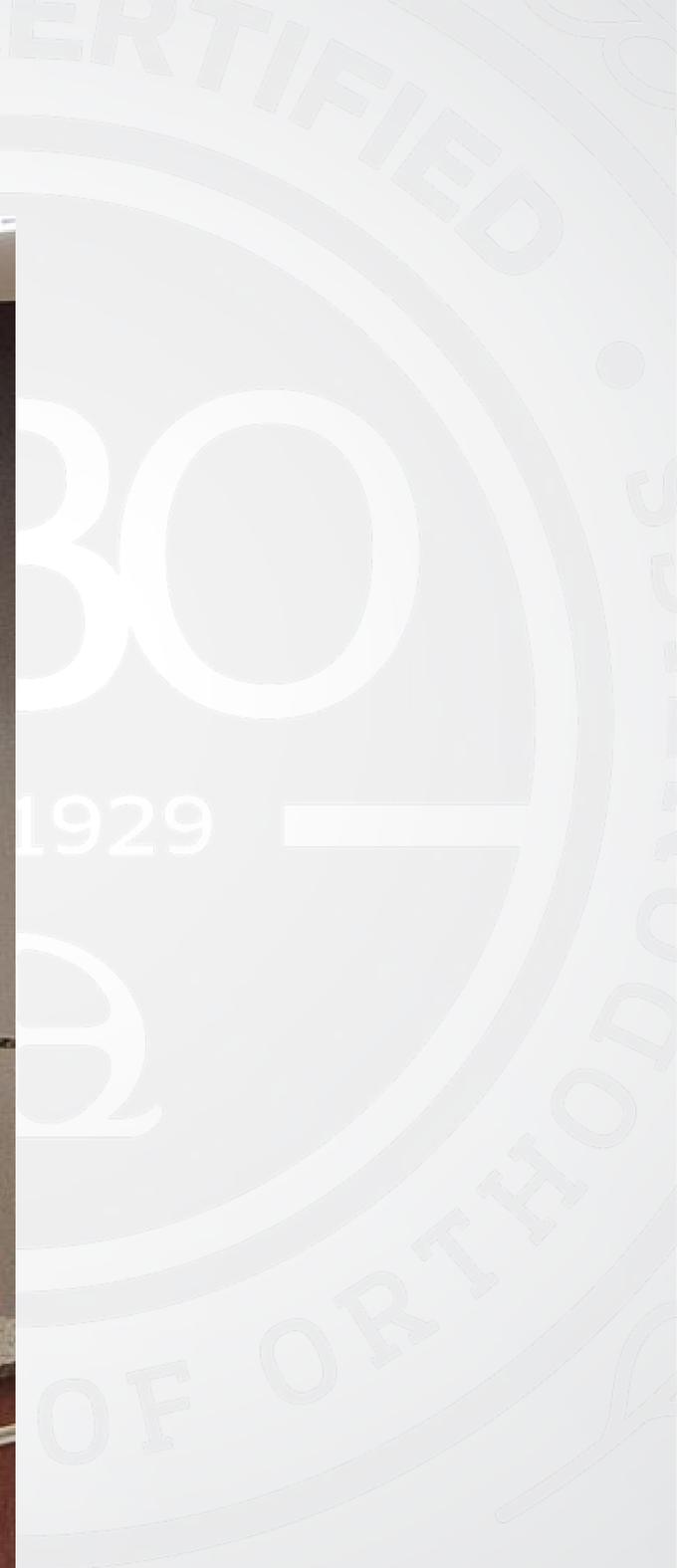


# In the Past

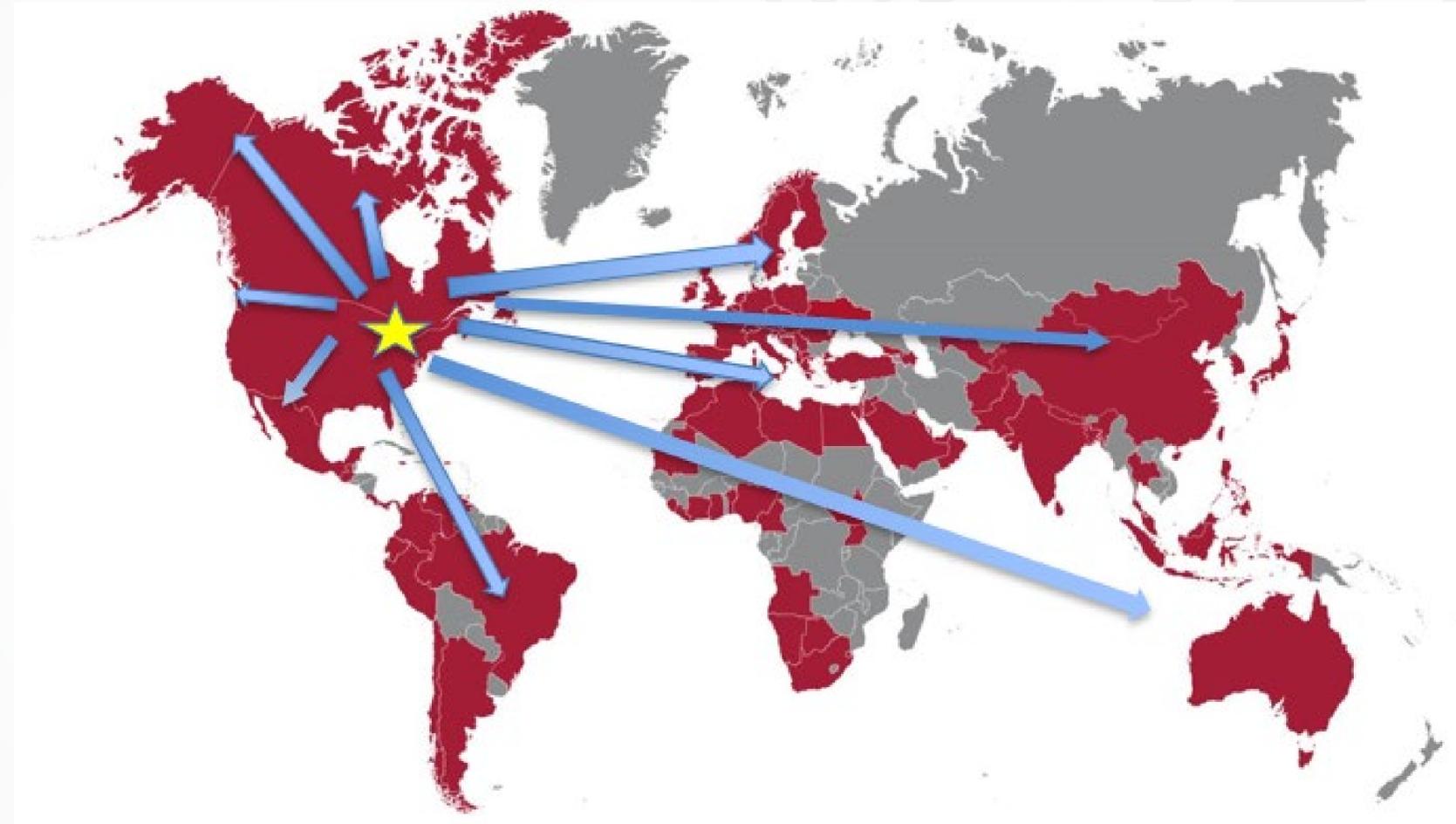
The ABO Scenario-based Oral Clinical Exam was given only at the ABO Testing Center in St. Louis, Missouri



# 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/typed, 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

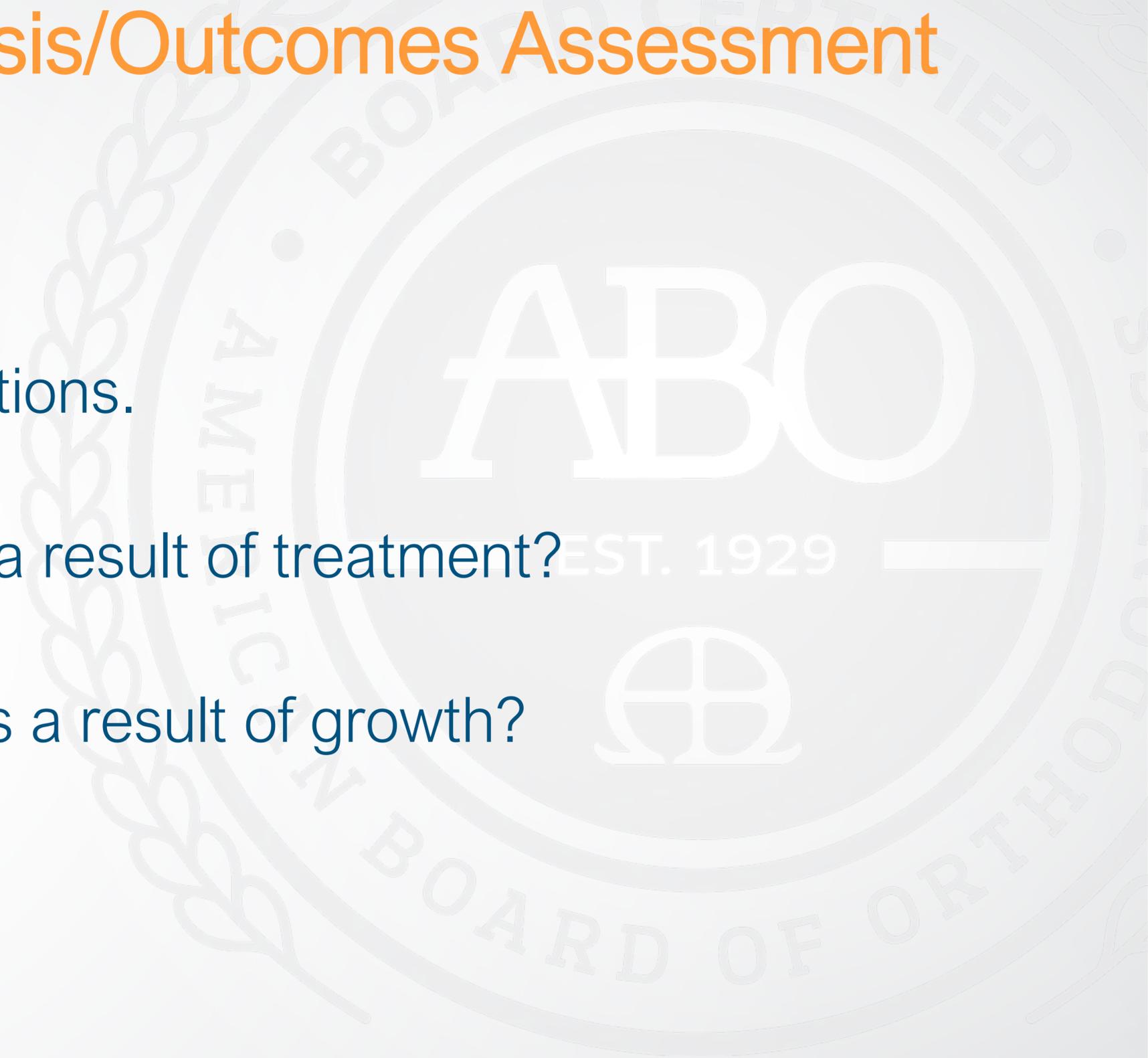
## Tasks:

- 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

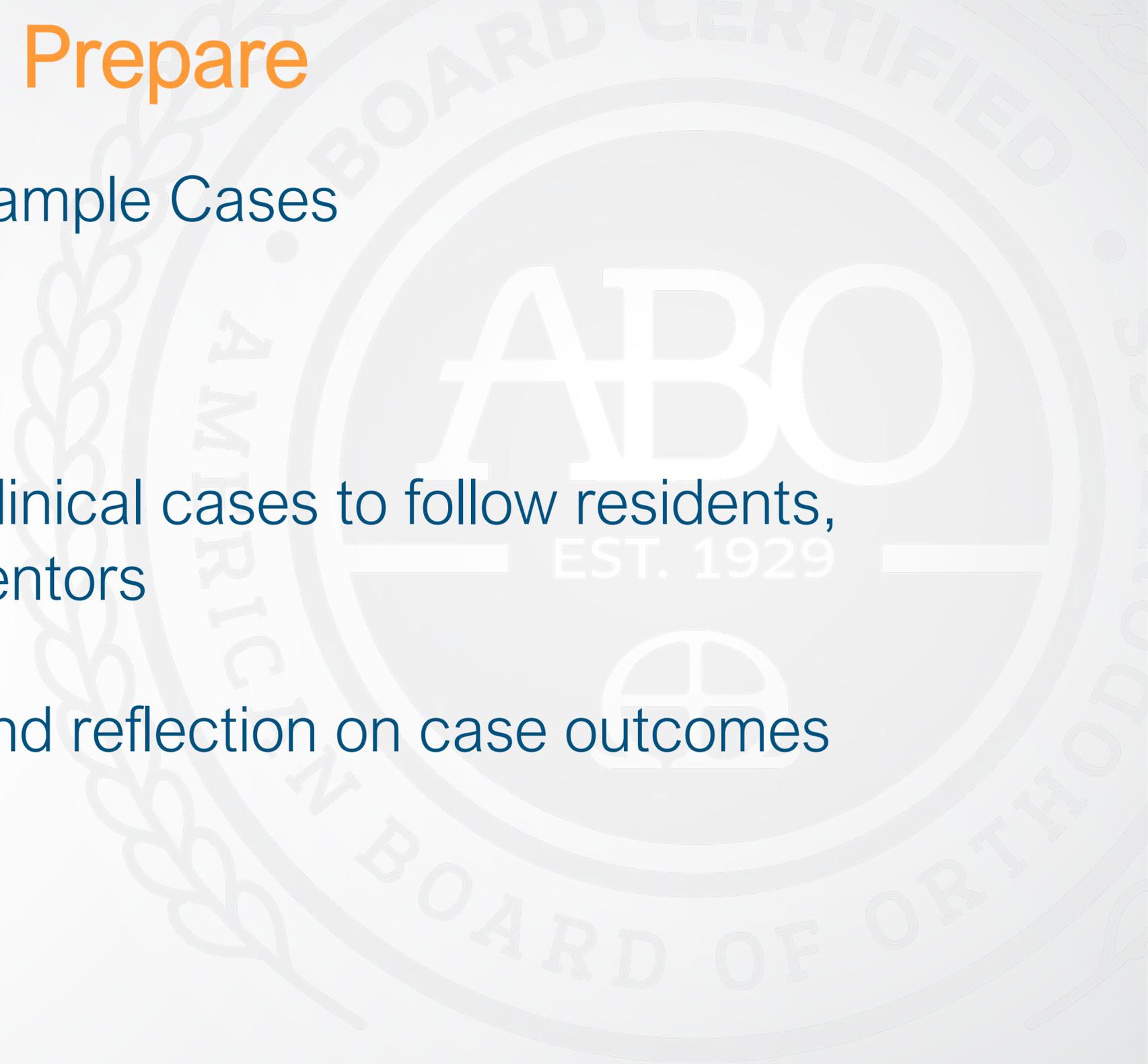
## Sample Questions

- 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

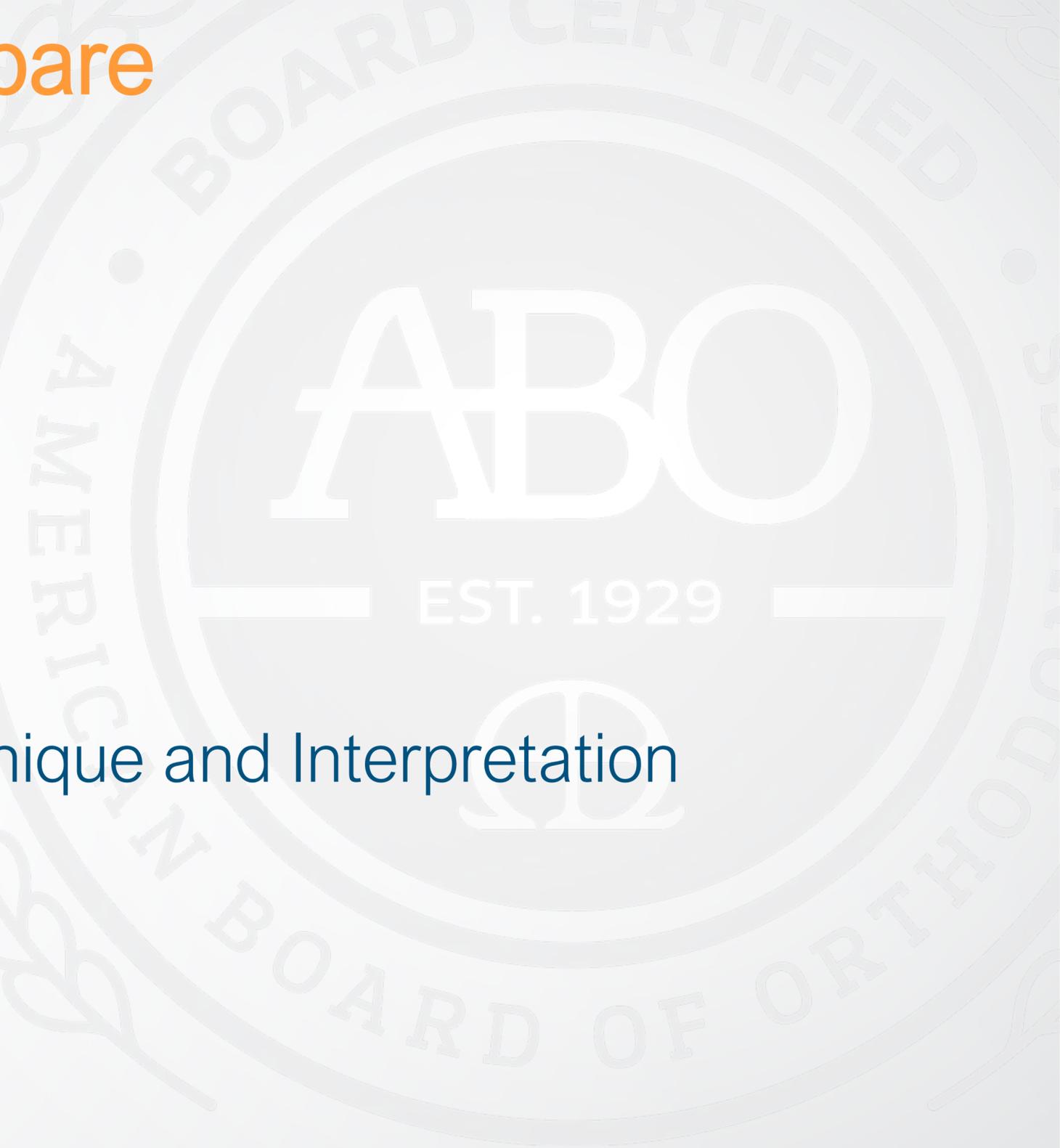
- Review ABO Study Guide and Sample Cases
- Critical thinking exercises
- Presenting an examinee's own clinical cases to follow residents, colleagues, educators and/or mentors
- Opportunity for self-evaluation and reflection on case outcomes



# 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



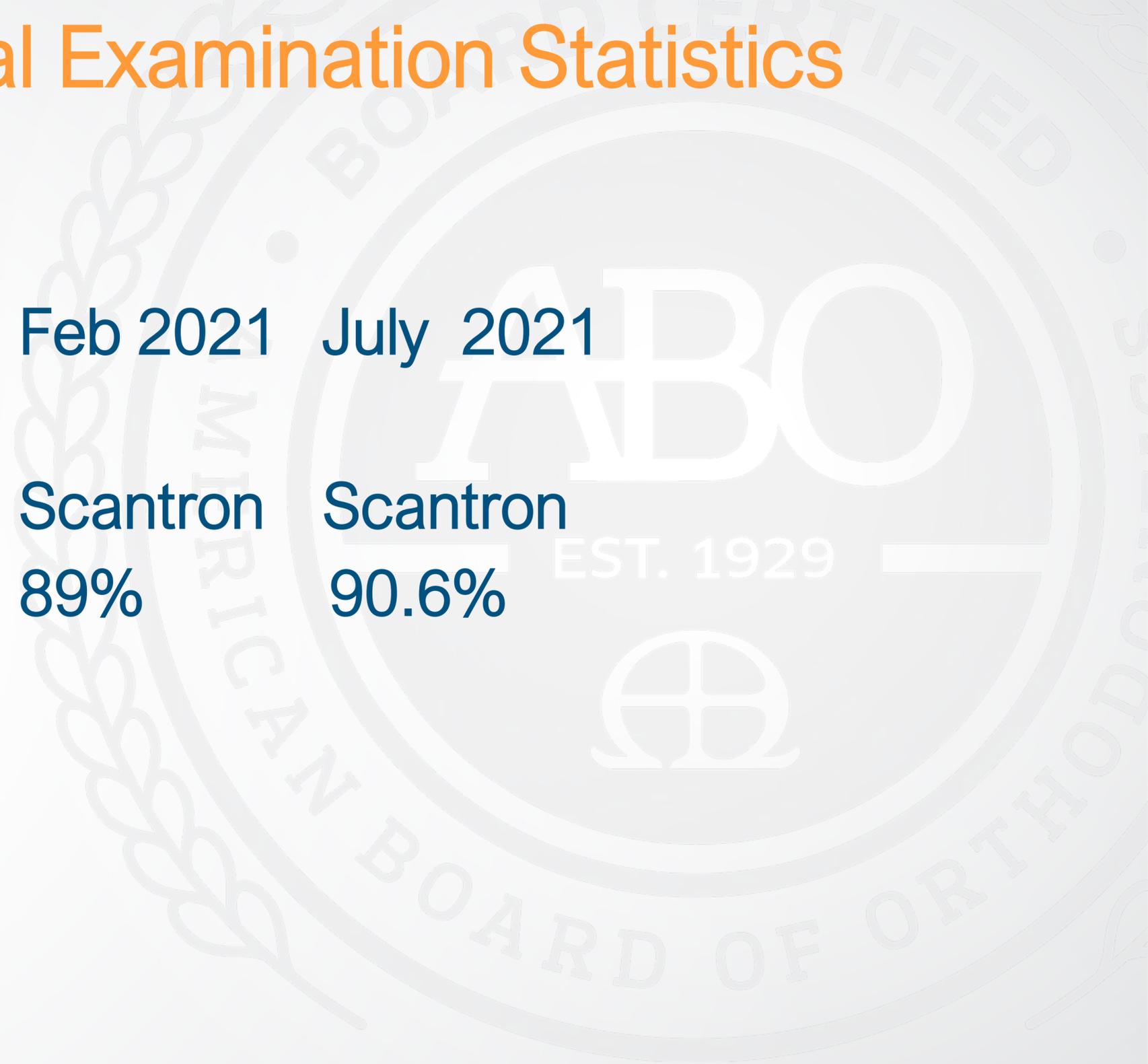
# Exam Results

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



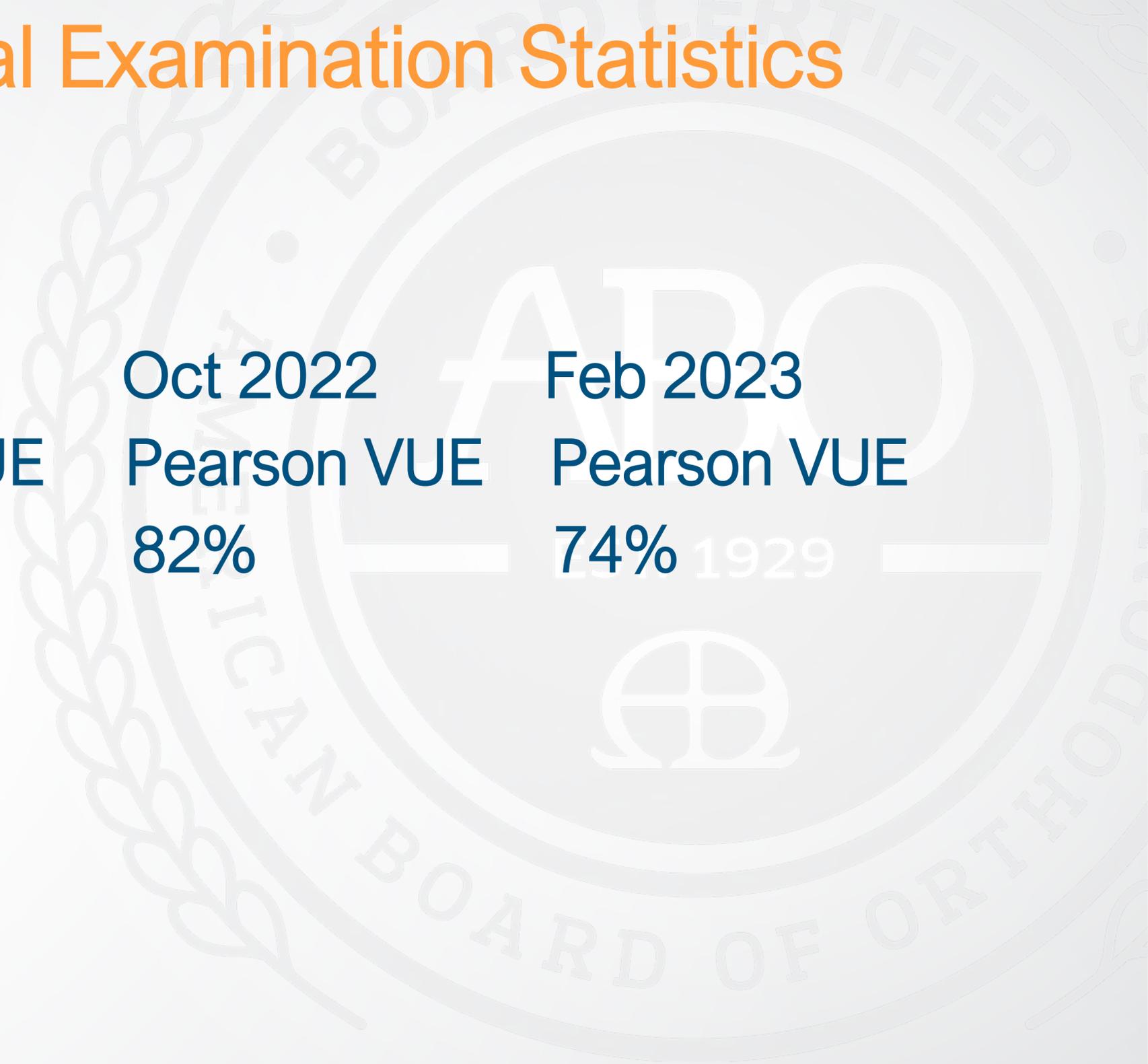
# Scenario-based Clinical Examination Statistics

|           | 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

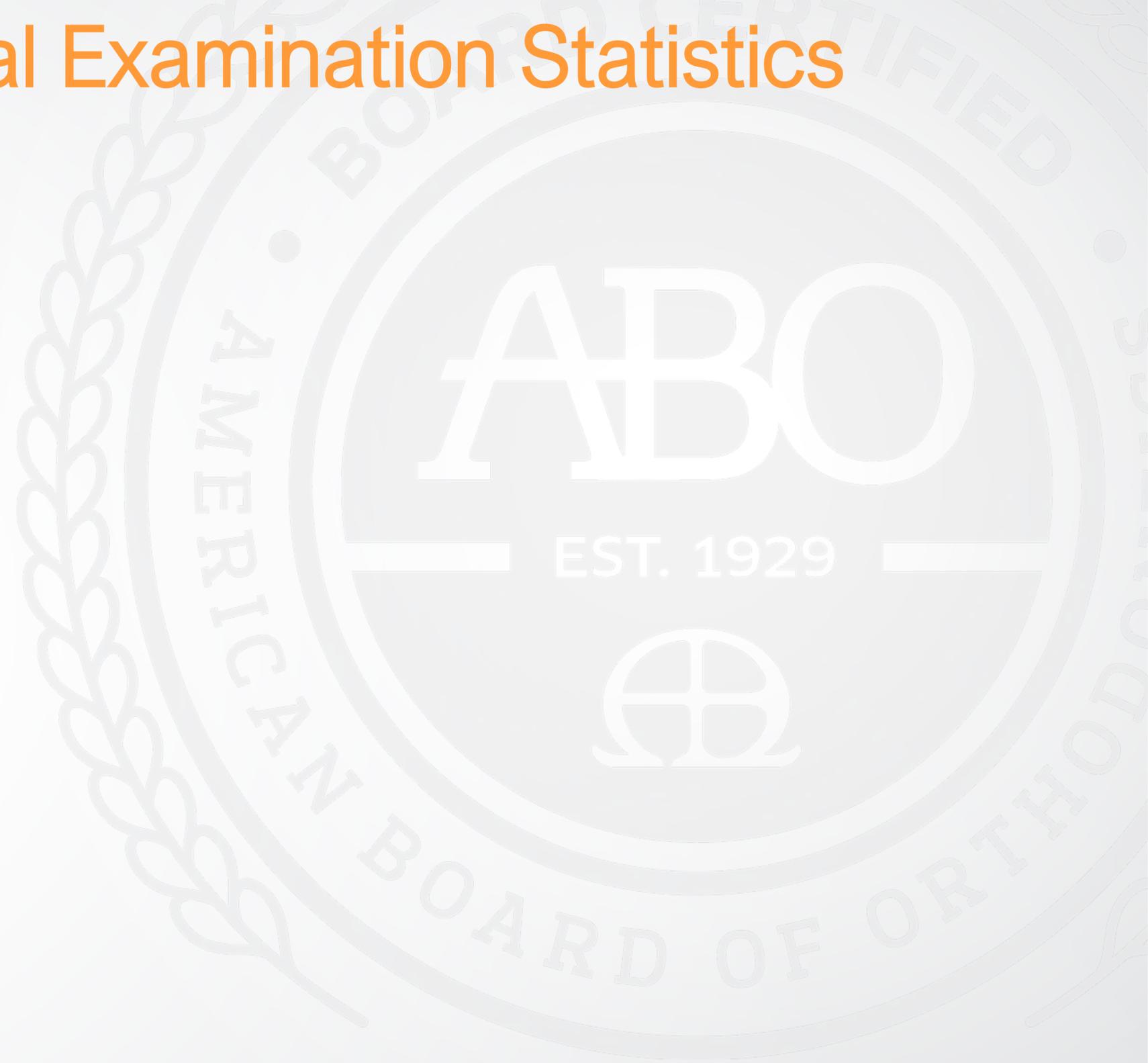
Feb 2024

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!