

ELPA21 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
Device: <i>Headset with attached microphone</i>	A headset with attached microphone 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.
Headset Design: <i>Over-ear headphones</i>	Over-ear headphones are 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.	For the general population, in-ear headphones (ear buds) 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.
Play Back Mode: <i>Stereo</i>	The sound files of the assessment are recorded and played back in stereo.	Mono headsets
Noise Cancellation Feature: <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.
Volume Control Feature: <i>None needed</i>	Students will be able to control headset volume via the testing device (computer, laptop, tablet, etc.) and there is an audio check built into the Questar platform.	When using headsets with a built-in volume control feature, students may accidentally adjust headset volume or mute themselves. This feature also adds to cost.
Type of Connector Plug: <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. Headsets with two 3.5 mm plugs can be converted with a “Y” adaptor to a single plug and be used with tablets 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. Bluetooth is not recommended.
Special Considerations	Alternative-size headsets may need to be considered for smaller children, although not required. 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.