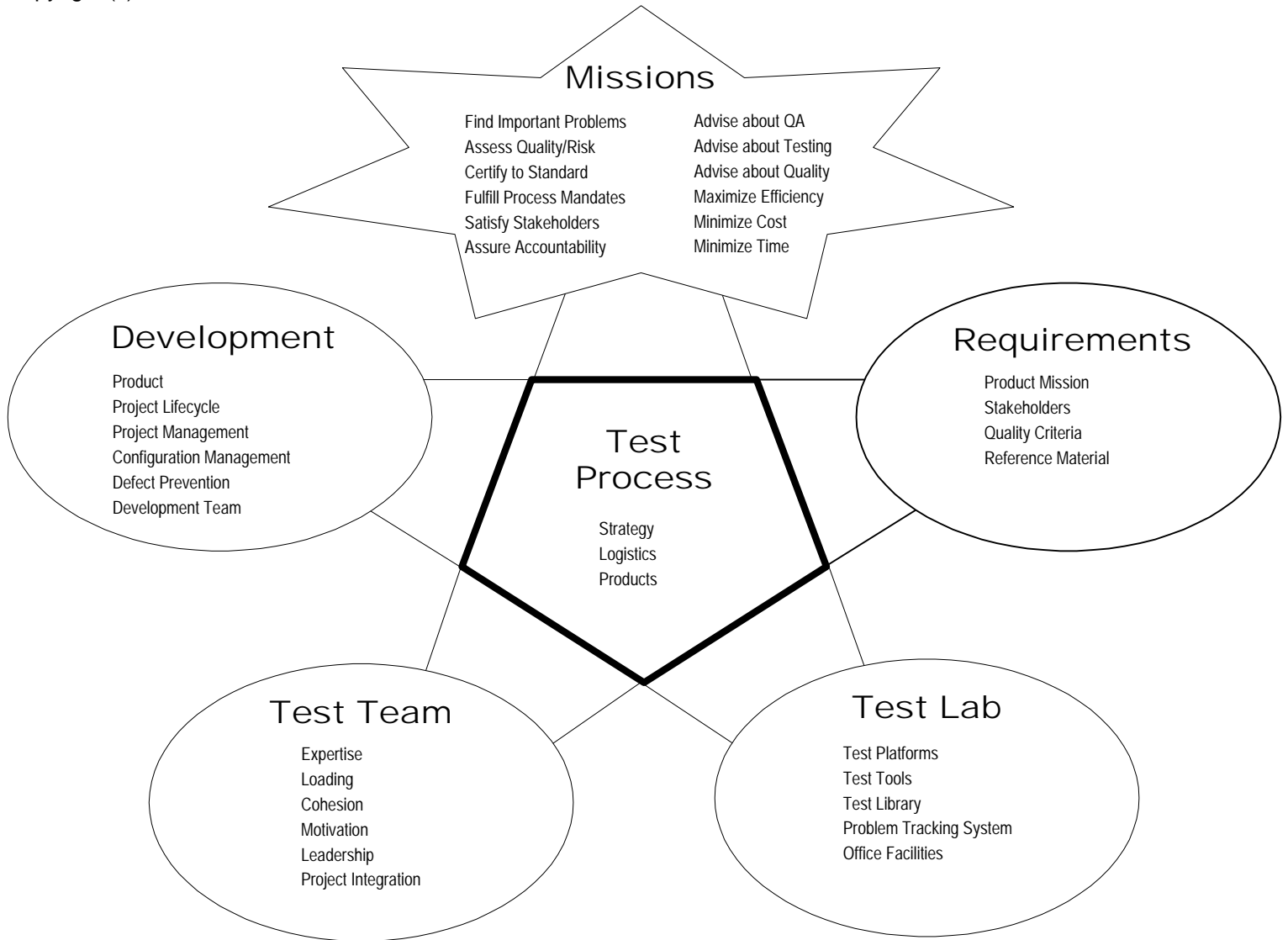


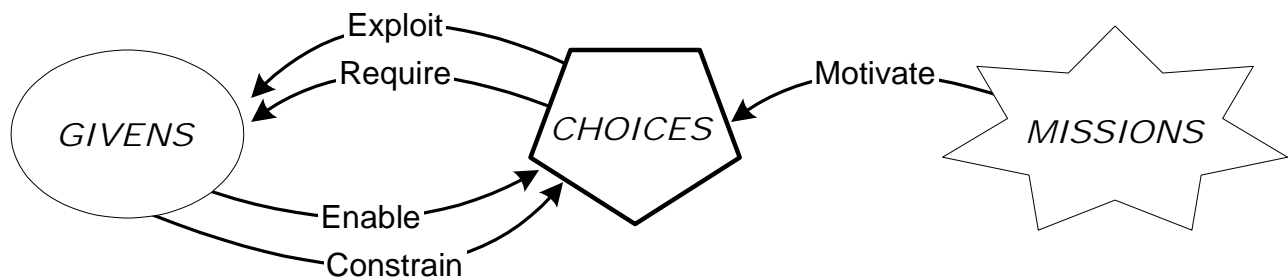
Heuristic Test Planning: Context Model

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v1.2



How Context Influences the Test Plan



Context-Driven Planning

1. Understand who is involved in the project and how they matter.
2. Understand and negotiate the GIVENS so that you understand the constraints on your work, understand the resources available, and can test effectively.
3. Negotiate and understand the MISSIONS of testing in your project.
4. Make CHOICES about how to test that exploit the GIVENS and allow you to achieve your MISSIONS.
5. Monitor the status of the project and continue to adjust the plan as needed to maintain congruence among GIVENS, CHOICES, and MISSIONS.

Test Process Choices

We testers and test managers don't often have a lot of control over the context of our work. Sometimes that's a problem. A bigger problem would be not having control over the work itself. When a test process is controlled from outside the test team, it's likely to be much less efficient and effective. This model is designed with the assumption that there are three elements over which you probably have substantial control: *test strategy*, *test logistics*, and *test products*. Test planning is mainly concerned with designing these elements of test process to work well within the context.

Test strategy is how you cover the product and detect problems. You can't test everything in every way, so here's where you usually have the most difficult choices.

Test logistics is how and when you apply resources to execute the test strategy. This includes how you coordinate with other people on the project, who is assigned to what tasks, etc.

Test products are the materials and results you produce that are visible to the clients of testing. These may include test scripts, bug reports, test reports, or test data to name a few.