

END POINT ASSESSMENT EXPLAINED

What happens at the end of an apprenticeship?

What is End Point Assessment?

End Point Assessment (also commonly referred to as EPA) is the final stage of the apprenticeship programme. The purpose of EPA is to confirm that the apprentice has met all of the knowledge, skills and behaviour requirements set out in the apprenticeship standard.

What is an apprenticeship standard?

Each apprenticeship has a standard which sets out the main purpose of the apprenticeship, the job roles linked to the standard and the expected knowledge, skills and behaviours that the apprentice should have achieved. There are approximately 700 different apprenticeship standards available. You can view the current and planned apprenticeship standards on the Skills England website(see link below).



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How does EPA work?

To reach EPA, the apprentice will have completed a series of activities and tasks with their employer and training provider. They will then jointly agree that the apprentice is ready to move forward for their End Point Assessment. This stage is called 'the gateway'.

End Point Assessment methods

This short film (4 minutes) explains the different types of assessment methods (see link below).



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What are the EPA requirements?

The process of EPA is different for each apprenticeship standard. It could include a range of different activities such as:

- Presentation of a portfolio
- Professional discussion
- Test
- Practical demonstration

The whole process of EPA is co-ordinated and conducted by a third-party organisation that is not connected to the employer or training provider. This organisation is called the End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO).

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What happens at the end of an apprenticeship?

Additional support

If you require additional support to complete your EPA, your training provider will be able to make appropriate arrangements for you. These could include:

- Extra time allowance
- A scribe
- A reader
- A personal support worker to attend
- British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter
- Assistive technology



Linked resource

Find out more about the additional support available to apprentices in this useful guide (see link below).



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Who regulates EPAs?

EPAs are regulated by Ofqual, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation. Ofqual also regulates other qualifications, for example, GCSEs, A-levels and Functional Skills. It protects the interests of apprentices and students taking qualifications and assessments. Find out more about Ofqual's role in EPA (see link below).



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What happens if you don't pass?

If you have not passed any elements of your EPA, then you will usually be able to re-take the parts that you need. This can sometimes limit the overall grade that you can achieve.

What happens on completion of EPA?

When you have successfully completed your EPA, you will have achieved your full apprenticeship. You will receive a grade of either pass / merit / distinction (this varies between different apprenticeships). You will then receive your apprenticeship certificate, issued to you by the Department for Education.



What is changing?

The Government is reviewing the way that apprenticeship End Point Assessment is conducted, making it more streamlined and simplified. From April 2025 all apprenticeship standards and associated assessment plans will be reviewed and updated. This is expected to take up to 18 months to complete. Further details on End Point Assessment can be found on the government website (see link below).



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