

Plasterer - Questions and answers

Q1 Does the sign up of an apprentice depend on the completion of a skills scan and the type of work an employer carries out?

A1 The expectation is that you will carry out a skills scan or something similar depending on your own centre entry/induction requirements and that employers can cover the requirements in the standard.

Q2 When choosing the best 13 pieces, what happens if our apprentice produces a piece of work, but doesn't re-visit this type of work, but over time is far more competent as we would expect. Would we use the earlier piece?

A2 The assessment plan asks for 'typically 13 pieces of evidence'. The best 13 pieces or so would be used to populate the portfolio that best covers the identified KSBs in the assessment plan.

Q3 Why is the on-programme set at 36 months? This seems a lot longer than a framework timescale.

A3 The duration of the on-programme has been set by the employer group. This states typically 36 months before gateway. Remember, this standard contains most of the level 3 and all the level 2 content under the old frameworks.

Q4 Our college is thinking of running this over 2 years?

A4 The standard states typically 36 months before gateway. This typical duration can be reduced depending on any prior learning an individual may have.

Q5 Will we have to cover fibrous?

A5 The core duties in the standard identifies both fibrous and solid which must be covered. It then divides into two pathways - solid and fibrous.

Q6 I am working with an e-portfolio, the way it has been set up is all the KSB are listed on the system to be referenced against evidence - with each outcome there are two evidence requirements similar to the NVQ. Is this correct?

A6 How you choose to set up and gather evidence is a decision for centres.

Q7 If an apprentice is building their e-portfolio does the evidence then have to be printed off and sent by pdf for the EPA team?

A7 Yes. We are not able to access your platforms. This is to ensure we limit any possible data breaches. City & Guilds also store EPA documentation for 7 years for audit requirements to meet EQA criteria.

Q8 If we moved to Learning Assistant would we still have to download and print the electronic portfolio?

A8 Yes you would as EPA is a separate arm of our business.

Q9 Will the assessor and apprentice have access and be able to refer to the portfolio during the oral questioning?

A9 Yes, the apprentice should use the portfolio to support them in the oral questioning assessment aspect of the EPA.

Q10 Can we put 13 pieces of evidence on one-word document?

A10 You can create a story board approach to the portfolio as long as the referencing is there. We provide a Portfolio Evidence Recording form and a Portfolio Checklist. Both of these documents must be completed. See the EPA Recording Forms document.

Q11 Do the 13 showcase evidence pieces have to cover all the KSB's?

A11 Just those given under the assessment method: 'oral questioning underpinned by the portfolio' in the assessment plan. As much variation in the practical skills should be the aim in the portfolio having typically 13 pieces of evidence. You can see what this may include as outlined in the standard. Remember behaviours can be demonstrated through a range of practical skills.

Q12 I have an apprentice who works for large companies carrying out typically house building and the employer does not cover all the skills in the standard. How do we meet this in the standard in order to ensure that the apprentice passes the EPA? Would the college need to cover any practical skills that are not met on site?

A12 A training provider would teach all the KSBs in the standard. The expectation is employers will support their apprentices by providing a range of on-site practical activities, just as they did for NVQs.

Q13 As the assessment plan states 'typical' 13 pieces of evidence, can City & Guilds force it to be only 13?

A13 The assessment plan does say typically 13 pieces of work and therefore some scope to increase or decrease this, but the expectation is circa 13 pieces of work.

Q14 How do we get the password for the resource pack on City & Guilds website?

A14 The password is available on Walled Garden.

Q15 Does the apprentice have to prepare their own plaster?

A15 The technician will be required to mix the majority of plaster, however, for some elements the apprentice may be required to mix some plaster.

Q16 Will the apprentice know the results of the skills test and oral questioning on the day?

A16 No. They will need to wait for the result to be QA'd. The result will show in walled garden shortly afterwards.

Q17 How many times can an apprentice re-sit?

A17 There is no limit on the number of times an apprentice can re-sit if they fail an aspect of the EPA. However, they must pass all component parts within the 4-month window after gateway. They can only get a pass as an outcome for any assessments they have to re-sit.

Q18 If an apprentice cannot improve a grade through the re-take, then surely this is disadvantaging the apprentice?

A18 This is what the assessment plan states and has been set by the employer group.

Q19 How long do we have to wait from booking an EPA date to the actual EPA taking place?

A19 Currently we are working to 40-60 days, however with EPA Pro there will be a reduced booking time of 3-4 weeks i.e. 15 to 20 working days.

Q20 Where does the digital badge go?

A20 It goes to the apprentice's email address.

Q21 Would a descriptive write-up around the knowledge elements on how they use/store/maintain tools for example be classed as self-reflection?

A21 The assessment plan states no self-reflection, or self-assessment for the portfolio content. This does not stop self-reflection/assessment for the training. The portfolio evidence write-up can cover how they stored materials but not for example that they stored 50 sheets of plasterboard 20m away when they could have stored these next to the job in hand. They then write up to say they would have done this differently and explain what that would be.

Q22 Am I right in saying that, even though the apprentice is completing level 3 work within this apprenticeship, they can only gain a blue CSCS card?

A22 The standard is set at level 2 so a blue trade card would be given if the apprentice passes the HSE test set by CSCS.

Q23 Where are the Apprenticeship Training Manuals ATM kept?

A23 This is on SmartScreen and can be uploaded into any e-portfolio you use. The cost is £350 however this covers as many users as you wish to assign too it.