

Changes to Teacher Training Qualifications and TAQA E-learning webinar FAQs

November 2013 Webinar

Teacher Training Qualifications

1. What constitutes grade 2 characteristics when observing teaching practice?

The Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Inspection Handbook (Ofsted 2012) states that, for outcomes for trainee teachers to be judged as at a good level, their teaching should be predominantly good, with examples of outstanding teaching. LSIS recommends that awarding organisations draw on the criteria and grading characteristics outlined in the Ofsted Handbook <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/handbook-for-inspection-of-further-education-and-skills-september-2012> The City and Guilds guidance and documentation is based on these criteria and grading characteristics.

2. Could you provide some guidance in relation to the specialist pathways?

We will not be offering the specialist pathway qualification in addition to the generic level 5 diploma and the stand alone specialist qualifications. For learners wanting to gain a specialist qualification, we advise learners to take the generic level 5 diploma with the 2 knowledge units as part of the option group and then pick up the **specialist** practice unit through the stand alone diploma route. The generic route is under the 6502 pathways 6502-51 and 52 and the standalone qualifications are under 6503. The learner will not have to pay for 2 qualifications, just for the Generic Diploma and the practice unit from the standalone Diploma route. Please refer to the qualification handbook for the Level 5 Specialist Diplomas in Teaching 6503.

3. If candidates use the generic route for the level 5, do they have to do additional work if they progress to the specialist route?

Candidates who wish to complete a specialist qualification via this route, they will have to complete 120 units from the generic diploma, of which 75 credits are generic mandatory credits (the first 4 units of the generic diploma) and then 30 of their 45 generic option units will be two of the specialist units. Having completed the generic diploma, candidates will

then have to complete the practice unit (15 credits) from the 6503, specialist standalone qualification. Learners will therefore have completed 135 credits in order to obtain a 'specialist' teaching qualification, rather than 120 credits usually required for a Diploma. There is also a requirement for additional observations and teaching hours in order for the specialist practice unit to be awarded.

4. What are the entry requirements for the Education and Training qualifications?

For the level 3 Award in Education and Training there are no formal entry requirements for this qualification, but candidates must be considering a subject for delivery and be aiming to achieve / or have achieved a qualification and/or have experience in their subject/skill at the appropriate level.

For the level 4 Certificate in Education and Training Candidates should be qualified/ experienced in the subject they intend to teach, have access to 30 teaching practice hours and possess reasonable levels of language, literacy and numeracy.

For the level 5 Diploma in Education and Training Candidates should be qualified/ experienced in the subject they intend to teach, have access to 100 teaching practice hours and possess reasonable levels of language, literacy and numeracy.

5. Do you provide detailed mark schemes for the assignments new courses?

Yes, we do provide a detailed mark scheme. The assignments and the answer packs, have been mapped to cover all of the assessment criteria for the qualification, these are available on the website password protected.

The password is available on the Walled Garden under the administration section.

6. Is there is a tariff available?

Legacy Tariff – shows where the new qualification suite sits in relation to previous qualifications <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/node/65>

7. Is PTLLS a teaching qualification?

PTLLS and the new Level 3 Award in Education and Training are not teaching qualifications – they are an introduction to teaching that will give an insight into the roles, responsibilities and relationships in education and training, how to plan and deliver inclusive teaching/training sessions and how to assess and give constructive and developmental feedback.

8. Does the old PTLLS Awards give exemption to the unit 301 in the level 4 Certificate in Education in Training?

If learners have achieved a PTLLS Award or a Level 3 Award in Education and Training, there is no requirement for them to repeat **unit 301, Understanding Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships in Education and Training** in the Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training.

9. What are the requirements for the teaching staff?

All those delivering units and/or observing and assessing practice for the Level 4 **Certificate in Education and Training** and the Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training must have all of the following:

- a teaching qualification equivalent to Framework Level 5 or above;
- evidence of relevant teaching experience in an education or training context;
- access to appropriate guidance and support; and
- ongoing participation in related programme quality assurance processes.
- They must also be occupationally competent and technically knowledgeable Education and/or Training

There are additional requirements for those who deliver and assess the optional specialist knowledge only units, **the level 3 English and Mathematics optional units** and units from the TAQA and Learning and Development qualifications. **Details are set out clearly in the relevant qualification handbook.**

10. Is there a requirement for subject specific mentors?

There is no requirement for subject specialist mentors though we do encourage the use of mentors

11. What are the requirements for teaching staff to address the specialist pathways?

In order to deliver, observe and assess the specialist units staff must have

- A teaching qualification equivalent to Framework Level 5 or above;
- A Level 4 specialist qualification or Level 5 Additional Diploma or equivalent qualification in the relevant specialist area;
- Evidence of teaching experience in the particular specialist context
- In depth knowledge of the specialist area
- Access to appropriate guidance and support
- On-going participation in related programme quality assurance processes

12. For the specialist units does TDLB 32/33/23 provide sufficient qualifications for teacher trainer?

No, the TDLB units and the TAQA qualifications are not teaching qualifications.

13. Does the registration now include certification which separate in the previous qualification pricing structure?

Yes, the full qualifications are structured as an upfront fee so that registration includes certification for the full qualification routes. For the unit route, each unit is priced separately and a certification fee will apply on completion.

14. Relating the TAQA and L&D qualifications to the new Education and Training qualifications is credit transfer applicable?

Yes credit transfer is applicable.

15. Can we use our own organisation observation forms that are written to cover the Ofsted CIF?

The Centre handbooks for the Level 4 Certificate and Level 5 Diploma state that the City and Guilds Observation Record Forms **must** be used when observing trainee teachers' practice. This is so that observers can be sure to cover both the grading criteria and the assessment criteria linked to each observation.

16. What is CiF 2012 and what is Ofsted ITE 2013?

CiF – Common Inspection Framework 2012

Ofsted ITE – Initial Teacher Education (ITE) inspection handbook Ofsted 2012

17. Are the Ofsted requirements CiF 2012 or ITE 2013 standards?

See comments under Question 1 and 17.

Is the Award and Certificate inspected under CiF 2012 and the Diploma under Ofsted ITE 2013?

This year, for all FE colleges and 6th form inspections Awarding organisation ITE provision will be looked at using the CiF 2012 - any HEI provision will be out of scope for these inspections. These inspections may also look at CPD.

HE provision is inspected under ITE 2013 framework and will also report on the HEI and its partners. This is fact at the present time.

In both cases, this can include the level 4. But level 3 is probably considered not to be a teaching qual. In FE colleges, level 3 and 4 could be looked at as CPD. I think it is fair to assume that anything can be inspected.

TAQA E-learning

18. Is the TAQA e-learning unit now compatible with a tablet?

No, unfortunately it is not compatible with a tablet as it was developed in Flash as part of the project.

19. Are there any plans to include an E-volve assessment for the TAQA unit 401?

Not at present but we will look into this as an option in the future.

20. What's included in the fees?

The fee for the TAQA e-learning programme covers the e-learning package only. The registration fee to achieve the qualification, and complete the e-volve test is sold separately.

21. What are the GLH for each course and how many have to be 'face to face'?

The GLH for each qualification is listed in the handbook but there is no prescribed time for face to face delivery. **The option units selected may affect the GLH**

22. How much will the e-learning & E-volve assessment cost?

The e-learning programme is accessed through the new SmartScreen platform, and charged on a simple per learner model rather than a one off annual subscription.

Number of Licences	Price per licence
1-5	£49.00
6-10	£45.00
11-20	£40.00
21+	£37.50

The E-volve test costs £10 for the first test and £8 for each re-sit.

The same E-volve test is free when taken as a pathway in the new level 3 Award in Education and training qualifications (pathway 6502-32). The test is also available separately to the e-learning programme under the 6317 qualification.

23. When does the 7300 cease for registrations and can we access the 6258?

The 7300 will continue for some time. The new 6258 awards in planning and delivering training, presentations and assessment have been introduced. The awards have a range of assessment options, including an E-volve test.

If your centre had approval form 7300, then a fast track approval for 6258 is sufficient.

What are the GLH for each course in the 6258 suite and how many have to be 'face to face'?

The GLH for each of the 6258 qualifications is listed in the handbook but there is no prescribed time for face to face delivery. **The option units selected may affect the GLH.**

24. What does CAVA means?

CAVA is the acronym for the Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement

Teacher Training Qualifications

25. Funding information for the Education & Training qualifications?

There is no funding for the Level 3 award and level 4 Certificate in Education and Training unless candidates are unemployed or OLAS. There are 24+ loans available for the Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training. Funding for the Level 5 Diploma, in England BIS is keen to encourage the training of new teachers of English and maths. The 2013-14 ITT Bursary scheme is for non-teaching support staff with a degree who currently work in a college or independent (private or third sector) provider. These Bursaries encourage graduates with relevant degrees to train as specialist teachers of maths, English or Special Educational Needs. Enrolment must be as part of the specialist, integrated pathway or the generic with the subject specific stand alone pathway.

Those employed in any 'teaching' capacity are not eligible for a bursary. Examples of those who may be eligible for a bursary are teaching assistants, technicians or support staff.

View the [bursary guide](#) for more information.

[m1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-initial-teacher-training-bursary-guide-academic-year-2013-to-2014>

Please note that funding arrangements and sources differ in the other three UK nations. Please contact your local funding organisation to identify sources of support.

26. What is the difference between a reflective journal and a reflective account?

These definitions are taken from the Glossary in the 6302 PTLLS Handbook. They apply also to the Level 3 Award in Education and Training.

Reflective journal A piece of written work where the trainee teachers' reflect on their own learning and teaching. This piece of work is generally a personal reflection and not part of the assessment process.

Reflective Account A piece of written work which is reflective in nature and **meets assessment criteria**. Because it evidences assessment criteria, a reflective account is an assessed piece of work.

27. Do I have to use the assignments provided by City and Guilds?

No. The assignments are examples and are not mandatory. The answer packs provided are examples of the answers which could be provided and are not exhaustive.

Centres may devise their own assignments, which must meet all the assessment criteria for the unit/s being assessed. These centre-devised assignments must be agreed with the centre's Qualification Consultant prior to use.

28. What is holistic delivery?

When an approach is “holistic”, it looks at a subject as a whole rather than looking at parts of it in turn. Learners can be encouraged to see the links between the different parts of the qualification to help them “pull together” their learning across all the units.

However, as in all Framework qualifications, whilst units and/or qualifications may be delivered holistically, they must be assessed by unit, so that unit accreditation is possible, should learners drop out of a qualification prior to completion.

29. Is there a requirement for Harvard Referencing at Level 3?

There is no requirement for the use of referencing at level 3. However, it is expected that learners at this level will have undertaken some reading related to the qualification and that where this is appropriate, it will be evidenced in the text and acknowledged in the form of a reference list or bibliography.

30. Do I have to administer the short-answer questions for 6502 under exam conditions?

No, exam conditions are not required. However, learners should be supervised when undertaking the short-answer question task to avoid plagiarism.

Please note that this unit (Understanding the principles and practices of assessment) now has three assessment approaches available; a short answer test, an online multiple choice test and, if preferred, a centre devised assessment.

31. Can I “fail” a learner because they are unable to spell and use grammar correctly?

There are different requirements for the level 4 and 5 teaching qualifications – and the level of English displayed should be in keeping with the level the candidates are working towards. We do need to ensure that those taking even the level 3 should have an appropriate level of literacy.

The handbook guidance does suggest that there needs to be some written work, but the advice here may be misinterpreted and candidates may think that they can record all of their evidence.

The assessment guidance in the Assessment Pack says:

Candidates are being judged on whether they have met the assessment criteria and not solely on presentation, spelling, grammar etc. However, a Level three qualification requires good presentation and coherent written skills. Writing should also link theory and principles to their own practice and there should be clear evidence of reflection.

In addition to this, a Level four qualification requires evidence of a planned approach to reading and research, and adequate academic referencing and citing to essential sources including the use of appropriate quotes.

If a learner has met the assessment criteria, and the level 3 or 4 descriptor has also been met, the work should achieve a Pass grade. However, advice should be sought from the QC, who can make a judgement based on a review the work product, focussing on whether or not the written evidence is “coherent”.

Where alternative assessment methods are used, agreed by the centre’s QC, it will be important to ensure the principles of assessment were being met in terms of validity, reliability and authenticity.

Consideration could also be given to whether learners will be disadvantaged by the trainee’s learning difficulty. PTLLS is not a teaching qualification. However, should the learner want to progress to CTLLS/DTLLS, his/her ability to meet the minimum core requirements may be an area for discussion.

32. Can learners carry forward observations and teaching hours undertaken in the new Level 4 qualification into the Level 5 Diploma?

The 2013 suite of qualifications in Education and Training are not ‘nested’ as their predecessors were.

Candidates who have achieved the Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training can transfer twenty hours of practice and two hours of observed and assessed practice towards the practice requirements of the Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training. These observations

and teaching hours are linked to the unit Teaching, Learning and Assessment in the Level 5 Diploma, which learners who have achieved the Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training do not have to complete.

For the Level 4 qualification in Education and Training there is no transfer of practice, including observed and assessed practice, from a previously achieved Level 3 or Level 4 Certificate in teaching in the life long learning sector.

33. How many observations have to be graded level 2 or above?

In the Level 4 Certificate, one observation has to be graded 2 or above, in the Level 5 generic Diploma, 4 out of the 8 observations have to be graded at 2 or above, and in the specialist stand alone qualifications, half of the observations have to be graded at 2 or above.

34. Do any observations that are graded 4 count?

Grade 4 observations do not count towards the number of observations required for qualifications. However, should any observations be graded 4, they must be recorded, and learners must be given full and detailed feedback and an action plan to aid their improvement. They must be stored in the portfolio of teaching practice and be available for EQA.

35. Do any of the observations required within generic option units count towards the 8 observations required for a generic Diploma?

No, they are in addition to the 8 observations required and must be recorded and feedback given as with the mandatory observations.

36. Can I do the units in the generic level 5 Diploma in any order?

Almost! There is just one stipulation, that before the unit Developing Teaching, Learning and Assessment is completed, the unit Theories, Principles and Models in Education and Training must be completed and assessed.

37. If I have completed the Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training, do I get any exemptions against the generic Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training?

Yes, if you have completed the Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training you do not need to complete the 20 credit, Level 4 unit in the generic Diploma, Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Education and Training.