L3 Cyber Security Technician: EPA Fact Sheet

Purpose

This document distils the key requirements for End Point Assessment (EPA) for the revised L3 Cyber Security Technician Standard. The full EPA plan should be consulted for more details.

Gateway Requirements

There are no formal on-programme assessments on this Standard. All assessments are post-Gateway. Gateway is the start of the EPA period and typically lasts 3 months. The Apprentice can only enter Gateway once the following requirements are fulfilled:

- The Apprentice has achieved English and Mathematics at Level 2
- Employer is satisfied and confirms that the Apprentice is working at or above the level set out in the occupational Standard (employer can take advice from Firebrand)
- The Apprentice submits portfolio demonstrating the application of KSBs as mapped to AM2 (see below) and any supporting material to underpin the Professional Discussion

Assessment Methods

There are three distinct assessment methods (AMs), each mapped to a set of KSBs that the outputs of all AMs must evidence. The list of KSBs assigned to assessment methods can be found in the EPA Plan.

AM1 Scenario Demonstrations with Questioning: Apprentices must be observed by an independent assessor completing four practical scenario demonstrations, in a simulated environment, which will be made up of tasks that would naturally occur as a Cyber Security Technician. This will be supplemented by questioning by the independent assessor to establish the Apprentice's understanding of underpinning reasoning. This approach will demonstrate the KSBs assigned to this assessment method. See the detailed EPA Plan for further guidance on the structure and contents of the scenarios.

Each Scenario Demonstration will last 75 minutes. The independent assessor can ask up to five questions during and after each Scenario Demonstration. All questions must be asked during the 75 minutes permitted to allow the Apprentice to evidence any gaps in KSBs not evidenced during the demonstration.

AM2 Professional Discussion Underpinned by Portfolio: This assessment method takes the form of a 60 minute 1:1 Professional Discussion based on the portfolio and focussing on the coverage of KSBs mapped to AM2. All evidences must be valid and attributable to the Apprentice with the portfolio of evidence containing a statement from the employer and the Apprentice confirming this. The portfolio is not directly assessed but it underpins the Professional Discussion in which the Apprentice is given the opportunity to draw on the evidence contained in their portfolio, their experience and competence.

AM3 Knowledge Test: This assessment is a 40 Question, closed book, multiple-choice test which may be computer or paper-based. The Apprentice has 60 minutes to complete the test and must score a minimum of 25/40 to pass. The test is mapped to knowledge statements that could not be fully assessed in the other two assessment methods.

Grading Outcomes

All EPA methods must be passed for the EPA to be passed overall. All assessment methods are weighted equally in their contribution to the overall grade. Detailed descriptors for Pass and Distinction criteria are contained in the EPA Plan this Standard. Apprentices who fail one or more assessment method will be offered the opportunity to take a re-sit or a re-take within the EPA period.

On Programme Activities to Support EPA

Apprentices will spend the duration of the programme (pre-gateway) developing all KSBs in the occupational Standard with a minimum of 20% off-the-job training. During this period they will also be compiling a portfolio of evidence to underpin the professional discussion.

Note: Hyperlinks to external sites may change.