L4 Network Engineer Standard: EPA Fact Sheet

Purpose

This document distils the key requirements for End Point Assessment (EPA) for the Network Engineer 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, typically lasting 1-3 months. The Apprentice can only enter Gateway once the following requirements are fulfilled:

- The Apprentice has achieved English and Mathematics at Level 2
- The employer is satisfied and confirms that the Apprentice has achieved occupational competence and is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational Standard (employer can take advice from Firebrand)
- The Apprentice completes and 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 two distinct assessment methods (AMs), each mapped to a set of KSBs that the outputs of both AMs must evidence. The list of KSBs assigned to AM1 and AM2 can be found in the EPA plan.

AM1 Simulation Assessment with Questioning: Apprentices will be required to undertake 2 simulation assessments in a virtual lab environment. The first assessment is a Network Failure the second is Network Optimisation, each taking up to 7 hours and to be completed on consecutive days. See the EPA Plan for further guidance on the simulated assessments. The second component of AM1 takes the form of questioning based on the work undertaken in the simulation assessments. The questioning will last for approximately 45 minutes. The assessor will ask a minimum of 10 open questions.

AM2 Professional Discussion Underpinned by Portfolio: This assessment method takes the form of a 60 minute 1:1 Professional Discussion based on the portfolio (not in itself directly assessed) and focuses on the coverage of KSBs mapped to AM2. All evidence must be valid and attribute to the Apprentice with the portfolio of evidence containing a statement from the employer and the Apprentice confirming this. The assessor will ask a minimum of 15 open questions.

Grading Outcomes

All EPA methods must be passed for the EPA to be passed overall. Both AMs are weighted equally in their contribution to the overall grade. Aggregation of grades along with detailed descriptors for Pass and Distinction criteria are contained in the EPA. Apprentices who fail one or more assessment methods will be offered the opportunity to take a re-sit or a re-take within the EPA.

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.