

L4 Software Developer: EPA Fact Sheet

Purpose

This document distils the key requirements for End Point Assessment (EPA) for the Software Developer. 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 at the end of the Apprenticeship programme typically lasting 3-6 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 submits to the End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) a title of the work-based project with a 500 word summary of what the project will cover including a stakeholder specification. (See AM1 below)
 - The key requirements for the proposed project are that it must be real work, occupationally relevant to the Apprentice's role and meets the needs of the business
 - It must also allow the Apprentice to demonstrate the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) mapped to AM1. Scoping out and planning for the project in good time is paramount to ensure that all the relevant KSBs can be covered.
- EPAO signs-off the title of the work-based project submitted in consultation with the employer to ensure sufficient scope to meet the KSBs mapped to AM1 within 2 weeks of the Gateway
- 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 Work-Based Project with Questioning: The Apprentice will undertake the proposed project and submit a formal technical report (4500 words limit) to the EPAO after a maximum of 9 weeks (7 weeks to conduct and 2 weeks to write-up) following the EPAO sign off of the project's summary. See the [EPA Plan](#) for further guidance on the structure and contents of the report. The second component of AM1 takes the form of questioning based on the content of the project report. The questioning will last for 60 minutes. The report is assessed and the overall grading for AM1 is based on the project report and answers to questioning.

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 attributable to the Apprentice with the portfolio of evidence containing a statement from the employer and the Apprentice confirming this. Unlike the report in AM1, the portfolio is not directly assessed but it underpins the Professional Discussion in which the Apprentice is given the opportunity to authenticate the evidence contained in their portfolio, their experience and competence.

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.

