L4 Software Tester: EPA Fact Sheet

Purpose

This document distils the key requirements for End Point Assessment (EPA) for the revised Software Tester 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 2 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 the assessment method (see AM2 below) and any supporting material to underpin the Professional Discussion
- The End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) confirms that all required Gateway evidence has been provided and accepted as meeting the Gateway requirements

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 Scenario-Based Test with Questioning: The Apprentice will complete 3 scenario-based tests in a controlled environment (under invigilation) and they will demonstrate the KSBs assigned to this assessment method. The scenarios will be simulated and provided remotely online by the EPAO. The total time permitted for the scenario-based tests is 9 hours typically over 2 consecutive working days. Consult the EPA Plan for the topics on which the scenarios are based and logistical arrangements.

The second component of AM1 takes the form of a 45-minute questioning, based on the submitted products of each scenario. The combined outputs from the scenario-based test and questioning must evidence all mapped KSBs to the appropriate level in line with grading descriptors for the AMs as a whole to be passed.

AM2 Professional Discussion Underpinned by Portfolio: This assessment method takes the form of a 75 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. 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 assessment methods 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 Plan for this Standard. 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 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.