



End-point assessment: your questions answered

10 most-frequently asked questions about the EPA

What is end-point assessment?

All apprentices on the new apprenticeship standards have to complete an end-point assessment at the end of their course. When the apprentice has completed their on-programme learning, they'll be put forward for the EPA – an independent assessment to test whether they've met the KSBs in the standard.

What assessment methods are used?

The EPA is outlined in the assessment plan for each standard. The assessment plan must explain what's being assessed and what assessment methods should be used – such as tests, examinations, professional discussions, workplace observations, assignments or a portfolio of work.

What is the apprenticeship gateway?

When the apprentice has completed their on-programme learning, the apprentice, employer and provider need to agree that the apprentice is ready to take the EPA. The gateway is the period of time between this agreement being made and the apprentice taking their EPA. Depending on the assessment methods and EPAO availability, the gateway can be between a week or even a few months long – so it needs to be carefully planned for.

How much does the EPA cost?

The cost will vary slightly depending on the assessment methods, but the EPA should cost between 10-20% of the overall cost of the apprenticeship delivery.

Non-levy paying employers pay one third of the EPA costs and the ESFA pays the rest. Levy-paying employers use their levy contributions to pay for the EPA.

Can a training provider use their own assessors to carry out the EPA?

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How are apprentices graded?

Apprentices achieve a pass, merit or distinction, which is a great way to motivate learners to take their learning to the next level.

What's the minimum time on programme before an apprentice can take the EPA?

All apprentices must complete a minimum of 12 months' on-programme learning, unless it says otherwise in the apprenticeship standard. This is different from the old frameworks where apprentices could complete their course in much less time.

When do apprentices find out if they've passed their EPA?

This will depend on the EPAO, but when the end-point assessment has been marked and moderated, the results will be sent to the training provider. The training provider will then need to share the results with the apprentice and their employer.

What happens if the apprentice fails the EPA?

If the apprentice fails part or all of their EPA, they'll have to resit the part they failed. The exact timings and methods can be different for different standards, but is outlined in the assessment plan. Each resit is charged for, so it's really important that the apprentice is ready to take the EPA before they enter the gateway.

To find out more about OneFile it how can be used to deliver apprenticeship standards, head to onefile.co.uk or [book a demo](#) with a member of our team.