

WHO'S WHO IN APPRENTICESHIPS

Ofqual's role in ensuring quality EPAs



Apprentices take an End Point Assessment (EPA) at the end of an apprenticeship to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need for the occupation they have been training for. An apprentice cannot achieve their apprenticeship without passing the EPA.

Who ensures EPAs are of the correct standard?

EPAs are regulated by Ofqual, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation. Ofqual also regulates other qualifications, for example, GCSEs, A levels and Functional Skills Qualifications. It protects the interests of apprentices and students taking qualifications and assessments.

Organisations that provide regulated qualifications, including EPAs, are called awarding organisations. These organisations are sometimes called exam boards or awarding bodies.

What does Ofqual do to protect apprentices?

- ✓ Sets rules for awarding organisations to follow so that apprentices are assessed fairly.
- ✓ Requires awarding organisations to have the right processes and expertise in place to deliver EPAs.
- ✓ Checks that awarding organisations are meeting Ofqual's rules.
- ✓ Takes action if an awarding organisation does not follow the rules.



Find out more about Ofqual here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>



END POINT ASSESSMENT REGULATION

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When do apprentices take their EPA?

The apprentice, their employer and their training provider will make a joint decision about when they are ready to progress to EPA. This stage is called 'gateway'. Gateway takes place before an EPA can start. The training provider will let the apprentice know which awarding organisation is setting and running their EPA.

What happens after an apprentice has taken their EPA?

After all the parts of the EPA have been taken, the awarding organisation will assess the work and provide the apprentice with a grade for it.

If they pass their EPA and successfully complete their apprenticeship, they will be awarded with a certificate.

If an apprentice fails one or more parts of the EPA, they will be offered the opportunity to re-sit or re-take it. A re-sit involves re-sitting one or more of the assessments without further training. A re-take involves doing further training before doing the assessment again. The apprentice, their training provider and employer will draw up an action plan to help prepare for the re-sit or re-take.

Who can help if an apprentice has concerns about their EPA?

If an apprentice has concerns about the quality of their EPA and how it is run, or about their results, they should speak to their employer or training provider. They can also check the awarding organisation's complaints procedure, which is published on its website, and get in touch about their concerns.

To complain to Ofqual about an awarding organisation, for example, because an apprentice feels they have not followed their own published policies and procedures, see Ofqual's complaints procedure:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual/about/complaints-procedure>

Ofqual would usually expect the awarding organisation to have a chance to resolve a complaint by using their own complaints process first.

Find out more about EPAs by downloading our Rapid Read:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2021/09/End-Point-Assessment-explained.pdf>

