L3 EPA Power Network Craftsperson

EPA Specification Section 6 – Practice Assessments and guidance

- Trade Test
- Technical Interview

Contacts

This specification has been designed to provide all the advice and guidance you need to prepare yourself and your apprentices for end-point assessment. However, if you have any further questions please contact the EUIAS Help Desk using one of the following:

Help Desk email: enquiries@euias.co.uk

Help Desk telephone: 0121 713 8310

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Trade Test

The trade test should be designed to assess a broad range of the skills, knowledge and behaviours developed over the period of the apprenticeship.

While it is not permitted to brief the apprentice on the work they will be doing for the live Trade Tests, it is permitted to set up tasks of similar complexity and duration and ask the apprentice to carry them out under live assessment conditions. To make the practice more realistic, a tutor or supervisor should adopt the role of assessor and use the appropriate grading criteria from Section 5 to 'assess' the apprentice.

The assessment should be conducted in an on-site environment that reflects the hazards and risks of a real time working environment. The assessment must be designed to meet the requirements of the relevant PNC pathway standard.

The assessment must incorporate the use of tools and techniques to demonstrate the more complex higher order level of skills required by the role

The tutor-assessor conducting the assessment must remain in visual contact with the apprentice throughout the trade test.

The tutor-assessor shall ask knowledge questions where competence is not confirmed through observation of performance and record the answers given with a preference towards audio / video recording. We recommend developing some open-ended questions which focus on the eliciting each apprentice's understanding of the KSBs. Follow-up questions can also be asked where clarification is required. The apprentice's response should also be recorded on the sheet.

The practice trade test should provide instructions for the apprentice to be able to apply the appropriate principles, procedures and knowledge and explain what and why they are undertaking a particular approach.

They will be expected to select and use the appropriate equipment and tools, protect themselves and others from potential harm that can arise from their work, while ensuring other processes on site continue to function; effectively and efficiently maintaining production. The tutor or supervisor carrying out the practice trade tests should record their assessment of how the apprentice performed and provide feedback to the apprentice with guidance on what to do to improve their performance.

Technical Interview

Preparing and carrying out a practice Technical Interview

A good time to schedule a practice interview is towards the end of the formal training period. It must be done with enough time to provide feedback to the apprentice that they can learn from, before the live end-point assessment.

A period of two weeks or more is recommended, depending on the circumstances. The key is that the apprentice has time to act on the feedback they get at the end of the practice. A period of at least two hours should be set aside for each practice interview, and a set of open-ended questions prepared to cover each of the areas of the standard covered by the technical interview. A tutor or supervisor should play the part of the assessor carrying out the technical interview, asking the questions in a 'live test environment'. They should record their assessment of the apprentice performance, using the grading descriptions in Section 5 as a guide, and provide the apprentice with feedback, focussing on areas of improvement. The

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technical interview questioning should synoptically examine the knowledge, skills and behaviours by the apprentice through their on-programme experience. The questioning should be contextualised to the apprentice's specific job role. The tutor or supervisor must:

- prepare some interview questions around each of the eight requirements (AR1-8), described in section 5.2
- use various questioning techniques to confirm the depth of knowledge and or range of skills
- record the technical interview or provide a clear narrative if the interview was not recorded. The narrative must describe the apprentices' responses to each of the questions asked. The narrative must capture the depth and breadth of the apprentice's response
- ensure the apprentice has provided evidence in their responses to cover all the relevant elements of the standard
- provide feedback to the apprentice focussing on any areas of the standard missed.

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