



nebosh

**The National Examination  
Board in Occupational Safety  
and Health (NEBOSH)**

Dominus Way,  
Meridian Business Park,  
Leicester LE19 1QW

Tel: +44 (0) 116 263 4700  
Fax: +44 (0) 116 282 4000  
Email: [info@nebosh.org.uk](mailto:info@nebosh.org.uk)  
[www.nebosh.org.uk](http://www.nebosh.org.uk)

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# NEBOSH Award in Environmental Awareness at Work

## Qualification guide for Learning Partners

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# Qualification overview

# Qualification overview

## Qualification key features

<b>Unit prefix and title:</b>	<b>Unit EAW1: Environmental awareness</b>
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Assessment Type</b> <b>Assessment Time</b>
<b>Unit EAW1:</b>	Multiple-choice assessment              30 minutes
<b>Modes of study:</b>	Taught (face-to-face) Open, distance, part-time or block release eLearning
<b>Notional learning hours:</b>	6 hours tuition 1 hour assessment preparation/assessment time 3 hours pre-course study <b>Total hours: 10 hours</b>
<b>Qualification level:</b>	SCQF Level 5 with 1 credit (equivalent to RQF Level 2)
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	There are no specific entry requirements.
<b>Recommended minimum standard of English:</b>	Learners: International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 5.0 or higher. Tutors: International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 7.0 or higher.
<b>Languages available:</b>	English
<b>Assessment dates:</b>	Online assessments will take place monthly. Confirmed dates available <a href="#">online</a>
<b>Pass standard:</b>	A 'Pass' (score of 60% or higher) must be achieved in unit EAW1.
<b>Qualification grades:</b>	Pass Refer

# Qualification summary

# Qualification summary

## Introduction

The NEBOSH Award in Environmental Awareness at Work focuses on topics which provide learners with an overall awareness of environmental issues, including an overview of an environmental management system (EMS) and what certification of an EMS can mean to an organisation.

It is suitable for anyone who needs to gain an understanding of environmental awareness at work as part of their job or as awareness training for those learners whose organisations are introducing an EMS such as ISO 14001:2015.

This qualification will benefit organisations who are seeking to implement an EMS. It will provide their workforce with an awareness of the organisation's impacts on the environment as well as the individual's role in the maintenance of a successful EMS.

On completion of the course, your learners will have a good understanding of:

- The meaning of basic environmental terms.
- The importance and benefits of sustainable development.
- Certification of an EMS.
- Air, water and land pollution.
- Dealing with emergencies.

## Syllabus development and review

The syllabus has been developed by NEBOSH following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, notably Learning Partners, professional bodies, employers, standards setting organisations, enforcement bodies and subject experts. NEBOSH would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the development, piloting and implementation of this qualification.

## Notional learning hours

A programme of study needs to be based around a minimum of **3 hours pre-course study, 6 taught hours** and approximately **1 hour of assessment preparation and assessment time** for an overall total of **10 hours**. It is anticipated that the course can be taught in one day with the multiple-choice assessment taken at the end of the day.

## Teaching of the syllabus content

Although the syllabus sets out the elements in a specific order, you can teach the elements in any order you feel is appropriate.



# Qualification summary

## Minimum standard of English required for learners

The standard of English required by learners studying for the NEBOSH Award in Environmental Awareness at Work must be such that they can both understand and articulate the concepts contained in the syllabus. It is important to stress that the onus is on Learning Partners to determine their learners' standards of proficiency in English.

NEBOSH recommends to Learning Partners that learners undertaking this qualification should reach a minimum standard of English equivalent to an International English Language Testing System score of 5.0 or higher in IELTS tests in order to be accepted onto an Award in Environmental Awareness at Work programme.

Tutors who are based overseas and wish to deliver the NEBOSH Award in Environmental Awareness must have a good standard of English. They must be able to articulate the concepts contained in the syllabus. The Learning Partner must provide evidence of the tutor's standard of English when submitting the tutor's CV for approval. NEBOSH's requirement is for tutors delivering this qualification to have reached a minimum standard of English equivalent to an International English Language Testing System score of 7.0 or higher in IELTS tests. More information on IELTS can be found [here](#)

## Achieving the qualification

The Award in Environmental Awareness at Work is a one unit qualification.

Unit EAW1 is a taught unit, assessed by a thirty-minute multiple-choice examination.

Each examination consists of twenty mandatory questions (1 mark each) with one correct and three incorrect responses available per question.

Each examination paper covers the whole unit syllabus with at least one question per unit element and all questions are compulsory.

It is a closed-book assessment, so learners will not be able to refer to their course book or notes.

There is no time restriction on passing the Award in Environmental Awareness at Work as this is a one unit only qualification. There are no unit exemptions available for this qualification.

## Date of assessment

Assessments are taken after completion of the course learning. Assessments are held monthly, with the assessment being available for a 24 hour period. Learners will be able to start their assessment at any time during this 24 hour window, but will have 30 minutes in total to complete their assessment.

More information, including upcoming assessment dates are available on the NEBOSH [website](#)

## Submission of the assessment

Learners will complete their assessment online, and submit their assessment through an online assessment platform for marking.

## Marking

Assessments are marked by NEBOSH. Learners will receive a 'Pass' (60% or higher) or 'Refer' (59% or lower) for their assessments. It is your responsibility as a Learning Partner to provide your learners with more support in the event of a referral result, and register them for another date to re-sit their assessment.

## Individual learner feedback

For more information on the assessment feedback provided for this qualification, please visit the NEBOSH website.

## Results

We aim to issue results within 15 working days of the date of the assessment. Qualification parchments are normally issued within 20 working days of confirmation of the successful EAW unit.

## Identifying learners

The course tutor must be sure of the identity of all learners prior to qualification delivery. This should be done ahead of the training; on the day for classroom delivery; or, for distance or eLearning, verification can be undertaken remotely via webcam. This will involve checking photographic identification. Photographic evidence of identity includes driving licences, national identity cards and passports. If you are unable to identify the learner, then you should contact NEBOSH for further advice.

## Conflict of interest

If any of your staff, family or friends want to sit the qualification you must tell NEBOSH first. Further information can be found in the 'Instructions for Conducting Examinations' document on the NEBOSH website.



# Syllabus

## Syllabus summary

### Structure

The qualification is a one unit qualification with Unit EAW1 being divided into two elements.

Unit EAW1: Environmental Awareness		
Element number	Element title	Recommended hours
1	Foundations of environmental awareness	1
2	Pollution, impact assessments and emergencies	5
	Minimum unit tuition time	6
	Recommended pre-course reading time*	3
	Assessment preparation / assessment time	1

\* Pre-course reading could, for example, include:

- Review of the environmental policy issued by the learner's organisation (sections, content etc)
- Review of other material produced on environmental issues by the learner's employer
- Research on current relevant environmental issues relevant to the sector/industry in which the learner is employed.

# Syllabus

## Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning outcome On completion of this course the learner will be able to understand:	Related content	Assessment criteria
the meaning of key environmental terms	1.1	Identify the meaning of: the environment; weather; climate; habitats; ecosystems; biodiversity; pollution; sustainability
why sustainable development is important	1.2	Identify the importance and benefits of sustainable development
what constitutes an environmental management system and the certification process	1.3	Identify an environmental management system's main components and the certification process
the principles and practice of impact assessments	2.1	Recognise the principles and practice of impact assessments
the main sources, types, controls and impacts of each of air, water and noise pollution	2.2	Identify the main sources, types, controls and impacts of air pollution
	2.3	Identify the main sources, types, controls and impacts of water pollution
	2.4	Identify the main sources, controls and impacts of environmental noise
how to help their organisation manage waste using the waste hierarchy	2.5	Identify waste types
	2.6	Identify the waste control hierarchy and ways to effectively manage waste
how to help their organisation deal with an environmental emergency	2.7	Recognise the measures that need to be in place when dealing with the main types of environmental emergency

### Element 1: Foundations of environmental awareness

- 1.1 The meaning of environment, weather, climate, habitats, ecosystems, biodiversity, pollution and sustainability**
- Meaning of environment: as the surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelation. 'Surroundings' can extend from within an organisation to the global system
  - Meaning of weather: the state of the atmosphere at a given time and place, with respect to variables such as temperature, moisture, wind velocity, and barometric pressure
  - Meaning of climate: the weather averaged over a long period (usually 30 years); meteorological conditions such as temperature, rain, wind and atmospheric pressure that characteristically occur in a particular region
  - Meaning of habitats: natural environment of a plant, animal or human which sustains life and allows growth
  - Meaning of eco-systems: a community of plants, animals and organisms which interact with the physical environment
  - Meaning of bio-diversity: variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species, and within and between eco-systems
  - Meaning of pollution: the presence of or introduction of substances or objects into the environment which are harmful or poisonous and may cause adverse effects on the natural environment or on life
    - global vs. local pollution
    - types of pollution (in relation to medium - air, water and land) (also see Element 2)
  - Meaning of sustainability such as "the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations" (with reference to Principle 3 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development from the Rio Earth summit).
- 1.2 The importance and benefits of sustainable development**
- Importance and benefits of sustainable development as a means of ensuring:
    - effective protection/enhancement of the environment
    - sensible use of natural resources
    - maintenance of stable levels of growth
    - social progress (including fair and ethical trade)
    - competitive edge for the business
    - sustainable purchasing provides energy efficient equipment giving value for money, lower whole life costs, enhanced disposal options.

### 1.3 Environmental management systems (EMS)

- An EMS consists of: policy, organisational structure, planning, responsibilities, processes/procedures, resources, monitoring
- Formal certification of an EMS (ISO 14001:2015)
  - obtaining
  - maintaining
  - the individual's role in maintaining a successful EMS.

**Recommended tuition time not less than 1 hour**

## Syllabus content

### Element 2: Pollution, impact assessments and emergencies

#### 2.1 Principles and practice of impact assessments

- Definition of aspects, impacts (reference to ISO 14001:2015)
- Source, pathway, receptor
- Identifying main pathways via water, air and land
- Identifying receptors at risk; flora, fauna, water course, local population
- Identification of aspects
- Identification of impacts
- Identification of inputs and outputs of a process
- Cradle-to-grave concept (life cycle analysis, ie, past, present and future impacts).

#### 2.2 The main sources, types, controls and impacts of air pollution

- Sources and types of air pollution:
  - burning fossil fuels to generate energy; transport; industrial processes such as cement plants, metal smelting
  - gaseous, vapour, odours, mist, fume, smoke, dust, grit, fugitive emissions and fibres
- Control hierarchy: eliminate, minimise, render harmless, with examples
- Meaning and purpose of net zero
- Impacts of air pollution: smog; local habitat/ecosystem harm; human health effects; acid rain; global warming (including ocean warming); ozone depletion; climate change.



## Syllabus content

2.3	<b>The main types, sources, controls and impacts of water pollution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Main types of water pollutant: organic and inorganic</li><li>• Sources of water pollution:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- domestic waste waters</li><li>- agriculture: water run-off from land containing fertilizers (phosphate and/or nitrogen) and/or pesticides</li><li>- industry: untreated discharges into surface waters; surface water drainage and risks of contamination from spills; process water, sewage and cooling water; leakage from disused process facilities, tanks; spillage onto unmade ground allowing build up and seepage through the earth to ground waters</li></ul></li><li>• Control hierarchy: eliminate, minimise, render harmless, with examples</li><li>• Impacts of water pollution: contamination of surface and/or ground water; damage to local aquatic systems; build-up of pollutants/toxins; sedimentation; pollutants discharged into oceans, microplastics.</li></ul>
2.4	<b>The main sources, controls and impacts of environmental noise</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Main sources: industrial processes/machinery; transport; construction; mining/quarrying; public address system; music/entertainment/sports venues</li><li>• Control hierarchy:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- engineering controls: isolation, absorption, insulation, damping, silencing, maintenance regimes</li><li>- management controls: hours of working (including delivery times); restrict use of radios and public address systems; controlling vehicle routes</li></ul></li><li>• Environmental impacts: nuisance, stress, loss of sleep, disruption of wildlife.</li></ul>
2.5	<b>Types of waste</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hazardous and the challenges of disposal</li><li>• Non-hazardous</li><li>• Other legally controlled categories.</li></ul>

## 2.6 Waste management

- The waste control hierarchy:
  - prevent
  - reduce
  - re-use
  - recover (re-cycle followed by other methods of recovery, eg, energy recovery)
  - disposal
- Managing waste
  - barriers to reuse and recycling and how they can be overcome
  - responsible waste management
  - segregation, identification and labelling
  - packaging waste
  - electrical and electronic waste
  - legal documentation.

## 2.7 Dealing with the main types of environmental emergency

- Typical environmental incidents: loss of containment; spillages (loading/unloading from tankers and storage tanks); fire/explosion
- Environmental hazards associated with loss of containment, spillages and fire/explosion
- Materials and equipment to deal with pollution incidents (loss of containment, spillages and fire/explosion)
- Emergency response plan
- Training and practices (recognising risk situations and action to take)
- Liaison with regulatory bodies and emergency services
- Handling the media (who is the person in the organisation who should be doing this).

**Recommended tuition time not less than 5 hours**