



nebosh

Glossary of NEBOSH terms

Version 13

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1. Introduction

This glossary (which includes some key acronyms) is intended for use by anyone as a glossary of standard terms used in NEBOSH, especially our policies and procedure documents available in the *Policies and Procedures* section of our website (<https://www.nebosh.org.uk/policies-and-procedures/>).

The glossary uses definitions published by the regulatory authorities and other relevant organisations. Numbers in brackets at the end of a definition refer to the relevant reference in Section 3.

2. Glossary

A

Access arrangements

Access arrangements are agreed before an *assessment*. They allow *learners* with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the *assessment*.

Access arrangements allow *learners* to show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the *assessment*, for example, *Readers*, *Scribes* and *Braille question papers*.

The intention behind many *access arrangements* is to meet the needs of the *candidate* without affecting the integrity of the *assessment*. In this way *awarding bodies* will comply with the duty of the Equality Act 2010 to make '*reasonable adjustments*'.

Accreditation of Learning Partners

A process through which new and existing *accredited Learning Partners* are confirmed as being able to maintain the required quality and consistency of *assessment* and comply with other expectations of the *awarding body* to deliver the specified NEBOSH qualification.

Accreditation of qualifications

The process through which the *regulatory authorities* confirm that a *qualification* and the associated *specification* conform to the *regulatory criteria*.

Accredited Learning Partner

See *Learning Partner*.

Accredited qualification

NEBOSH is recognised by two UK Regulators: SQA Accreditation and Ofqual. The Regulators approve and accredit some of our qualifications. We are bound by their Regulatory Principles (SQA Accreditation) and General Conditions of Recognition (Ofqual) for the qualifications they accredit, which gives additional assurance.

Qualifications accredited by *SQA Accreditation* are listed on their [website](#).

Ofqual recognises our National and International Occupational Health and Safety Diplomas – these are listed on the [Ofqual's Register](#)

The logos of the relevant *regulatory authorities* appear on the *certificates* for those *qualifications*.

Aegrotat award

An *aegrotat* is an award made to a *learner* who is unable, through illness, injury or indisposition, to complete all the usual *assessment* requirements. NEBOSH does not issue *aegrotats*.

Agent

Any third-party individual, body or organisation, whether a group, company, subsidiary or otherwise of a Learning Partner.

AO

See *Awarding Organisation*

Appeal

A process through which an *awarding body* may be challenged on the outcome of an *enquiry about results* or, where appropriate, other procedural decision affecting an *accredited Learning Partner* and/or individual *learners*. A Stage 1 *Appeal* involves a review of the case by NEBOSH. A Stage 2 *Appeal* includes a review by a panel that includes independent representation.

Association for Project Safety (APS)

The *representative* professional body dedicated to working in partnership to eliminate deaths, tackle ill-health and manage risks throughout the whole life of any project in the built environment.

ARC

See *Assessment Registration Confirmation*.

Assessment

The act of measuring (or evaluating) what a learner has learned or what they already know, understand or can do, or even the values, attitudes or beliefs they hold. It can also refer to the measurement tool itself.

Assessment for NEBOSH qualifications involves generating and collecting evidence of a learner's attainment of knowledge, understanding and skills, and judging that evidence against defined standards for formal certification.

NEBOSH assessment can be internal or external, or a combination of both

See also *Assessment method* and *Credibility*

Assessment accessories

See *Rubric*, *Scenario* and *Recognition of prior learning (RPL)*.

Assessment criteria

The requirements that *learners* need to meet to achieve success (or a given grade) in a *qualification* or *unit*, or part of a *unit* (3).

See also *Learning outcomes*.

Assessment for learning

Lots of forms of assessment can be used in multiple ways, but it is recognised that people also learn through the act of being assessed.

For example, even at a simple level, preparing to sit a timed 'exam' encourages you to thoroughly learn and revise your course notes.

As opposed to 'assessment of learning' which can just lead to cramming and not real learning.

Assessment method

A means of generating evidence of a learner's knowledge and/or skills.

Assessment Registration Confirmation (ARC)

Document issued by NEBOSH to each *learner* confirming *registration* details, including *learner number*, for all open registrations for any assessment. This will not list any historic registrations. This document replaced the Examination Entry Confirmations (EEC) and Confirmation of Examination Registration (COER) documents in May 2021.

Assessment/test specification

The detailed requirements of what a test must contain, in terms of duration, type and quantity of questions, number of marks, spread of curriculum topics, rules for sampling etc. to be used to assess the learning outcomes and standards making up a qualification.

See also *Specification*, *Guide*, *Unit*, *Element* and *Standard*.

Assessment task

An activity undertaken by an individual *learner* to show that they can meet the required standard (3). Can be any form of *external assessment* or *internal assessment* including written *examinations*, practical *examinations*, tests, *assignments* and *projects*.

Assessment types

See *Examination*, *Coursework*, *Performance assessment*, *Evidence accumulation*, *Simulation* and *Portfolio*.

Assessor

A person appointed to judge the evidence of a *learner's* work. NEBOSH Assessors are nominated by the *Learning Partner*, who is responsible for marking NEBOSH *assessment tasks* that are *internally assessed*.

See also *Internal assessment*, *Verification*, *Internal verification*, *Internal verifier*, *External verification*, *Direct evidence* and *Evidence*.

Assignment

A form of written *assessment* used for some NEBOSH Diploma *qualifications*, *externally-assessed* by NEBOSH.

Assistive technology

Mechanical or electronic devices which help individuals with particular needs to overcome specific limitations (3).

Attainment

A measure of the accomplishment of the planned areas of the qualification.

Audit

See *Monitoring*.

Authentication

Confirmation that work has been produced by the *learner* who is putting it forward for *assessment*, and that it has been produced under the required conditions, where applicable: typically in the form of a statement signed by both *learner* and *tutor*.

or

Confirmation by an *awarding body* from its records that a *learner* was *awarded a qualification* that they claim to have been *awarded*.

Awarding

The process through which *learners' results* and/or *grades* are determined based on available evidence.

Awarding Body

An organisation or consortium that awards *qualifications*. To be eligible to award accredited *qualifications*, *awarding bodies* must first meet the requirements of the *regulatory authorities*. *Awarding Body* is the term used by the *regulator* in Scotland (4). *Awarding Organisation* is the term used by the *regulators* in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Awarding Body approval (or recognition)

Process by which prospective *awarding bodies* meet the requirements of the *regulator* to offer *accredited qualifications*. *Awarding Body approval* is the term used by the *regulator* in Scotland. *Awarding Organisation recognition* is the term used by the *regulators* in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Awarding Organisation

See *Awarding Body*.

B

Batch EAR

See *Enquiry About Results, Batch*.

Bespoke qualifications

NEBOSH can work with businesses to design a bespoke qualification that is exclusive to their organisation or industry sector; ensuring that it has the quality and rigor of a regulated qualification but with the flexibility and content their workers need. Bespoke qualifications are where NEBOSH examine the assessment to a standard compared to our regulated qualifications. See *NEBOSH Endorsed* (for both Bespoke and Endorsed, NEBOSH can support the design and development of content and/or assessments).

Blended assessment

The process of combining *assessments* for several *Units*, outcomes or performance criteria into a single coherent activity.

It can be used to support flexible delivery, promote integrated learning and assessment, and provide a choice of assessment approaches.

British Sign Language (BSL) / English Interpreter

An individual who interprets communication into and from *British Sign Language (BSL)* (3).

British Safety Council (BSC)

A not-for-profit membership organisation, that works with its members to help reduce risk, prevent injuries and promote health and well-being in the workplace.

C

Candidate

See *Learner*.

Carrier language

The language used by the *awarding body* to set an *assessment task* or test which may not be the first/preferred language of the *learner* (3).

CCTV

Closed Circuit Television (3).

Centre

See *Learning Partner*.

Certificate

The record of attainment in a *unit* or *qualification* issued by an *Awarding Body*. See *Unit certificate*, or *Qualification parchment*.

Certification

The formal process of crediting learners with a record of their achievement.

Closed book examination/assessment

An examination/assessment where the learner cannot use external resources, such as course notes, or the Internet.

See also *Open book examination/assessment*.

Code of Practice

Principles and practices specified by the *regulatory authorities* against which *awarding body* processes and procedures for the assessing and awarding of particular *qualification* types are evaluated.

Cognitive competence

The ability to use and apply knowledge and understanding.

See also *Learning, Competence* and *Competence-based assessment*.

Cohort

A group of *learners* undertaking a particular *examination* at the same *sitting* with the same accredited *Learning Partner*.

Cohort referenced assessment

A form of *assessment* which measures what learners can do in comparison with each other.

See also *Criterion references assessment*.

Collusion

Learners or others secretly working together on an assessment when they shouldn't.

See also *Collusion, Maladministration, Malpractice* and *Plagiarism*.

Combined assessment

(See *Blended assessment*)

Comparability (a principle of assessment)

The extent to which different *assessments* or marking processes, based on the same *assessment criteria* and *specification*, achieve equivalent results.

Assessments can be said to be comparable, or not, with respect to the different individuals being assessed, the *Learning Partners*, the *Awarding Bodies*, the delivery media and so on.

In an *e-assessment* context, comparability can also refer to the extent to which performance in an *on-screen assessment* matches performance in an on-paper test.

Competence

The ability to apply knowledge, understanding and skills in performing to the standards required in employment. This includes solving problems and meeting changing demands.

See also *Learning, Cognitive competence* and *Competence-based assessment*.

Competence-based assessment

An assessment process in which evidence is collected to judge whether fixed performance criteria/predetermined standards have been met. Generally used in vocational areas where an assessor works with a learner to collect evidence of competence against the qualification standards.

See also *Diagnostic assessment, Formative assessment, Ipsative assessment, Summative assessment* and *Synoptic assessment, Learning, Competence* and *Cognitive competence*.

Confirmation of examination registration (COER)

This document was replaced by the *Assessment Registration Confirmation* in May 2021. See *Assessment Registration Confirmation*.

Confirmed date

The date that a *unit* or *overall qualification* result is confirmed by NEBOSH. This date is stated on the relevant *qualification parchment*.

Course programme

A programme or course of study (3), delivered by the *accredited Learning Partner* to prepare *learners* for *assessment tasks* set for a NEBOSH *qualification* or *unit(s)*. Also known as *Learning Programme*.

Course Provider

See *Learning Partner*.

Coursework/non-examined and tutor assessment

Where learners produce written reports or complete structured activities which are typically marked by tutors who are also responsible for delivering the learning programmes in which the assessment is located.

CPD

Continuous Professional Development

Credibility

A measure of the confidence placed in the results of any assessment.

Credit

See *Grade*.

Credits (or credit points)

An *award* made to a *learner* in recognition of the achievement of the designated *learning outcomes* of a *unit*.

Credit rating

The process of allocating an *SCQF level* and credit points to *qualifications* (1).

Credit rating body

An organisation that carries credit rating in the *SCQF*. *SQA Accreditation* is the *credit rating body* for NEBOSH *qualifications* (1).

Credit value

The number of *credits* that may be awarded to a *learner* for the successful achievement of the *learning outcomes* of a *unit*.

Criterion referenced assessment

A form of *assessment* which measures what learners can do against previously defined *assessment criteria*.

See also *Cohort referenced assessment*.

Cut-off score

A score/mark on an assessment which divides *learners* into different groups, as pass–refer/fail, qualified–unqualified, A *grade*–B *grade*.

Some *assessments* only have one cut-off score (ie pass/fail); others may have several (ie *grades*).

D**Data Processor**

A third-party company who processes the data provided by the Data Controller for the express purpose of fulfilling the written contract in place.

Data Controller

The *Data Controller* collects the data from the data subject and controls the processing of the data provided.

Declaration

See *Result declaration date*

Diagnostic assessment

Can be used to diagnose strengths and weaknesses, can complement *formative assessment* or can be carried out before a course to help design personalised learning.

See also *Competence-based assessment*, *Formative assessment*, *Ipsative assessment*, *Summative assessment* and *Synoptic assessment*.

Differentiation between learners (a principle of assessment)

The process of distinguishing between the attainments of different learners.

See also *Discrimination*.

Discrimination (a principle of assessment)

An *item's* potential to differentiate between learners (ie stronger learners are more likely to get it correct than weaker learners).

See also *Differentiation between learners*.

Digital assessment

Assessment that is digital/electronic and where the use of any form of paper is not required.

The medium through which the assessment process is done, eg uses digital tools and methods for both sitting and marking.

Many forms of *assessment* can have some element of the 'digital' (eg many people might type assignments directly into software packages), but proper digital assessment means where the assessment (and associated procedures, such as marking) is mainly or wholly digital. For example, interactive forms, quizzes or other such activities done online or offline on a PC, laptop, smartphone or tablet device.

Direct evidence

A term used to describe learner performance or product evidence which *assessors* have witnessed themselves.

See also *Internal assessment, Assessor, Verification, Internal verification, Internal verifier, External verification* and *Evidence*.

Distinction

See *Grade*.

Distractor/distracter

An incorrect response offered as one of the options for a closed/objective question (usually a multiple choice or a multiple response item), each distractor must be plausible but incorrect in a significant respect.

See also *Objective-response items, Multiple-choice items, Key, Structured response items, Extended response items*.

E

e-Assessment

The use of electronic media in the assessment process.

e-Delivery of paper examinations

This method allows for *examinations* to operate a traditional paper delivery model; however it removes the logistical steps of physical exam papers being delivered and returned for marking.

See also *Outbound logistics* and *Inbound logistics*.

Element

Qualification *Units* contain elements in which the *Learning Outcomes* and content are detailed.

See also *Specification*, *Guide*, *Unit*, *Assessment/test specification* and *Standard*.

Enabling technologies

See *Assistive technology*.

Enquiry About Results (EAR)

A process through which an *awarding body* may be asked to check one or more of the steps leading to a reported result, by a *learner* or with the permission of the *learner*, by the *accredited Learning Partner*.

A *Type 1 EAR* checks whether all marks have been correctly allocated, added and confirmed. A *Type 2 EAR* includes a re-mark of the *learner's script* followed by a clerical check.

Enquiry About Results (EAR), Batch

Accredited Learning Partners may submit a *Batch Enquiry About Results* for all *examination scripts* from a particular *examination cohort* or *sitting*. *Scripts* and/or *assignments* from different *cohorts/sittings*, *units* or *qualifications* cannot be part of the same batch.

Enrolment

A process that applies to *learners* taking NEBOSH Diploma-level *qualifications*. All *units* or components must be completed within the stated *enrolment* period to achieve the overall *qualification*. Enrolled *learners* must still *register* for individual NEBOSH Diploma-level *examinations* to undertake *assessment tasks*. See also *Registration*.

Equitable and fair

Equitable and fair basically mean the same thing.

Principles of assessment ensuring that there are no unnecessary barriers to *assessment* in the specification of skills, knowledge and understanding or the development of the assessment.

European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

A common European reference framework which acts as a translation device to make *qualifications* and learning programmes more understandable across Europe. Its two main aims are to promote citizens' mobility between countries and to facilitate lifelong learning (1).

Event notification/reportable incident

Regulators expect awarding organisations to report to them any incident or event that affects their ability to develop, deliver or award qualifications that they regulate, especially where learners or the public are affected. They then monitor the awarding organisation as they put corrective and preventative actions in place. Ofqual calls these 'event notifications', SQA Accreditation calls them 'reportable incidents'.

Evidence

Materials provided by a learner as proof of their competence against specified performance criteria.

See also *Internal assessment, Assessor, Verification, Internal verification, Internal verifier, External verification* and *Direct evidence*.

Evidence accumulation

Where learners are responsible (with appropriate levels of support) for gathering evidence of performance in a range of activities and for assembling this evidence into a portfolio/record of evidence.

This is then scored/rated by teachers or qualified assessors and subject to external moderation/verification.

Exam

See *Examination*.

Exam Board

See *Awarding Body*.

Examination

A formal test of knowledge, understanding or ability.

The term tends to be used for *summative assessments* taken at the end of a period of study.

Traditionally examinations tend to be written answer tests and *multiple choice papers* sat under “strict examination conditions” such as silence, time limit, invigilation, no access to external resources (‘closed book’), and other measures to discourage, prevent and detect cheating.

Examinations can be done under more relaxed conditions, such as open book.

Examination question paper

Document generated by NEBOSH and provided to accredited *Learning Partners* containing the *assessment tasks* to which a *cohort* of *learners* provide written responses during an *examination*.

Examination script

A *learner’s* written response to an *external* or *internal* assessment.

Examination venue

The location where an *examination* is held. May be different to the location of the head office of the *accredited Learning Partner*.

Examiner

A person with subject expertise designated by NEBOSH who is responsible for the marking of *learner* responses. They are required to use *professional judgement* because of the type of *mark scheme* they are applying.

See also *Team Leader*.

Exemption

The facility for a *learner* to claim exemption from some of the achievement requirements of a *qualification*, using evidence of certificated achievement of equivalent value. *Exemptions* are set by the *awarding body*.

Extended-response items

Where learners have to create a given amount of text and/or working, and which allow learners to organise their responses and present material in an original way.

See also *Objective-response items*, *Multiple-choice items*, *Distractor*, *Key*, *Structured response items*, *Extended response items*.

External assessment

A form of independent *assessment* in which *question papers, assignments* and tasks are set by the *Awarding Organisation*, taken under specified conditions (including details of supervision and duration) and marked by the *Awarding Organisation*.

See also *Examiner and Team Leader*.

External learners

A *learner* who pursues a course of study independently but registers for an *assessment task* at an approved examination centre. The regulatory term is “private candidates”.

External verification

The process of ensuring that standards of assessment are being maintained consistently across all *Learning Partners*.

See also *Internal assessment, Assessor, Verification, Internal verification, Internal verifier, Direct evidence* and *Evidence*.

F

FAB

See *Federation of Awarding Bodies*

Fair and equitable

See *Equitable and fair*.

Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB)

The Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB) is a trade association representing awarding bodies offering vocational *qualifications* in the United Kingdom.

Feedback

Qualitative information about their performance given to *learners* after an *assessment*. Unlike a *grade*, feedback is explicitly developmental, ie oriented towards further progress on the part of the *learner*.

Feedback is particularly important in *formative assessment* when no final grade will be given.

Feedback may include a correct or model response and an explanation of any incorrect responses made by the learner.

Fees schedule, or fees list

Document showing fees charged for services offered by NEBOSH.

Formative assessment

Refers to a process that happens during the teaching/learning (so it changes, informs or 'forms' our learning).

The use of assessment to measure progress through a course, giving feedback to help the learner know where to improve.

Assessment providing developmental feedback to a learner so that they can adjust their plan for future learning.

It is not recorded for external purposes.

See also *Competence-based assessment*, *Diagnostic assessment*, *Ipsative assessment*, *Summative assessment* and *Synoptic assessment*.

G**Grade**

A point on a scale of performance used to differentiate achievement within a *qualification*. NEBOSH uses *distinction*, *credit* or *pass*.

Guide

NEBOSH publication containing the *syllabus*, *assessment tasks* and performance *specification* for a NEBOSH *qualification*.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This replaces the Data Protection Act 1998 in its entirety.

H**Head of Learning Partner**

A named individual in the *Learning Partner* responsible for the overall quality assurance, management and administration of awards. The regulatory term is "Head of centre".

I

IEMA

Institute of Environmental Management

IFPO

Institute of Fire Protection Officers

Internal assessment

An *assessment* which is carried out by the Learning Partner. Internal assessment should always be internally verified by the Learning Partner and is subject to moderation by NEBOSH, or external verification.

See also *Assessor, Verification, Internal verification, Internal verifier, External verification, Direct evidence and Evidence, Moderation.*

Internal verification

The process of ensuring that standards of assessment for NEBOSH qualifications are applied uniformly and consistently within a *Learning Partner*.

See also *Internal assessment, Assessor, Verification, Internal verifier, External verification, Direct evidence and Evidence.*

Internal verifier

A staff member appointed by the *Learning Partner* who ensures that *assessors* apply standards of *assessment* uniformly and consistently.

See also *Internal assessment, Assessor, Verification, Internal verification, External verification, Direct evidence and Evidence.*

Invigilation

This is about 'keeping watch' or being vigilant.

It's called *proctoring* in some parts of the world.

It just means that that someone or something (let's call them an 'Invigilator') supervises the assessment to make sure it runs smoothly, and everyone follows the rules (especially, looking out for cheating).

Most people's experience of this is in examinations.

Invigilation can also be done remotely (combined with *On-screen assessment*) either using a real person on the end of a video link or through software that monitors activity.

Invigilator

A person who supervises *learners* taking an *examination* or *assessment* (3).

IOSH

Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

Ipsative assessment

An assessment that is personal to the individual learner. It measures progress (or even regress) over time. It also assesses what a learner has achieved now relative to some previous measurement.

In other types of assessment, we usually compare performance between individuals against some more objective criteria or 'the average' learner.

Ipsative assessments are especially good for encouraging development and confidence.

See also *Competence-based assessment*, *Diagnostic assessment*, *Formative assessment*, *Summative assessment* and *Synoptic assessment*.

Item

The smallest component of an *assessment*, such as a question or task.

See also *Item bank* and *Model answer*.

Item bank

A storage facility for *items* that allows them to be maintained and used for test generation purposes.

See also *Item* and *Model answer*.

J

Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)

A membership organisation representing eight of the largest awarding organisations of *qualifications* in the UK: AQA, City & Guilds, CEA, NCFE, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC.

K

Key

The correct response for a closed/objective item (usually a multiple choice or multiple response item).

See also *Objective-response items, Multiple-choice items, Distractor, Key, Structured response items, Extended response items.*

L

Language Modifier

Person who can modify/rephrase the *carrier language* for a *learner* whose first/preferred language is English but who has specific difficulties with written language (3).

Learner

Someone who is studying with a *Learning Partner* or through an employer; the person entered for a qualification or training course. NEBOSH uses the term 'learner' rather than 'student'.

Learner number

Unique identifier for each learner as assigned by NEBOSH.

Learning

Gaining knowledge or skills through study, experience or being taught.

See also *Competence, Cognitive competence and Competence-based assessment.*

Learning outcomes

Statements that define the products of learning. They describe the activities the learner has to perform to achieve a Unit.

See also *Assessment criteria.*

Learning Partner (LP)

An organisation approved by NEBOSH to deliver qualifications and training courses (including assessments). Wide range of types e.g. could be a college, commercial training provider or employer, and may be international and multi-site.

Previously referred to as *Course Providers*. The term used by the *regulatory authorities* is 'centre'.

Learning Partner Programme (LPP)

NEBOSH's quality assurance programme; recognising those Learning Partners who can prove that they meet the principles that represent global best practice in the provision of course tuition and support.

Level

The level at which a *qualification* or *unit* is positioned in a national qualifications framework.

and

An indication of the relative demand, complexity and/or depth of achievement, and/or the autonomy of the *learner*, represented by a *qualification*.

Logo

See *Regulatory logo*.

LPQ

Learning Partner Quality.

M

Malpractice

Malpractice is defined as any deliberate activity, neglect, default or other practice by *learners* and/or *accredited Learning Partners* that compromises the integrity of the *assessment* process, and/or the validity of *certificates*. Malpractice may include a range of issues from *collusion* or use of unauthorised material by *learners* in an *examination*, to the failure to maintain appropriate records or systems by *accredited Learning Partners* to the deliberate falsification of records in order to claim *certificates*.

Types of learner malpractice includes posting or soliciting controlled assessments on social media, being in possession of confidential material before the examination (eg question papers, controlled case studies, etc); or disrupting the examination or assessment (eg through aggressive or unacceptable behaviour, or failing to follow the Invigilator's instructions).

Types of Learning Partner malpractice includes breaching the security/breaking the confidentiality of examination materials or learners' assessments; any act of dishonesty in relation to an examination or assessment, including facilitating learner malpractice; giving learners help beyond that permitted by NEBOSH, and *maladministration*.

See also *Collusion*, *Maladministration* and *Plagiarism*.

Maladministration

Maladministration is any activity, neglect, default or other practice that results in the *Learning Partner* or *learner* not complying with the specified requirements for delivery of the *qualifications* and as set out in the relevant *codes of practice* where applicable.

Mark

The smallest component of credit that can be given in a *mark scheme*.

Mark scheme

A scheme detailing how marks are to be awarded in relation to a particular *assessment unit or component*. A *mark scheme* normally characterises acceptable answers to questions/tasks or parts of questions/tasks and identifies the amount of *credit* each attracts.

Marking

The process by which *Examiners* use a *mark scheme* and *professional judgement* to assess *learner* responses to *assessment tasks*.

MCQ

Multiple choice questions.

See *Multiple-choice items* and *Multiple Choice Question Papers*

Method of assessment

See *Assessment method*.

Model answer

An exemplar response to an *item*.

See also *Item* and *Item bank*.

Moderation

The process of checking through which *internal assessment* is monitored by the *awarding body* to ensure that it is reliable, fair and consistent with required standards, between *assessors*, between *accredited Learning Partners* and over time, and making adjustments to results where required to compensate for any differences in standard that are encountered.

Monitoring

The review of, and reporting on, the *awarding body's* quality assurance arrangements by the *regulatory authorities* or the *awarding body* and the *accredited Learning Partner*.

Multiple-choice items

A specific form of objective-response item, where the learners' responses are constrained to a given list of alternatives, selecting the response which best completes a statement or answers a question.

See also *Objective-response items, Distractor, Key, Structured response items, Extended response items.*

Multiple Choice Question Paper (MCQP)

Rather than writing a response to each question, *learners* are asked to select the correct answer from a number of options.

N

NEBOSH

National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health.

NEBOSH Award

A NEBOSH *qualification* designed to be at *Level 5* in in the *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)* comparable to *Level 2* in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

NEBOSH Certificate

A NEBOSH *qualification* designed to be at *Level 6* or *7* in the *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)* or *Level 3* or *4* in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

NEBOSH Diploma

A NEBOSH *qualification* designed to be at *Level 9* or *10* in the *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)* or *Level 5* or *6* on the *RQF*.

NEBOSH Endorsed

The NEBOSH Endorsed service – as its name suggests – endorses in-house health and safety training that delivers a tangible impact. Organisations benefit from an evaluation of, and expert support for, their in-house training and workers receive a NEBOSH Endorsed certificate to recognise the learning that has taken place. For Endorsed qualifications, we approve the assessment methodology and then carry out audits to ensure that the method is followed. See *Bespoke qualifications* (for both Bespoke and Endorsed, NEBOSH can support the design and development of content and/or assessments).

NEBOSH assessment platform

NEBOSH platform where learners can complete online/offline e-learning and exam assessments/assignments.

O

OBE

See *Open book examination*.

Objective-response items

Where learners are required to provide a highly defined response, such as adding a line to a diagram, completing a number sequence, completing a statement.

See also *Multiple-choice items, Distractor, Key, Structured response items, Extended response items*.

Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual)

The national *regulator* of all *qualifications* in England previously known as QCA. See also *Regulatory authorities*.

Ofqual

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation.

The national *regulator* of *qualifications* in England. *Ofqual* has a UK-wide regulatory remit. NEBOSH is an Ofqual-recognised *Awarding Organisation* and offers Ofqual-accredited qualifications, which appear on the *RQF*.

See *SQA Accreditation*.

On-demand examination (or sitting)

On-demand examinations are requested from NEBOSH by *accredited Learning Partners* for *NEBOSH Award and Certificate-level examinations* for a date requested by the *accredited Learning Partner* (providing six weeks' notice is given). They are not available for NEBOSH Diploma-level *qualifications*. Previously known as 'local examinations'.

On-screen assessment

One of many ways of delivering digital assessment.

The assessment is done through a PC, laptop, smartphone or tablet device, usually via a web browser or if available a mobile/tablet app.

On-screen doesn't necessarily just mean online (ie live internet connection).

You might be off-line (ie no live Internet) but still working 'on-screen' as many assessment platforms allow for the assessment to be downloaded and run locally on a laptop. There is a minimum connection requirement to do an initial download for offline usage and again for submitting.

Open book examination (OBE)/assessment

An examination/assessment where the learner is encouraged to use external resources, such as course notes, or the Internet. Our open-book assessments are conducted online and are commonly referred to as *digital assessments*.

(See also *Closed book examination/assessment* and *digital assessments*)

OSH

Occupational Safety and Health

P

Parchment

(See *Qualification parchment*).

Pass

See *Grade*.

Pass mark

The minimum score in a graded assessment required to achieve the lowest 'pass' grade in the range.

May also be used in a minimum competence test for the minimum score for which a pass award will be given.

NB. Pass mark can vary between assessments yet still have the same 'pass standard'.

See also *Cut-off score*, *Provisional pass mark*.

Pass standard

The minimum acceptable achievement against objective competence criteria.

Pedagogy

Pedagogue derived partly from the Greek word for a teacher. So, pedagogy just means your teaching approach, teaching methods, or the whole subject of 'teaching' in general.

For example – the *Socratic* method which seeks to help the learner problem solve and answer their own questions.

Performance assessment

Where performance in work tasks, or activities such as laboratory work are observed and scored/rated by a tutor or qualified assessor.

Assessment in work contexts typically is guided by occupational standards.

Personal data

This term has the meaning ascribed to it in the *General Data Protection Regulation*: any information which is related to an identified or identifiable person (6).

Plagiarism

Learners using the work of others and passing it off as their own for assessment purposes and/or unacknowledged, or excessive copying from published sources (including the Internet) or incomplete referencing.

See also *Malpractice*.

Portfolio

A representative collection of a learner's work, usually assembled over the period of the learning, to demonstrate or exemplify either that a range of criteria has been met, or to showcase a learner's best work.

Positive marking

A system of marking where marks are awarded for what is correct rather than deducted for what is wrong (which is called negative marking).

Practical assistant

Person who carries out practical tasks at the instruction of the *learner* (3).

Practicable (a principle of assessment)

Practicable basically means 'realistically doable' or 'possible'.

A valid and reliable assessment may not be practicable due to the resources or time required to carry it out efficiently and effectively.

Proctoring

See *Invigilation*.

Professional judgement

A decision reached by those qualified through experience and knowledge of the discipline, field of study, profession, trade or area of skill (1).

Project

A form of written *assessment* used for some *NEBOSH Certificate* and *Diploma* qualifications. *Internally assessed* by the *accredited Learning Partner* and *moderated* by NEBOSH.

Prompter

Person who draws the *learner's* attention back to the task in hand (3).

Provisional pass mark

Sometimes also referred to as a notional or nominal mark. This is the mark provisionally set for a unit before the Awarding process. This mark may be adjusted during the Awarding process to ensure consistency of standards over time. Please see the FAQ: [How does NEBOSH set the pass mark for each assessment?](#)

Proxy learner

This is a form of cheating where a learner gets someone else to take an assessment for them. The proxy pretends to be that learner and they will often have fake identification too. In some parts of the world, this is run very much as a business transaction. The proxy might attempt to register as the learner from the beginning of the process.

See *Malpractice*.

Q

Qualification

An *award* made by an *awarding body* for demonstration of achievement or *competence*.

Qualification level

See *Level*.

Qualification parchment

The record of attainment issued by NEBOSH to a *learner* on successful completion of all *units* that form part of a *NEBOSH qualification*. The *parchment* displays the *learner's* overall *grade*. The design of *certificates* for *accredited qualifications* must conform to regulatory guidelines. Also known as an *overall qualification certificate*.

Qualification structure

See *Specification*, *Unit*, *Element*, *Assessment/test specification* and *Standard*.

Qualification verification

A learner/employer/other's ability to confirm a learner's achievement. Verifying the authenticity of the parchment/certificate.

Question types

See *Objective-response items, Multiple-choice items, Distractor, Key, Structured response items, Extended response items.*

Question validity

Demand: a measure of a question's cognitive requirements, normally expressed in terms of a recognised taxonomy. The level of demand in NEBOSH qualifications relates to *SCQF* levels.

Difficulty: a measure of a question's complexity or obscurity, or the relative (to other questions) probability of a learner answering it correctly. In technical usage, it is sometimes expressed as a numerical value to indicate a proportion of learners who answer it correctly.

R

Raw mark

The unmodified score achieved on an assessment, immediately after marking. This is generally the number of questions answered correctly, or the total marks achieved.

Raw scores are often then converted to percentage marks, standardised scores, grades, etc.

Reader

A Reader is a responsible adult who reads the instructions of the question paper and the questions to the learner.

Reasonable adjustments

The Equality Act 2010 requires an *awarding body* to make *reasonable adjustments* where a disabled person would be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled. The *awarding body* is required to take reasonable steps to avoid that disadvantage. An example would be a Braille paper which would be a *reasonable adjustment* for a Braille reader, but not for a *learner* who was unable to read Braille.

A *reasonable adjustment* for a particular person may be unique to that individual and may not be included in the list of available *access arrangements*.

How reasonable the adjustment is will depend on a number of factors including the needs of the disabled *learner*. An adjustment may not be considered reasonable if it involves unreasonable costs, timeframes or affects the security or integrity of the *assessment*.

There is no duty on the *awarding bodies* to make any adjustment to the *assessment objectives* being tested in an *assessment*.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

A process that enables an individual to receive formal recognition through certification of prior learning, training or experience.

Redeclaration

Should a learner's result for a qualification need to be changed for any reason (eg following a successful *Enquiry about results*), then the result will be redeclared and new Unit Result Notification issued.

Registration

NEBOSH *learners* must register for each individual NEBOSH assessment that they wish to undertake. Learners will receive an Assessment Registration Confirmation (ARC) upon successful registration and payment to an assessment. See also *Assessment Registration Confirmation*.

Enrolled learners must still *register* for individual NEBOSH Diploma-level *examinations*. See also *Enrolment*.

Registration form

NEBOSH form containing the Learner Terms which an *accredited Learning Partner* must return to NEBOSH with any necessary monies in order to register a *learner* to a NEBOSH assessment.

Regulated qualification

Qualifications that are listed on regulators frameworks and a certificate of achievement is issued by an Awarding Body/Organisation; most qualifications have a difficulty level, the higher the level the more difficult the qualification is; England, Wales and Northern Ireland have 9 qualification levels, Scotland has 12 levels structured on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Many of NEBOSH's qualifications are regulated on the *SCQF*, our National and International Diplomas for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals are on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Level 6.

For a comparison chart of different frameworks, please see the [Qualifications Can Cross Boundaries leaflet](#), which you can find on SQA Accreditation's website.

Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

See *RQF*.

Regulator

An organisation or department designated by government to establish and to secure compliance with national standards for *qualifications*. The *regulatory authorities* in the UK are: *SQA Accreditation, Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA Regulation*.

NEBOSH are currently regulated by *SQA Accreditation* and *Ofqual*.

Regulatory authorities

See *Regulator*.

Regulatory body

See *Regulator*.

Regulatory logo

The *logo* of the appropriate *regulatory authority* that appears on *certificates* and/or *result notifications* issued for *accredited qualifications*. *SQA Accreditation* permits their logo to appear on certificates where the assessment has been taken with in the UK only.

Regulatory review

A process where unresolved *appeals* are considered by the relevant *regulator*. Regulators will only review appeals on qualifications which they accredit.

Reliability (a principle of assessment)

The extent to which assessment results are consistent from one learner to the next, and from one assessor to the next and from one occasion to the next, for example with a different assessor.

A measure of the accuracy of the mark achieved if another test from a bank of equivalent items is used.

Reportable incident

See *Event notification*

Result declaration date

The date that a *unit* and/or overall *qualification* result is declared by NEBOSH for *Certificate* and *Diploma assessments*. Expected result declaration dates are published on the learner's Assessment Registration Confirmation (ARC) for that unit.

The result declaration date is also the date printed on the relevant *unit* or *overall qualification parchment*.

See also *Unit result notification date* and *Assessment Registration Confirmation*

RPL

(See *Recognition of prior learning*)

Rubric

A set of instructions and other items of guidance provided for *learners* on an *assessment*.

RQF

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) accredits qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. RQF is jointly regulated by the England's regulator Ofqual, Qualification Wales and Northern Ireland's CCEA.

Scotland has its own system - the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

S

Scenario

An abbreviated case study or history which can be used as part of an assessment.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

See *SCQF*.

Scottish Qualifications Authority – Accreditation

See *SQA Accreditation*.

Scribe

Person who writes down or word processes a *learner's* dictated responses (3).

SCQF

Qualification framework used in Scotland, the SCQF has 12 levels. The majority of NEBOSH *qualifications* are *level* and *credit rated* in the SCQF. Equivalency with *qualification* frameworks in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Europe can be found using the *Qualifications can cross boundaries* chart issued by the relevant *regulators* and available on the NEBOSH website (7).

Sensitive personal data

This term has a meaning ascribed to it in the General Data Protection Regulation: includes personal data revealing racial and ethnic origin, for example.

Short-answer items

See *Structured-response*.

Simulation

Any structured assessment exercise involving the organisation and achievement of a specific task which seeks to reproduce real life situations, used where assessment is difficult to carry out, eg for safety reasons.

Socratic questioning

'Dialectic' approach to learning by getting the learner to do the work by using different types of questions to reveal what they know, challenge underlying beliefs, and guide them to work it out for themselves.

The idea is that because they have worked through it themselves, they will learn it much better.

Understandably there's a lot of 'why', 'what' and 'how' in those questions.

See also *Pedagogy*.

Special consideration

Special consideration is an adjustment to a *learner's mark* or *grade* to reflect temporary illness, injury or other unforeseen indisposition at the time of the *assessment*.

Specification

The complete description – including mandatory and optional aspects – of the content, *assessment* arrangements and performance requirements for a *qualification* (5). See also *Guide*, *Unit*, *Element*, *Assessment/test specification* and *Standard*.

The term is also used by NEBOSH to distinguish different versions of the same *qualification*; for example, the NEBOSH National Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety February 2010 specification) and the NEBOSH National Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (December 2015 specification).

Speech (recognition) software

A computer programme that reads text (3).

Standard

The criteria for success at a particular level; a pre-determined level of attainment for certification.

See also *Specification, Guide, Unit, Element, and Assessment/test specification*.

SQA Accreditation (SQA)

The national *regulator of qualifications* in Scotland. *SQA Accreditation* has a UK-wide regulatory remit. NEBOSH is an SQA Accreditation-approved *Awarding Body* and offers SQA Accreditation-accredited and *SCQF credit rated qualifications*.

See *Ofqual*.

Standard examination (or sitting)

NEBOSH sets a number of *examination* dates on an annual basis. The precise dates and number of *standard sittings* available for each *qualification* are specified in the [qualification section](#) on the NEBOSH website. To access these dates, please select the qualification that you or looking to study.

Standardisation

Processes to check, adjust and ensure that assessment processes and criteria (including both the administration of the assessment itself, and its marking) are applied consistently by assessors, examiners and verifiers.

Standardisation can be carried out within Learning Partners as well as by Awarding Bodies.

Structured-response

Where learners have to provide succinct, specific responses to questions, but where the marking scheme allows some variation in those responses.

See also *Objective-response items, Multiple-choice items, Distractor, Key and Extended response items*.

Student

See *Learner*.

Summative assessment

Assessment, generally undertaken at the end of a learning activity or programme of learning, which is used to make a judgement on the learner's overall attainment (like a final exam for a qualification).

The point is that it is assessment done when the relevant teaching and learning has already happened.

A key purpose of summative assessment is to record, and often grade, the learner's performance in relation to the stated learning outcomes of the programme. This is called 'summing up'.

See also *Competence-based assessment, Diagnostic assessment, Formative assessment, Ipsative assessment, and Synoptic assessment*.

Syllabus

An outline and summary of topics to be covered by a *qualification*, contained within a *NEBOSH Guide to a qualification*.

Synoptic assessment

Assesses multiple units or topics of learning – a holistic approach. This could be a couple of Units or even the whole course. Synoptic assessment is commonly used later on or at the end of a course of study.

Realistic for some topics which are highly related, connected, dependent or greatly overlap eg the practical car driving test is synoptic as it pulls together both the application of theory (like rules of the road) together with the ability to control the vehicle.

Synoptic assessment helps learning because they reinforce the connectedness of discrete Units of learning.

See also *Competence-based assessment, Diagnostic assessment, Formative assessment, Ipsative assessment and Summative assessment*.

T

Team Leader

The person designated by NEBOSH who is responsible for judging and recording the review of *Examiner's* marking.

Tutor assessment

(See *Coursework/non-examined and tutor assessment*).

Transcript

A full written or typewritten copy of information or material originally provided in writing, speech or sign language (3).

U**Unit (of a qualification)**

The smallest part of a *qualification* which is formally reported and can be separately certificated.

A unit is the basis of NEBOSH's qualification system.

See also *Specification, Guide, Element, Assessment/test specification* and *Standard*.

Unit certificate

The record of attainment issued by NEBOSH to a *learner* on successful completion of a *unit* that forms part of a NEBOSH *qualification*. NEBOSH *unit certificates* are not *graded*. The design of *certificates* for *accredited qualifications* must conform to regulatory guidelines.

Unit Result Notification (URN)

NEBOSH document notifying the *learner* of the outcome of each *examination* or submission undertaken.

See also *Result declaration date*

Unit Result Notification (URN) date

The latest date by which results for a *unit examination* sitting will be received by *learners*. This date is stated on the *examination entry confirmation* document issued to the *learner*, relevant to that *unit examination*. See also *Result declaration date*.

V

Validity

A measure of the accuracy of an assessment.

A 'valid assessment' means that the assessment is appropriate for its purpose, has been designed to allow learners to show that they have the required knowledge, understanding and skills to meet the standards of the qualification.

Any interpretation and use of the assessment results are supported and can be justified.

Verification

The process of ensuring that quality assurance systems are being maintained, can be either internal or external.

See also *Internal assessment, Assessor, Internal verification, Internal verifier, External verification, Direct evidence and Evidence, Qualification verification.*

Voice activated software

A computer programme which responds to spoken instructions (3).

Void result

Results are declared void either because an error has been identified; or because a learner has been found to be involved in *malpractice*. If a result is declared void after the original declaration date NEBOSH amend the learner's record, which means the QR code on the void certificate will show that it is no longer valid.

W

Withheld results

NEBOSH can temporarily prevent results from being sent to learners where there is reasonable evidence that there is a risk to the integrity of the results. For example, if there is an allegation of malpractice by the learner or the Learning Partner, or there has been an error identified before the result has been issued.

XYZ

Not applicable.

3. References

1. *SCQF Handbook: User Guide*, Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, 2015.
2. *Malpractice: Information for Centres*, SQA (AA7694), December 2020
3. *FAB Guide: The Application of Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration in Vocational Qualifications*, Federation of Awarding Bodies, January 2012.
4. *SQA Accreditation's Glossary*, SQA Accreditation, 2021
5. *SQA Accreditation's Regulatory Principles (2021)*, SQA Accreditation, December 2021
6. *General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)*, (EU) 2016/679, 2018.
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8. *Ofqual Handbook: General Conditions of Recognition*, Ofqual, October 2017 (online)

4. Document Control

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