

Digital Skills Newsletter - 16

Reminders and updates

Digital and IT Apprenticeship Standards offer

The revised and new Digital and IT Apprenticeship Standards are now live on the IfATE website. The new and revised EPA products are:

- **Information Communication Technician (ICT)** – replacement for Infrastructure Technician and Unified Communication Technician
- **Data Analyst** – not previously offered by C&G
- **Network Engineer**
- **Software Developer**

If you wish to use our End-point Assessment Organisation for ICT and Data Analyst, as these are new programmes you will need to complete the EPA Provision form within the Quality area of Walled Garden or the form on our website – [EPA-Only](#). All those currently using us for their Network Engineer and Software Developer EPA have been automatically given “approval” for the new Standards labelled Version 1.1 and with the new City & Guilds numbers below.

Current apprenticeships

From the 1 August 2021 all new apprentices for the Network Engineer, Software Developer and Data Analyst will need to be registered for the new products, as these will be the only ones available on your ILR. In addition, those currently working with the Infrastructure Technician and Unified Communications Technician will have to switch to the new Information Communications Technician

NB: City & Guilds will allow registration on the current apprenticeships until you do not need that facility anymore. More importantly, we will keep the EPA booking and offer open until the last apprentice on the older Standards has been processed.

Just remember that while you can no longer use funding to pay for registration and certification on Vendor programmes or our knowledge qualifications, you can still pay for learning materials that are appropriate for learning delivery. This can be Vendor material or even our own Get-to-Gateway product as required.

Product publication dates and City & Guilds registration/EPA dates?

Standard	Registration opens	IfATE Publication
Information Communication Technician	18 June 2021	4 May 2021
Data Analyst	18 June 2021	1 June 2021
Network Engineer	1 June 2021	1 June 2021
Software Developer	1 June 2021	1 June 2021

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Note from David and Ken

Standard	EPA booking opens*
Information Communication Technician V1	1 May 2022
Data AnalystV1.1	1 May 2022
Network Engineer V1.1	1 May 2022
Software Developer V1.1	1 May 2022

City & Guilds product numbers

Standard	City & Guilds Number
Information Communication Technician:	
Support Technician	9602-12
Network Technician	9602-13
Digital Communications Technician	9602-14
Data Analyst	9770-12
Network Engineer	9601-12
Software Developer	9600-12

EPA Process

All centres should now be using EPA Pro that has helped smooth out the process by using one system and the introduction of “meet the IEPA” is personalising dates for the EPA evidence submission and interview/professional discussion. This will not change, except that you will now need to consider the timings for the project to be completed and two sessions with the IEPA – Question session following the Project and the Professional Discussion support by the Portfolio.

Also, note that the Portfolio **must be submitted** at Gateway – it is no longer part of the assessed material at EPA.

Adaptation and Teacher Assessed Grading - reminder

For those delivering the Digital Technicals, if you wanted your learners to get their results for the August release dates you should have had your TAG results in by 18 June. Any work coming in now will be subject to result release after around 30 days.

Government categories

DfE/Ofqual and the other regulators has assigned categories to qualifications on the VCRF, based on the purpose of those programmes. These are **Category A** and **Category B**; the latter being split in to **B1** and **B2**.

Category A test occupational or professional knowledge and/or skills, or proficiency in a skill area. Students must be assessed on their competency in these areas so that they can be effective and safe within the workplace.

Category B1 are used to support progression to further or higher study or into employment. They are used instead of, or alongside, GCSEs and A levels. TAGs are permitted and can support progression for certain assessment components and specific conditions.

Category B2 are typically either short-course qualifications, qualifications typically delivered on a 'roll-on/roll-off' basis, or which may be smaller than those in B1 (for example, Entry Level or Award sized qualifications).

Reminder of what Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) is

TAGs **must** be determined based on actual assessment evidence covering the knowledge, understanding or skills that would normally have been assessed (i.e., the evidence must be valid for that particular assessment). Centres should familiarise themselves with the information provided in the guidance document and not rely upon last years' experience.

Digital and ICT qualifications fall into Category A and B1, to help centres working with products in these areas we have updated the Adaptations Guidance to include further means to complete learner assessments – this provides for further alternatives for assignments and Evolve tests.

Make sure you have checked out the latest Guidance:

[Adaptations - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

For further support please contact one of the Quality Teams:

Technicals: technicals.quality@cityandguilds.com

VRQs: vrq.quality@cityandguilds.com
includes on-programme qualifications for Apprenticeship Standards

Functional Skills, etc.: FS.quality@cityandguilds.com
Includes ESOL, Essential Skills Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

New service

City & Guilds has been working behind the scenes to provide a more convenient way of doing remote invigilation, which we will open for use from 14 June. This is a proctored service that has two levels for you to choose from (depending on the qualification) that will allow provide the following benefits:

- Reduce call on room resources:
 - No need to bring learners into the centre for testing
 - No requirement to have to set up in an employer's premises for apprentices
 - Use own equipment (if it meets required specification)
- Reduce staff costs
 - Proctored service by a person or AI system (depending on qualification)
- Less complicated set-up
 - Single camera requirement
 - Removal of need for second device with camera eliminates issues of bandwidth or personal cost to learner using their mobile phone
- Time to suit your learner
 - Fit around their work or just be in an environment they feel comfortable to be in

For further information and to download the 5-step Guide to Remote Invigilation [here](#).

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Key webinars

Funding and Policy Update

For all the latest on:

- Adult Education Budget Funding Rules for 2021-22
- Apprenticeship Funding Rules for 2021-22 (if published)
- Qualification reforms and removal of funding
- Lifetime Skills Guarantee and Level 3 Adult Offer
- New Policy announcements/FE Skills Legislation

Date: Wednesday 30 June 2021

Register - [here](#)

Restart: Government initiative on reskilling/upskilling

This Government initiative was first announced in the November 2020 spending review and aims to distribute £2.9 billion over 3 years

To qualify for the **Restart Scheme** applicants must have been out of work for **between 12 to 18 months** and have been receiving Universal Credit during this period.

DWP are contracting Primes for 12 Contract Package Areas, these have been awarded and not all are training deliverers and may be looking for sub-contractors to help with the work. Though it is not a straight training programme, as it is seen as a 365-day support initiative to cover other issues to help people get back into employment.

JobCentre Plus will be referring suitable claimants onto the programme and it is expected that a SMART action plan for each individual will be created and reviewed on a regular basis. In terms of completion;

- they may get to the 365-day mark and not achieved the job outcome
- they become employed or self-employed (whichever is their defined job outcome)

The Restart provision will stop automatically either way; reached the 365-day limit or they meet their job outcome.

Join us on **6 July 2021** to find out more, register – [here](#)

Other news

City & Guilds Foundation Bursaries

City & Guilds Foundation looks to help support a wide range of activities to enable people to get into work and recognise quality training through its Princess Royal Training Awards. As part of its work, each year it has money allocated to provide bursaries to help individuals (UK residents over 19) train, retrain or upskill but who find themselves in genuine financial need.

Recently we had a really high number of applicants for building services, but we are looking to support people in the following areas: health & social care, digital & IT, land based and hospitality.

If you know of any adults that have not taken up places with you – does not need to be a certified qualification programme or one from City & Guilds, then go to the Foundation website page for bursaries: - [Bursaries: funding for training | City & Guilds Foundation \(cityandguildsfoundation.org\)](https://www.cityandguildsfoundation.org/bursaries)

Applications are liable to close 9 June, dependent on numbers of applications.

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Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) survey

The survey for the Occupational maps which is now LIVE!

The Institute would like to invite you to be involved in an exciting project to expand and develop the [occupational maps](#).

They are seeking views on the 15 occupational maps, which are used to show where technical education can lead in different sectors.

They want to hear from you, to help understand how you use the occupational maps, what you value about them and what could be better.

The occupational maps are a central part of the technical education reforms set out in the recent Skills and Post-16 Education Bill. Through the proposed reforms, the Institute is looking forward to playing an even bigger role with employers to build a unified skills system.

In July they will be running a series of focus groups for more in-depth research. Please indicate within the survey if you would like to engage with us and we can include you in the on-line sessions.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about this project, please contact us via occupationalmaps.Institute@education.gov.uk

[Take the Survey](#)

Essential Digital Skills Qualifications

City & Guilds is planning to launch its EDSQs later this year, for first registration from Autumn. Available at Entry level and Level 1, they will be centre assessed and externally quality assured, and funded through the new Digital Entitlement. We will be providing more information about what they will look like and running webinars for centres in the coming weeks and months.

Some quick facts:

- Based on Essential Digital Skills Standards and will become the only funded IT User quals at Entry level 3 and Level 1 from August 2021 (FS ICT funded into 2022)
- City & Guilds EDSQs have been submitted to Ofqual's technical evaluation process
- First registrations likely to be available from October at the earliest (subject to Ofqual technical evaluation)
- They will be centre assessed and IQA-ed, with EQA by City & Guilds
- Assessments will be delivered via an online platform, which also allows centres to access to assess and IQA
- Assessment will be a mixture of short answer, scenario-based questions and some MCQs (auto-marked) and an observation
- For each Level there will be a single supervised assessment covering all the standards - not separate units
- Assessments 90 minutes – 2 hours (depending on Level), with break allowed
- Support resources will be available

For details on how to join these webinars and how to get involved, look out for announcements in future editions of this newsletter, email alerts and on the City & Guilds website:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/it/essential-digital-skills-qualifications>

To contact City & Guilds directly about getting involved, email us at:

pre-employment@cityandguilds.com

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Updates and webinars – and more

Are you still a bit unsure as to how some of the things around Apprenticeship Standards work or just want a reminder of some of the things we have discussed at events and on webinars? Then, please visit our Updates and Webinars page.

<http://bit.ly/CGDigitalUpdate>

Please check out the information held there as this may answer many of the questions you have.

Next webinars

6 July 2021 (14.00 – 15.00)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigiBusAS>

13 July 2021 (09.30 – 10.30)

<http://bit.ly/CGDigital13July>

If you have any specific topics you would like discussed at these events, please forward your suggestions to:

Ken Gaines ken.gaines@cityandguilds.com

OR

David Wackett david.wackett@cityandguilds.com

Note from David and Ken

As always urge you to Stay Alert and Stay Safe. Please make sure you check the Covid-19 webpage. www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19