

Digital Skills Newsletter - 21

Keep-in-Touch

Apprenticeship Standards update

REMINDER: If you are going to use City & Guilds as the Endpoint Assessment Organisation for **Data Analyst** and **Information Communication Technician** you will need to do one of the following:

- City & Guilds centres should use the Quality Portal in Walled Garden
- Non-City & Guilds centres can complete the form that can be found on the cityandguilds.com website

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/delivering-our-qualifications/offer-our-qualifications/epa-only-form>

While we have set the system to automatically allow centres who are doing the original **Software Developer** and **Network Engineer** Standards with us to also have the revised versions, some centres are reporting they cannot see these products in either EPA Pro or Walled Garden. Please check both and if the 9600-12 (Software Developer) and 9601-12 (Network Engineer) are not appearing, let David or Ken know and they will inform EPA Quality. This only applies to those that already have access to 9648-71 and 9648-72.

If you now wish to deliver these Standards for the first time, then as a City & Guilds centre you can go through Walled Garden as stated above or as a non-City & Guilds centre, please use the link above.

EPA Support

For the new and revised Standards, the Exemplar materials are available on EPA Pro to support your work with apprentices and the requirements of the new assessment methods for EPA. These can be found under Support Materials, then Exemplars

Apprenticeship Training Manuals - ATM

Work is in progress to develop on-programme support materials through the creation of ATMs, the status for the new/revised Standards is:

- Network Engineer - In development
- Data Analyst - In development
- Information Communication Technician - In development
- Software Developer - Commissioned/SMEs being contracted

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26 October 2021

Getting the Portfolio right for apprenticeships - REMINDER

It is extremely important that for the original Standards that you meet the requirements of the Assessment Plan (not the Occupational Brief) and that states that ALL Outcomes must be met.

A small/simple piece of evidence can be sufficient to meet this rule and we have been told by our External Quality Assurance Organisation that we need to enforce this. Also, you need to make it clear what has been covered with a document (can be a spreadsheet grid) that shows where the Outcomes have been met in the documents submitted.

We are not looking for mapping to the paragraph level, just a note of the section in the document where the relevant evidence can be found.

One of the main Standards we have seen this happening is Digital Marketer, so please make sure all DM Apprentices cover ALL Outcomes.

Other news

ESFA have published the provider adult funding allocations for 2021-22.

If you have been awarded an Adult Funding contract and wish to discuss what City & Guilds can offer to support your provision – in any sector – please get in touch with your account manager or let us know and we will get them to call you.

If you are a Prime and intending to sub-contract work, please let us know who you are sub-contracting to so that we can work with you and them to provide the best support possible.

DfE – Contingency guidance for Awarding in 2022

The government has published information on free courses for adults to be delivered by Institutes of Technology.

The offer of thousands free courses that will help working adults to rapidly upskill or retrain to plug skills gaps.

Sixty-five short and modular courses will start to roll out from later this month at 10 [Institutes of Technology](#) (IoTs) across England initially in STEM subjects. This will include courses such as Artificial Intelligence, Digitisation of Manufacturing, Digital Construction, Agricultural Robotics, and Cyber Security.

The courses will be a blend of classroom and remote online study and will vary in length from 50 to 138 hours. Other courses will come later including some in Healthcare and AgriTech.

Separately, over 100 further and higher education providers have also been awarded a share of £18 million to invest in new equipment, such as virtual reality goggles, therapeutic play equipment for children, and air quality testing equipment that will support them to offer more higher technical training. The funding will also help them to boost links with local businesses in key sectors such as digital, construction and healthcare.

Full info on link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-more-adults-set-to-benefit-from-new-technical-skills>

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Kirklees College Higher Skills Centre Opening

Kirklees College official launched their Pioneer Higher Skills Centre on Friday last week. This is a new learning facility dedicated to higher skills and higher education.

The new building/centre, which originally opened to students in November 2020, was not officially opened because of the pandemic. The Centre will offer Higher Skills at Level 4 and above via Advanced Learner Loans, which could be an HNC, HND route, professional courses at Level 4 and above, or higher and degree Apprenticeship routes. More Information here - <https://www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk/higher-skills/> and <https://www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk/pioneer-higher-skills-centre/>

Best practice webinars – ESFA on EPA

ESFA are providing webinars that will offer an overview of their new EPA best practice guides for Training Providers : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/training-provider-guide-to-high-quality-apprenticeship-end-point-assessment>

Employers : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-your-apprentice-through-end-point-assessment>

The guides outline the assessment roles and responsibilities throughout the whole apprenticeship journey.

- The [provider live webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3818492150844961547), will take place on 5 November 2021 at 2pm
- The [employer live webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3219445230683778059), will take place on 4 November 2021 at 11am

They can also be accessed 'on demand' after the events **if you've registered for them.**

Non-education deal – 6 months free internet for job seekers

Offer from TalkTalk in partnership with the Department of Works and Pensions.

- 6 months free 35mbps broadband
- At the end of the 6 months – take a contract or cancel with no fees
- Available nationwide – trailed last year in Greater Manchester and Cheshire

www.snipca.com39639

Other broadband providers may offer similar deals, your learners should check with their own provider.

Centre support

As of 1 November 2021, City & Guilds Centre support will be open 7 days a week. At the moment this will still be a 9 to 5 operation, but we hope this will provide some much need support where you are working with learners and apprentices at weekends.

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.

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Next Digital and IT Skills Keep-in-Touch webinars

16 November 2021 (09.30 – 1030)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigi16Nov>

7 December 2021 (09.30 – 1030)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigitalKIT7Dec>

Next Digital and IT Skills Wales Forum (online)

18 November 2021 (09.30-11.00)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigiWales18Nov>

Next Digital and IT Skills Teach Meets (online)

18 November 2021 (14.00-15.00)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigitalDiscussionPortfolio18Nov>

Professional Discussion underpinned by Portfolio

23 November 2021 (14.00-15.00)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigitalProjectQandA23Nov>

Project with Q & A

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