

COVID-19 End Point Assessment Policy

Aim and purpose

iPET Network aims during these times that the End Point Assessment team continues to provide our Training Providers / Employers and Apprentices with the support they require to ensure assessments are fair, valid, and consistent. Our aim is to keep all parties fully up to date with the way in which we will be completing End Point Assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic. iPET Network will be following the Guidance set out in the COVID-19 - Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education guidance.

Apprenticeship Provider responsibility

Where possible, apprentices should continue with scheduled end-point assessments (EPAs), that are in-line with the requirements set out in the end-point assessment plan. The flexibility (or temporary discretion, where one applies) should only be used if necessary. This includes where apprentices change employers.

The Institute has published a [flexibility framework](#) that contains full guidance to explain exactly how the seven flexibilities should be applied from 1 January 2022 onwards.

Temporary Discretions

Seven of the ten flexibilities will be retained as options to use beyond 1 January 2022. These are:

1. Observations taking place in simulated environments
2. Remote delivery of assessment (including invigilation)
3. Pauses being allowed between assessment methods during end-point assessment period
4. Assessments taking place outside of usual venues
5. Delivery of assessment methods in any order (when a specified order is in the assessment plan)
6. Exams/tests being online instead of on paper (where originally specified as paper-based only)
7. Gateway sign-off being done remotely (where originally specified as having to be face-to-face)

Three of the ten flexibilities will be switched off on 31st December 2021. These are listed below along with the reason why:

8. Changes being made to who sits on the EPA interview/discussion panel (when someone in addition to the independent assessor is specified)
 - during the Covid-19 period, it wasn't always possible to have an employer sit on a panel as many were furloughed or busy elsewhere. As the economy returns to normal, the original assessment plan can now be delivered, helping to protect quality for apprentices, maintain validity and improve learning for future apprentices.
9. Allowing other suitable evidence of achievements being used in replacement of functional skills qualifications at gateway (other mandated qualifications are covered under temporary discretions)
 - this is no longer needed because the mandated qualifications should become available and achievable as restrictions are relaxed and training providers reopen.
10. Extension to the length of the end-point assessment period (where specified)



- because it disadvantages apprentices to have a long wait for their end-point assessment (EPA) after passing through gateway.

Policy Review

iPET Network have carefully considered the current risks of Covid-19 and will monitor the Institute of Apprenticeships communications to maintain the correct guidance and support for all the accredited End Point Assessments.

Any changes or updates will be communicated to all Training Providers / Employers and Apprentices and reviewed to make sure that all support and assessments are carried out safely and fairly.

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Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
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