

COVID-19 Centre Update Webinar – FAQs

Are there any guidelines for adapting assessments? Will the qualifications be subject to any type of EQA?

There are a range of types of evidence being considered for adaptations. More detail on specific qualifications will be communicated to centres shortly. VTCT qualifications which currently require EQA activity will continue to do so, however this will take place remotely. There may also be an increase in EQA activity as we work together with our centres during this time.

For Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications, will learners need to complete all practical assessments? Can we demonstrate competence through videos, photographs etc.

VTCT has proposed to adapt assessment strategies for VRQs and NVQs. Therefore you should look to use a range of alternative evidence types to complete your learners. Please refer to the webinar slides for examples of the types of evidence which will be used to support the adaptation mitigation approach. VTCT will be communicating further information on specific qualifications shortly, which will include adaptation on assessment requirements.

How can the adaptation approach be used for practical assessments, if the curriculum had not been fully taught before the centre closures?

There will be minimum completion and evidence thresholds required for learners to be eligible to receive their results via adapted methods of assessment and quality assurance.

What about IQA for level 3 qualifications. Will this be able to be done remotely?

Yes. As centres remain closed, IQA or EQA activity can be done remotely. VTCT expects remote IQA activity in place to ensure sufficient reliability and validity of assessment judgements made by centres.

When will we be assigned a new EQA?

VTCT will be scheduling a series of Zoom video calls and webinars to explain the detailed quality assurance processes for centres offering specific qualification types. VTCT will be allocating dedicated EQAs to support centres through the process using a risk-based strategy. This will be communicated directly with the centres.

Do we need permission from the EQA first before we go ahead with the adaptations?

Yes. Adaptions will depend on minimum completion and evidence thresholds. However, centres should start to gather and organise all the evidence that is currently available from learners via remote means.

When will centres be given the thresholds for adaptation?

VTCT is awaiting confirmation regarding the qualifications which are in scope for adaptations under Ofqual's temporary Extraordinary Regulatory Framework (ERF) which is the mechanism for awarding qualifications during the pandemic national emergency. Please refer to the webinar slides for timelines and dates that have been confirmed. Please also look out for further more specific communications by email and webinar which will be sent out from VTCT shortly

Can other forms of evidence be submitted to replace knowledge exams?

VTCT has proposed to adapt assessment strategies for VRQs and NVQs. Therefore you should look to use a range of types of other evidence to complete your learners. Please refer to the webinar slides for examples of the types of evidence which will be used to support the adaptation mitigation approach. VTCT is also exploring the use of remote proctoring for exams. Please keep an eye on our website and communications to centres on this matter.

What happens with TLQs if graded assessments were booked between Easter and May and none have been sat? Can students just continue and take the estimated grade.

The estimated grades for PTQs will be based on a minimum threshold of completion and evidence of assessment components. We will provide you with more specific information in the second wave of communication for PTQs. Please refer to the webinar slides for examples of the types of evidence which will be used to support the estimation mitigation approach. Where the minimum threshold has not been met, graded assessment can be taken in the autumn contingency windows.

For the Tech Award (AM20530), for future assignments, will pupils/learners be able to work on them remotely?

VTCT is not proposing to change the assessment controls for the Technical Award (AM20530). For learners who should be completing their qualification this summer or progressing from year one to year two of studies then the proposed mitigation is estimation.

What about learners who have reasonable adjustments?

Any mitigation approach that is used for a qualification, whether that be estimation or adaptation, will take into consideration learners' agreed reasonable adjustment. This is to ensure fairness to learners and to prevent any learners being disadvantaged during the process.

Can students request to study the qualification again if they are unhappy with an estimated grade?

Yes, a resit opportunity will be provided in the autumn for learners who are unhappy with estimated grades.

What is the plan for students to be certificated this summer if schools remain closed and work/exams are not complete?

VTCT has ensured that the core processes such as registration and certification remain 'business as usual'. VTCT will continue to send out certificates according to the usual process with an additional step of contacting centres in advance to confirm that someone is there to receive them.

What about functional skills?

Ofqual and the Department of Education have announced that functional skills is a 'category one' qualification and will therefore fall under estimation. VTCT have been forwarding on communication from Skillsfirst who are our partner in Functional Skills for our centres. However we would recommend you also visit the Skillsfirst website for information.

Do we have any idea of when EPAs will take place for completions?

Yes. A reschedule programme is underway for apprentices to undertake their EPAs. Please contact the EPA team on EPA@vtct.org.uk for more information on EPA practical assessments. Training Providers/ Employers will need to put a range of public health requirements to support the running of end-point assessments at their premises.

We are a private centre how does the extraordinary regulatory framework affect us?

The extraordinary temporary framework will affect all qualifications which are in scope and all learners who would be achieving their qualification between March and July 2020, whether they study at a college/school or a private training provider.

Will students be able to get public liability insurance given the circumstances?

Yes. Regulated qualifications awarded by VTCT in 2020 remain fully valid, reliable and insurable.