

## 6 Methods of assessment used by SQA

**Note:** Some SQA qualifications have specific rules on which methods may be used/are most appropriate.

| Method  | Observation | Product evaluation | Questioning |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Assignment:</b> problem-solving exercise with clear guidelines, structure and length   |             | X                  | X           |
| <b>Case study:</b> describes a realistic situation. Candidates are prompted to analyse the situation, draw conclusions /make decisions/ suggest courses of action                                     |             | X                  | X           |
| <b>Dissertation:</b> substantial written essay, treating a subject or issue in depth in a formal, methodical manner   |             | X                  |             |
| <b>Examination/written test:</b> collection of assessment methods which samples a domain of knowledge and/or skills   |             |                    | X           |
| <b>Listening test:</b> assesses listening skills using live or recorded stimulus. Candidates demonstrate their understanding by oral or written responses   |             |                    | X           |
| <b>Oral questions:</b> assesses knowledge and understanding, may be linked to the assessment of a practical activity or performance   |             | X                  | X           |
| <b>Oral test:</b> of a candidate's listening and communication skills. It is often described as the 'assessment of speaking' or 'talking assignment'  |             |                    | X           |
| <b>Performance:</b> assesses skills of which the evidence is ephemeral  | X           |                    |             |
| <b>Portfolio:</b> representative sample of candidate evidence   |             | X                  |             |
| <b>Practical activity:</b> any activity which involves a technical, artistic or creative skill  | X           | X                  |             |
| <b>Professional discussion:</b> discussion of evidence already provided or demonstrated   |             | X                  | X           |
| <b>Project:</b> task involving research or an investigative approach  |             | X                  | X           |
| <b>Simulation:</b> structured practical exercise with specific objectives which seeks to simulate real-life conditions  | X           | X                  | X           |
| <b>Questioning</b> (includes: Alternative response; Assertion/reason; Cloze; Completion; Extended; Grid; Matching; Multiple choice; Multiple response; Restricted response; Short answer; Structured) |             |                    | X           |