



Subject guidance for internally assessed qualifications in 2020–21

Please read this document in conjunction with [guidance for the assessment of internally assessed qualifications issued to centres in August 2020](#).

February 2021 update

Group award title:	PDA Bricklaying at SCQF level 6
Group award code:	GM4N 46

The subject-specific guidance issued for this qualification in Aug/Sept 2020 still stands and is fully supported by CITB SSC.

(NB: SQA is hosting a range of mini quality networks to support centres from the week commencing 22 February 2021)

Units and/or outcomes where conditions of assessment can or cannot be altered

Practical work assessments

For any unit in the Construction Craft PDAs where any practical work is still to be assessed, no alternative arrangements are acceptable. **Therefore, the assessment of the outstanding practical activity must be deferred until it can be carried out according to the normal guidance.**

However, if a candidate has already been assessed for a similar practical activity within another unit in the PDA at SCQF level 6 or as part of the SVQ at SCQF level 6, then this evidence can also be used for other PDA units of the same level of demand, either partially or as a whole.

Please remember that evidence (be it practical or knowledge) can be used more than once across various units, learning outcomes and performance criteria and qualifications.

If this is not possible, then the assessment of the outstanding practical activity must be deferred until it can be carried out according to the normal guidance.

Adaptions to evidence requirements to help manage assessment

With centres moving to more blended learning approaches, there will be significantly less opportunity for face-to-face delivery, training and assessment. Time with learners will therefore become increasingly valuable and needs to be used to the best effect to engage, motivate and support the learning journey.

In support of this, we are encouraging centres, and course teams, in particular, to continue to consider and plan more innovative approaches to the delivery of the Construction Craft PDAs.

Centres should also remember that while adaptions to assessment are not possible, adaptions to the delivery of the PDAs' learning, teaching and training can be made without recourse to SQA. For example, centres may consider:

- ◆ delivering the PDA programme over a longer period of time to facilitate more face-to-face learning, training and assessment.
- ◆ assessing the practical components of the PDA when candidates are in college and assessing knowledge remotely.
- ◆ adapting the 'practical training' aspects of each Training and Assessment Programme (TAP). These activities are designed to prepare the candidates for practical assessment by developing the skills and techniques which are formally assessed. So, adapting and combining 'practical training' could avoid duplication.
- ◆ Additionally, if any SVQ assessed evidence from the workplace is being used as evidence for a PDA unit (TAP) this would also obviate the need to undertake the 'practical training' and assessment for the PDA unit (TAP).

Rationale

Centres should ensure that the alternative assessment is of the same SCQF level as the original assessment requirements.

A centre-led approach is encouraged towards maintaining quality standards, but direct support from SQA remains available where required.

SQA and the team of external verifiers will host MS Teams Quality Network events in early 2021 to support centres and share good practice.

If you have any questions, please contact qualification.development@sqa.org.uk