



Level 4 DevOps Engineer EPA Overview



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1. EPA headlines

- Must be on programme 366 days before entering gateway
- Must have: Project Proposal (approved), EPA Gateway Form, Employer Declaration and FS Level 2 math and English completed prior to gateway
 - Work-based Portfolio and Checklist is completed as QA policy but not an EPA requirement
- Project Proposal - Max 500 words +/- 10%
- EPA window 4 months which includes resit/retake if needed
- 2 x Assessment methods at EPA – AM1. Project and Practical Assessment, AM2. Professional Discussion
 - Project must start within the EPA window and must be submitted to EPAO after a max of 13 weeks
 - Employer should allow minimum of 2 days per week in the EPA window to allow the apprentice to complete their work
 - The observation is completed AFTER the project submission date
 - The apprentice will submit 3 documents (or 1 in 3 sections) containing:
 - High-level architectural diagram of the system/structure
 - 300 word, high-level overview of the project requirements inline with the KSBs of the AM
 - Specific technical outputs (diagrams, outputs, code)
 - AM1 Questioning Lasts 3 hours with a discretionary 10% allowance
 - AM1 will have up to 16 questions based on the 8 themes of the KSBs in AM1 (2 questions per theme)
- AM2 Professional Discussion Lasts 60 mins with a discretionary 10% allowance
 - Professional Discussion - open ended questions around the KSBs of AM2 up to 8 questions
- Apprentices who fail one or more assessment method will be offered the opportunity to take a resit or a retake at the employer's discretion.

2. Gateway

Gateway is the point that the employer is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard. In making this decision, the employer may take advice from the training provider, but the decision must ultimately be made by the employer.

Apprentices must have been on programme for at least 366 days prior to entering gateway, and must also meet the following gateway requirements for Level 4 DevOps Engineer programme:

- Project proposal
- EPA gateway form
- Employer declaration
- Level 2 English and Maths evidence

The EPAO determines when all gateway requirements have been met, and the EPA period will only commence once the EPAO has confirmed this.



3. End Point Assessment

The EPA window for Level 4 DevOps Engineer is a maximum of 4 months.

For the End Point Assessment, the learner must complete the following assessments:

- Assessment method 1: Project and Practical Assessment
- Assessment method 2: Professional Discussion

Assessment Method 1: Project and Practical Assessment

The Project and Practical Assessment is graded Pass, Distinction or Fail.

The project is compiled after the apprentice has gone through the gateway process. Apprentices will conduct a work-based project and deliver the outcome in the form of an electronic based report. The project, piece of code and preparation for the practical assessment must be submitted to the EPAO after a maximum of 13 weeks of the EPA start date.

The employer must ensure the apprentice has sufficient time and the necessary resources, within this period, to plan and undertake the work-based project. The employer should also allow the apprentice 2 days per week to work on their project during the EPA period. Whilst completing the project, the apprentice should be subject to normal workplace supervision.

The work-based project should be designed to ensure that the apprentice's work meets the needs of the business, is relevant to their role and allows the relevant KSBs to be demonstrated for the EPA.

The following are examples of what could be included in a piece of code:

- Building a piece of infrastructure and deploying an application to it
- Building an element of a platform, resident on this infrastructure
- Development of a new approach to a platform/infrastructure/deployment problem, i.e. novel tooling where no alternates are available
- Development of tooling to automate common deployment/maintenance processes
- Development/implementation of new CI/CD pipelines
- Development of management/support processes

As an outcome of the project, the apprentice must produce sufficient evidence of the form, technical breadth and specific technical outputs of the work. The project submitted to the EPAO as an integral part of this Assessment Method **must** include the following:

- On **'form'**: an architectural diagram (in a structured or ad-hoc notation) or other artefact which shows high level system structure
- On **'technical breadth'**: a high-spec summary, maximum 300 words, of the project around the KSBs
- On **'specific technical outputs'**: the independent assessor will need to be provided with implementations which cover all techniques used. These may include source code, deployment/ system build scripts or configuration files and should be communicated to the independent assessor through access to cloud services, an archive of files or in screenshots/videos/documents

Apprentices will be observed by an Independent Assessor completing 1 practical assessment during which they will demonstrate the KSBs assigned to this assessment method, based on their work-based project.



Prior to the Practical Assessment, apprentices will be provided with both written and verbal instructions on the task they must complete including the timescales they are working to.

Apprentices will demonstrate the piece of code that has been produced as part of their work-based project and will be questioned by an Independent Assessor on the methodology they have used. The Practical Assessment will cover the following:

- Operating a performant, secure and highly available platform, which is accessible and functional
- Satisfying functional and non-functional requirements defined by the work-based project
- Meeting the KSBs mapped to this assessment method

In addition to addressing the above criteria, a successful deployment of code from source to the end user **must** be observed during the practical assessment.

The practical assessment is carried out with an Independent Assessor sourced by the EPAO and will last a maximum of 3 hours, with a discretionary 10% additional time to allow the apprentice to complete the last task. The apprentice will be asked up to of 16 questions – 2 questions for each of the 8 themes within this assessment method.

Assessment Method 2: Professional Discussion

The Professional Discussion assessment is graded Pass, Distinction or Fail.

The professional discussion is carried out with an Independent Assessor sourced by the EPAO. The professional discussion will last 60 minutes, with a discretionary 10% additional time to allow the apprentice to complete their last answer. The apprentice will be asked a minimum of 8 open questions (one for each category) based on the knowledge, skills, and behaviours identified for this assessment method.

The apprentice may use a whiteboard during the professional discussion, to help with visualising the KSBs.

4. Grading

Project and Practical Assessment	Professional Discussion	Final Grade
Fail	Any grade	Fail
Any grade	Fail	Fail
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Merit
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction



5. Resit and Retakes

Apprentices who fail one or more assessment method will be offered the opportunity to take a resit or a retake at the employer's discretion. The employer will need to agree that either a resit or retake is an appropriate course of action. A resit does not require further learning, whereas a retake does.

Apprentices will have a supportive action plan to prepare for a resit or a retake of any failed assessment. All assessments must be successfully completed within the maximum EPA window, otherwise the full EPA will need to be resat or retaken.

Where any assessment method must be resat or retaken, the apprentice will be awarded a maximum EPA grade of Pass.

Further information on the Level 4 DevOps Engineer EPA can be found in the [assessment plan](#). A full list of the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) can be found on the Institute for Apprenticeships website [here](#).

