ST0825/V2

DRAFT ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR THE DEVOPS ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP

APPRENTICESHIP REFERENCE NUMBER	LEVEL OF THIS ASSESSMENT PLAN	INTEGRATION
ST0825	4	None

Assessment Plan

Edit assessment plan form

Assessment details

Introduction

This Apprenticeship Assessment Plan (AAP) sets out the requirements for the assessment of the Level 4 DevOps Engineer apprenticeship. It should be read in conjunction with the General Requirements for Apprenticeship Assessment. Where there is conflict between this AAP and the General Requirements, this AAP takes precedence. Assessment organisations must also comply with the relevant regulatory framework for apprenticeship assessment.

It is important that the assessment of apprentices is proportionate, valid, and provides reliable evidence of an apprentice's attainment of the relevant knowledge and skills. As such, assessment organisations must design assessments to ensure:

- employers have confidence that the apprentice has reached the expected performance standard
- apprentices are sufficiently secure in their knowledge and skills, so that they could demonstrate their competence in different contexts (for example, a different workplace)

Assessment Outcomes

The assessment outcomes group and summarise the knowledge and skills that must be demonstrated in assessments. All assessment outcomes must be assessed.

Knowledge and skills statements in **bold** are mandatory and must be assessed in every version of the assessment that is made available.

Assessment Outcome	Mapping
AO1 Continuous Integration , Delivery, and Automation Demonstrate the ability to implement and manage Continuous Integration and or Continuous Delivery pipelines, automated testing, and infrastructure updates to ensure reliable, repeatable software delivery.	**K1**, **K13**, K14, **K25**, **S9***, **S10**, S17, S18
AO2 : Source Control and Collaborative Development Apply distributed source control practices and collaborative coding techniques to maintain code integrity and support team-based development.	K2, K19, **S3***, **S8**, S15*
AO3: Security, Compliance, and Ethical Practice	K3*, K7, **K15***, **S5**, S6

Ensure systems and data are protected through secure coding, threat mitigation, and adherence to ethical and legal standards.	
AO4: Architecture, Infrastructure, and Cloud Economics Design and maintain scalable, cost-effective infrastructure and system architectures using modern cloud and infrastructure-as-code practices	K6, **K12**, K20, K21*, K22*, K24*, **S13**, **S16**, S20
AO5: Monitoring, Problem Solving, and Continuous Improvement Utilise monitoring tools and structured problem-solving methods to maintain system health and drive continuous operational improvement.	K8*, **K11**, **S7**, **S14***, S19
AO6: Agile, Communication, and Professional Practice Work effectively in agile teams, communicate clearly with diverse audiences, and adapt to emerging technologies to deliver business value.	**K4**, K5*, K9, K16*, K17, K18*, **K23**, K26, S1*, S2*, S4, S11, **S12**

(*) Knowledge and skills statements which offer opportunities to develop functional English and maths are identified with an asterisk.

Assessment requirements

Assessment organisations must set apprenticeship assessments. Assessment organisations should consider how technology and digital tools can support innovation and efficiency.

Assessment organisations must design apprenticeship assessments to include a **Presentation** method.
Any additional assessment(s) must be selected from the following list of methods to ensure the assessment outcomes are met in full:

- **Professional discussion**
- **Project**
- **Observation**
- **Portfolio of evidence**
- **Simulated task**
- **Question and Answer session**

Apprentices may be assessed at any appropriate point during their apprenticeship programme.

Assessments may be designed to allow a centre or training provider to mark assessments. The assessment organisation is responsible for ensuring all assessments are sufficiently reliable and valid, and for the accuracy of any centre or training provider marking.

Assessment requirements should be as flexible as possible, allowing for multiple assessment design options where appropriate. They should focus on key skills or tasks that must be performed and provide a narrative or rationale that explains the intended outcome. They should be compatible with the DfE assessment principles, the general requirements, Ofqual regulations etc.
Additional requirements should relate to assessment outcomes, rather than K&S statements, wherever possible.

Individual K&S statements should not generally be mapped to the required assessment method.

Performance descriptors

Performance descriptors describe the level of performance required to achieve a pass or distinction grade. Assessment organisations must design assessments that align with these descriptions.

Performance Category	Pass	Distinction
Applied Knowledge	Applies DevOps principles, CI/CD practices, automation, security, and cloud architecture knowledge to deliver reliable solutions that meet organisational standards and operational requirements.	Applies DevOps knowledge with precision and foresight, optimising CI/CD, automation, and cloud strategies to enhance efficiency, resilience, and business value beyond baseline expectations.
Applied Skills	Uses tools and techniques to implement pipelines, secure systems, monitor environments, and troubleshoot issues, adapting methods to meet project needs safely and effectively.	Demonstrates advanced adaptability and fluency in applying DevOps tools and techniques, proactively optimising workflows and introducing improvements that increase quality and reduce operational risk.
Regulatory and Procedural Awareness	Consistently applies GDPR, security best practices, and organisational standards within CI/CD, infrastructure, and data handling, ensuring compliance in routine and non-routine tasks.	Interprets and applies regulatory and procedural requirements with insight, anticipating compliance risks and implementing proactive measures that strengthen governance and security posture.
Communication and Collaboration	Communicates clearly with technical and non-technical stakeholders, collaborates effectively in agile teams, and	Tailors communication with confidence and insight, fostering collaboration across multidisciplinary teams

	contributes to shared responsibility for delivery and continuous improvement.	and influencing practices that improve team cohesion and delivery outcomes.
Information Use and Decision Making	Analyses logs, metrics, and system data to make informed decisions on deployments, troubleshooting, and optimisation, considering organisational priorities and technical constraints.	Evaluates complex data sets and system insights to make strategic decisions, providing clear justification and anticipating broader implications for performance, cost, and scalability.
Responsibility and Autonomy	Takes ownership of assigned DevOps tasks, manages own workload effectively, and makes sound decisions within defined parameters, escalating issues.	Proactively assumes responsibility for delivery and resource coordination, exercising independent judgment to prioritise tasks and mitigate risks, adding measurable value to project outcomes.

Professional recognition

This apprenticeship aligns with the professional body recognition detailed in the occupational standard.

Please contact the relevant professional body for further information.

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