

**Think about  
Professional discussion underpinned  
by portfolio  
Level 4 ST0116 Software Developer  
V1.2**



**On the day of this assessment you will carry out:**



**A 60-minute professional discussion**



**Remote or face-to-face**



**In a suitable, controlled environment free from distraction**



**This is a 1:1 conversation in an appropriate environment**



**Key point**

You will have already submitted your portfolio of evidence, which is not formally assessed, but can be used to illustrate your answers.



## Do

- Review the criteria associated with the professional discussion - this can be found in the EPA Kit and in the table at the end of this document
- Review relevant legislations, regulations and your organisation's policies and procedures
- Ensure a quiet room is available and that there are no interruptions
- Be prepared to answer at least 12 questions and any follow-up questions that your assessor may ask



## Don't

- Forget to bring your ID
- Forget to plan
- Forget to bring your portfolio to refer to during the professional discussion



## Next steps

- Results can take up to 7 working days to be confirmed
- Your manager or training provider will inform you of the results



## Resits

- If you do not achieve a pass result on the professional discussion, you can resit the assessment



## Use the table below to plan and prepare for the professional discussion.

**(P)** indicates pass criteria

**(D)** indicates distinction criteria

Assessment criteria	Key points to remember
(P) Describe all stages of the software development lifecycle (K1)	
(P) Describe the roles and responsibilities of the project lifecycle within your organisation, and your role (K3)	

<p>(P) Describe methods of communicating with all stakeholders that is determined by the audience and/or their level of technical knowledge (K4, S15)</p>	
<p>(P) Describe the similarities and differences between different software development methodologies, such as agile and waterfall (K5)</p>	
<p>(P) Suggests and applies different software design approaches and patterns, to identify reusable solutions to commonly occurring problems (include Bespoke or off-the-shelf) (K7)</p>	
<p>(P) Explain the relevance of organisational policies and procedures relating to the tasks being undertaken, and when to follow them including how you have followed company, team or client approaches to continuous integration, version, and source control (K8, S14)</p>	
<p>(P) Apply the principles and uses of relational and non-relational databases to software development tasks (K10)</p>	

(P) Describe basic software testing frameworks and methodologies (K12)

(P) Explain, your own approach to development of user interfaces (S2)

(P) Explain, how you have linked code to data sets (S3)

(P) Illustrate how to conduct test types, such as Integration, System, User Acceptance, Non-Functional, Performance and Security testing including how you have followed testing frameworks and methodologies (S5, S13)

(P) Create simple software designs to communicate understanding of the programme to stakeholders and users of the programme (S8)

(P) Create analysis artefacts, such as use cases and/or user stories to enable effective delivery of software activities (S9)

(P) Explain, how you have interpreted and implemented a given design whilst remaining compliant with security and maintainability requirements (S17)

(P) Describe, how you have operated independently to complete tasks to given deadlines which reflect the level of responsibility assigned to you by the organisation (B1)

(P) Illustrate how you have worked collaboratively with people in different roles, internally and externally, which show a positive attitude to inclusion & diversity (B4)

(P) Explain how you have established an approach in the workplace which reflects integrity with respect to ethical, legal, and regulatory matters and ensure the protection of personal data, safety and security (B5)

(P) Illustrate your approach to meeting unexpected minor changes at work and outline your approach to delivering within your remit using your initiative (B6)

(P) Explain how you have communicated effectively in a variety of situations to both a technical and non-technical audience (B7)

**(P)** Illustrate how you have responded to the business context with curiosity to explore new opportunities and techniques with tenacity to improve solution performance, establishing an approach to methods and solutions which reflects a determination to succeed (B8)

**(P)** Explain how you reflect on your continued professional development and act independently to seek out new opportunities (B9)

**(D)** Compare and contrast the different types of communication used for technical and non-technical audiences and the benefits of these types of communication methods (K4, S15, B7)

**(D)** Evaluate and recommend approaches to using reusable solutions to common problems (K7)

(D) Evaluate the use of various software testing frameworks and methodologies and justify your choice (K12)

