

Highfield Level 3 End-Point Assessment for ST0070 Business Administrator

End-Point Assessment Kit



Highfield Level 3 End-Point Assessment for ST0070 Business Administrator

EPA Kit

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How to use this EPA Kit

Welcome to the Highfield end-point assessment kit for the Level 3 Business Administrator apprenticeship standard, assessment plan version AP03.

Highfield is an independent end-point assessment organisation that has been approved to offer and carry out the end-point assessments for the Level 3 Business Administrator apprenticeship standard. Highfield internally quality assures all end-point assessments in accordance with its IQA process. Additionally, all end-point assessments are externally quality assured by the relevant EQA organisation.

This EPA Kit is designed to outline all you need to know about the end-point assessments for this standard and will also provide an overview of the on-programme delivery requirements. In addition, advice and guidance for trainers on how to prepare apprentices for the end-point assessment is included. The approaches suggested are not the only way in which an apprentice may be prepared for their assessments, but trainers may find them helpful as a starting point.

Highfield also offers the Highfield Business Administrator Apprenti-kit that is a comprehensive learning resource, which is designed to be used on-programme.

For more information, please go to

<https://www.highfieldqualifications.com/products/training-resources/business-admin>

Please note that the use of this kit is not a prerequisite for apprentices undertaking the business administrator end-point assessment.

For employers/training providers that use the Apprenti-kit, a criteria mapping document is available from Highfield if required.

Key facts

Apprenticeship standard:	Business Administrator
Level:	3
On-programme duration:	Typically 18 months
EPA window duration:	Typically, within 3 months
Grading:	Pass/distinction
End-point assessment methods:	Knowledge test, portfolio-based interview, project presentation

In this kit, you will find:

- an overview of the standard and any on-programme requirements
- a section focused on delivery, where the standard and assessment criteria are presented in a suggested format that is suitable for delivery
- guidance on how to prepare the apprentice for gateway
- detailed information on which part of the standard is assessed by which assessment method
- a section focused on the end-point assessment method where the assessment criteria are presented in a format suitable for carrying out mock assessments
- suggestions on how to prepare the apprentice for each part of the end-point assessment

Introduction

Standard overview

Business administrators have a highly transferable set of knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) that can be applied in all sectors. This includes small and large businesses alike from the public sector, private sector and charitable sector. The role may involve working independently or as part of a team and will involve developing, implementing, maintaining and improving administrative services. Business administrators develop key skills and behaviours to support their own progression towards management responsibilities.

The responsibilities of the role are to support and engage with different parts of the organisation and interact with internal or external customers. With a focus on adding value, the role of business administrator contributes to the efficiency of an organisation through the support of functional areas, working across teams and resolving issues as requested. The flexibility and responsiveness required allow the apprentice to develop a wide range of skills.

The business administrator is expected to deliver their responsibilities efficiently and with integrity - showing a positive attitude. The role involves demonstrating strong communication skills (both written and verbal) and adopting a proactive approach to developing their skills. The business administrator is also expected to show initiative, manage their priorities and their own time, demonstrate problem-solving skills, decision-making and potentially people management through mentoring or coaching others.

On-programme requirements

Although learning, development and on-programme assessment are flexible, and the process is not prescribed, the following is the recommended baseline expectation for an apprentice to achieve full competence in line with the Business Administrator standard.

The on-programme assessment approach will be agreed between the training provider and employer. The assessment will give an ongoing indication of an apprentice's performance against the final outcomes defined in the standard. The training provider will need to prepare the apprentice for the end-point assessment, including preparation for the interview and collation of the portfolio of evidence (such as a provision of recordings of professional discussions or workplace evidence).

The training programme leading to end-point assessment should cover the breadth and depth of the standard using suggested on-programme assessment methods that integrate the knowledge, skills and behaviour components, and which ensure that the apprentice is sufficiently prepared to undertake the end-point assessment. Training, development and ongoing review activities should include:

- achievement of level 2 English and maths
- any qualifications specified by the employer
- completion of a portfolio of learning through which the apprentice gathers evidence of their progress

Throughout the period of learning and development, and at least every 2 months (typically every 6 weeks), the apprentice should meet with the employer and on-programme assessor to record their progress against the standard. At these reviews, the employer and on-programme assessor should:

- set learning goals
- track the apprentice's progress
- create a forum for coaching and guidance
- coordinate 20% of the apprentice's time being spent in off-the-job training

Once the apprentice is deemed competent, the relevant section(s) of the standard should be signed off by the on-programme assessor and employer.

The maintenance of an on-programme record is important to support the apprentice, on-programme assessor and employer in monitoring the progress of the apprentice's learning and development. This will determine when the apprentice has achieved full competence in their job role and is ready for end-point assessment. The on-programme assessment log is **not** a portfolio of evidence, but a record of what the apprentice can do following periods of training, development and assessment.

Portfolio of learning

A portfolio of learning, containing at least 1 piece of evidence for each of the specified criteria that are outlined later in this EPA Kit, should be submitted to Highfield at gateway. This will inform the interview.

The portfolio should contain:

- a minimum of 8-12 pages
- evidence of at least one of each of the minimum knowledge, skills and behaviours as outlined in the below assessment criteria
- documented evidence of practical observation and/or evaluation by the employer, such as acknowledgement of a skill shown or evidencing work

completed on a particular project with manager comments, which is then discussed at interview

The portfolio must be accompanied by a portfolio matrix. This can be downloaded from our website. The portfolio matrix must be fully completed, including a declaration by the employer and the apprentice to confirm that the portfolio is valid and attributable to the apprentice.

The portfolio of evidence must be submitted to Highfield at gateway. It is not directly assessed but underpins the professional discussion.

Project

A project is completed from month 9 of the apprenticeship and should be completed prior to EPA being triggered. The project is submitted to Highfield at gateway, who will provide a question for the apprentice to answer in the presentation.

- This could be a project they have completed or a process they have improved.
- A project or process improvement should account for 21 to 35 working hours over the apprenticeship, to adequately apply themselves.
- It must be work-based, incorporating scoping, planning, managing, communicating to stakeholders, monitoring and reporting results.
- The apprentice chooses the project/process improvement with the guidance of the employer and training provider.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the EPA

Where AI has been used as part of the apprentice's day-to-day work and forms part of a project report, presentation, or artefact, it should be referenced as such within the work. AI must not be used to produce the report or portfolio.

Where AI has been used as part of a portfolio that underpins an interview or professional discussion or any other assessment method, it should be fully referenced within the portfolio.

Additional, relevant on-programme qualification

There are no mandatory qualifications for apprentices for this standard. Employers may wish to choose the Highfield Level 3 Diploma in Business Administration Skills (RQF) to help structure the on-programme delivery.

Readiness for end-point assessment

For an apprentice to be ready for the end-point assessment:

- they must have successfully completed the Level 2 English and maths components of the apprenticeship.
- the employer must be confident that the apprentice has developed all the knowledge, skills and behaviours defined in the apprenticeship standard. To ensure this, the apprentice must attend a formal meeting with their employer to complete the Gateway Readiness Report.
- the portfolio must be completed and submitted to Highfield at gateway.
- the project must be completed and submitted to Highfield at gateway.

The apprentice and the employer should then engage with Highfield to agree a plan and schedule for each assessment activity to ensure all components can be completed within a 3-month end-assessment window. Further information about the gateway process is covered later in this kit.

If you have any queries regarding the gateway requirements, please contact your EPA Customer Engagement Manager at Highfield Assessment.

Order of end-point assessments

The knowledge test should typically be the first assessment component undertaken and passed.

The portfolio and project will be submitted at gateway. Once the portfolio and project have been reviewed, the end-point assessor will provide a question for the project presentation and both the project presentation and portfolio-based interview will be scheduled.

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The Highfield approach

This section describes the approach Highfield has adopted in the development of this end-point assessment, in terms of its interpretation of the requirements of the end-point assessment plan and other relevant documents.

Documents used in developing this end-point assessment

Standard (ST0070, 2019):

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/business-administrator/>

End-point assessment plan (AP03, 2020):

https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/4504/st0070_business-admin_13_ap-for-publication_100920.pdf

Specific considerations

The assessment criteria used for the portfolio-based interview and project presentation have been taken from the assessment plan. The assessment criteria used for the knowledge test have been written by Highfield and are based on the criteria from the assessment plan.

In accordance with the business administrator assessment plan, Highfield has detailed which criteria **must** be covered by which assessment method at the end of this kit. Additionally, some criteria within the assessment plan are open for assessment by multiple assessment methods.

Where criteria are open for assessment in both the portfolio-based interview and project presentation methods, we have allowed the apprentice to cover the criteria within either the project presentation or the portfolio-based interview. However, to allow the apprentice the best opportunity to cover all criteria sufficiently, we have recommended that at least 50% of the 'either/or' criteria are covered within the project presentation and ideally more. This then reduces the amount of criteria to be 'mopped up' during the portfolio-based interview.

Where criteria are open for assessment between the knowledge test and either of the other assessment methods Highfield has determined which criteria must be covered during the knowledge test, and which must be covered in either the portfolio-based interview or

project presentation, as it is not possible for individual criteria requiring further evidence to be identified and carried over from the knowledge test.

The assessment plan states that the knowledge test should typically be passed before progressing to the portfolio-based interview and project presentation. Highfield will schedule all 3 assessments at once, the knowledge test taking place on a separate day prior to the portfolio-based interview and project presentation. Typically, the apprentice will pass the test before they take the other 2 assessment methods. However, if they do not pass the knowledge test on their first attempt, they may proceed with attempting the other assessment methods before re-attempting the test. This interpretation of the assessment plan has been adopted to facilitate manageability for the employer, the training provider and Highfield as the EPAO.

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Gateway

How to prepare for gateway

After apprentices have completed their on-programme learning, they should be ready to pass through 'gateway' to their end-point assessment.

Gateway is a meeting that should be arranged between the apprentice, their employer and training provider to determine that the apprentice is ready to undertake their end-point assessment. The apprentice should prepare for this meeting by bringing along work-based evidence, including:

- customer feedback
- recordings
- manager statements
- witness statements

As well as evidence from others, such as:

- mid and end-of-year performance reviews
- feedback to show how they have met the apprenticeship standards while on-programme

In advance of gateway, apprentices will need to have:

- achieved Level 2 English
- achieved Level 2 maths
- completed their portfolio of learning
- completed their project

Therefore, apprentices should be advised by employers and providers to gather this evidence throughout their on-programme training. It is recommended that employers and providers complete regular checks and reviews of this evidence to ensure the apprentice is progressing and achieving the standards before the formal gateway meeting is arranged.

The gateway meeting

The gateway meeting should last around an hour and must be completed on or after the apprenticeship on-programme end date. It should be attended by the apprentice and the relevant people who have worked with the apprentice on-programme, such as the line manager/employer or mentor, the on-programme trainer/training provider and/or a senior manager (as appropriate to the business).

During the meeting, the apprentice, employer and training provider will discuss the apprentice's progress to date and confirm if the apprentice has met the full criteria of the apprenticeship standard during their on-programme training. The Gateway Readiness Report should be used to log the outcomes of the meeting and agreed by all 3 parties. This report is available to download from the Highfield Assessment website.

The report should then be submitted to Highfield to initiate the end-point assessment process. If you require any support completing the Gateway Readiness Report, please contact your EPA Customer Engagement Manager at Highfield Assessment.

Please note: a copy of the standard should be available to all attendees during the gateway meeting.

Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Highfield Assessment has measures in place for apprentices who require additional support. Please refer to the Highfield Assessment Reasonable Adjustments policy for further information/guidance.

ID requirements

Highfield Assessment will need to ensure that the person undertaking an assessment is indeed the person they are claiming to be. All employers are, therefore, required to ensure that each apprentice has their identification with them on the day of the assessment so the end-point assessor can check.

Highfield Assessment will accept the following as proof of an apprentice's identity:

- a valid passport (any nationality)
- a signed UK photocard driving licence
- a valid warrant card issued by HM forces or the police
- another photographic ID card, such as an employee ID card or travel card

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Business Administrator apprenticeship standard

The following pages contain the Level 3 Business Administrator apprenticeship standard and the assessment criteria in a suggested format that is suitable for delivery.

The organisation	
Knowledge	
Understands their organisational purpose , activities, aims, values, vision for the future, resources, and the way that the political/economic environment affects the organisation.	
Portfolio-based interview	
Pass criteria	<i>Distinction criteria</i>
TO1 Shows a working knowledge of the organisation's purpose , aims and ways of working, putting it in context of the local (or sector) environment	<i>TO3 Shows a thorough understanding of the organisation's purpose, aims and way of working, putting it in context of the wider economy and political environment</i>
TO2 Provides some understanding of the political and economic environment	
Knowledge test	
Indicative assessment criteria	
TO4 Describe the purpose and vision of the organisation	
TO5 Explain how the wider political and economic environment can affect the organisation	

Amplification and guidance

Purpose

- Public
- Private
- Non-profit
- Goal

Context

- Perspective
- Circumstance
- Setting

Political and economic environment

- Political:
 - government actions/activity that affect the operation of the organisation or sector. These may be:
 - local
 - regional
 - national
 - international
 - the party in power
 - issues being discussed by the majority
 - policy making
 - institutions/government departments
- Economic
 - Employment
 - Income
 - Inflation

- Interest rates
- Productivity
- Behaviour of consumers and institutions

Purpose and vision of the organisation

- How employees help the organisation achieve its goals
- Learning and development needs, appraisals, objectives
- Mission statements
- Organisational structures such as:
 - tall
 - wide
 - functional
 - flat
- Partnerships and sole traders
- Private and public sector features, aims and/or objectives
- Relevant policies and documents
- Vision statement

How the wider political and economic environment can affect the organisation

- Economic upturns or recessions
- How political and economic environment affect:
 - costs
 - revenues
 - profits
 - turnover
 - morale
 - supply
 - demand
 - customer image

- Span of control

Value of their skills

Knowledge

Knows organisational **structure** and demonstrates understanding of how their work benefits the organisation. Knows how they fit within their team and recognises how their skills can help them to progress their career.

Project presentation / Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria

VS1 Understands the **structure** of the organisation and how their work contributes

VS2 Identifies their role within the team and **value** of their skills

Distinction criteria

VS3 *Understands the structure of the organisation and is able to **discuss how different teams support each other***

VS4 *Understands the contribution their work makes and promotes its **value***

VS5 *Identifies their role within the team and is able to compare their skills with **others***

Amplification and guidance

Structure

- The rules and policies which define work roles and responsibilities
- How information flows from level to level within the organisation
- A specific hierarchy, each employee's job role
- Centralised or de-centralised
- Functional/bureaucratic
- Divisional or multi-divisional

- Flat

Value

- Importance
- Worth
- Usefulness
- Significance within their current position
- The potential to advance their career

Discuss how different teams support each other

- Learners need to be able to discuss **two** other teams and departments within the organisation that have separate goals and expectations and how they support their own team or how their team supports them

Others

- Peers
- Team members
- Management

Stakeholders	
Knowledge	
Has a practical knowledge of managing stakeholders and their differing relationships to an organisation. This includes internal and external customers, clients and/or suppliers. Liaises with internal/external customers, suppliers or stakeholders from inside or outside the UK. Engages and fosters relationships with suppliers and partner organisations.	
Project presentation / Portfolio-based interview	
Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
ST1 Understands how to manage stakeholders , e.g. clarifying and delivering on expectations	<i>ST3 Understands and follows the principles of stakeholder management</i>
ST2 Demonstrates they have worked with stakeholders to achieve results	<i>ST4 Goes beyond expectations to build constructive relationships with stakeholders</i>
Knowledge test	
Indicative assessment criteria	
ST5 Identify methods of stakeholder management	
ST6 Describe the differing stakeholder relationships to an organisation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • internal customers • external customers • clients and/or suppliers 	
Amplification and guidance	
Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with an interest or concern in the business. Anyone who can affect or be affected by an organisation, strategy or project and can be internal or external, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ suppliers 	

- clients/customers
- partner organisations
- employees
- shareholders

Stakeholder management

- Techniques and methods used to manage stakeholder relationships
- Methods of communication used to develop relationships, suitable for the situation and individuals
- Stakeholder engagement assessment matrix:
 - unaware
 - resistant
 - neutral
 - supportive
 - leading

Methods of stakeholder management

- Conflicts of interest, handling complaints
- Domestic and international stakeholders
- Internal and external stakeholders
- Levels of influence, including power/interest grids
- Methods of communication
- Power and interest of stakeholders
- Stakeholder mapping, analysis, engagement

Relevant regulation	
Knowledge	
Understands laws and regulations that apply to their role including data protection, health and safety, compliance etc. Supports the company in applying the regulations.	
Portfolio-based interview	
Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
RR1 Demonstrates knowledge of relevant laws and regulation and consistently follows them	<i>RR2 Shows a thorough knowledge of relevant laws and regulations and consistently follows them</i> <i>RR3 Champions adherence to relevant laws and regulation within the organisation</i>
Knowledge test	
Indicative assessment criteria	
RR4 Outline relevant laws and regulations that apply to their role including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data protection • health and safety • compliance 	
Amplification and guidance	
Laws and regulations that apply to their role including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data protection • health and safety • compliance • accident and incident reporting procedures • confidentiality • direct and indirect discrimination • diversity and inclusion 	

- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
- intellectual property rights
- minimum wage
- personal data/sensitive personal data
- protected characteristics
- risk assessments
- whistleblowing

Relevant laws and regulations

- The current:
 - Worker Protection (amendment of the Equality Act) Act
 - Employment Rights Act
 - Employment Relations Act
 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Data Protection Act
 - Copyright, Designs and Patent Act
 - Freedom of Information Act
 - The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act
 - The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations
- Security of information and property
- Compliance
- Contracts of employment

Champions adherence

- How have they supported and monitored the team to work within the laws and regulations listed

Policies	
Knowledge	
Understands the organisation's internal policies and key business policies relating to sector.	
Portfolio-based interview	
Pass criteria	<i>Distinction criteria</i>
PO1 Understands and follows the organisation's internal policies	<i>PO2 Understands and promotes the organisation's internal policies</i>
Amplification and guidance	
Internal policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee conduct • Equality and diversity • Attendance and time off • Dress code • I.T. use – information security, internet access, social media policy • Substance abuse 	

Business fundamentals	
Knowledge	
Understands the applicability of business principles such as managing change , business finances and project management .	
Knowledge test	
Indicative assessment criteria	
BF1	Describe the applicability of business principles
BF2	Describe the fundamentals of business finance
BF3	Describe the fundamentals of managing change
BF4	Describe the fundamentals of project management
Amplification and guidance	
<p>Applicability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness • Validity • Relationship • Relevancy • Opportunity cost • Quality standards • Control • Assurance <p>Business principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate governance • Quality assurance • Quality control • Internal quality standards 	

- Opportunity cost
- Accountability
- Integrity

Managing change

- Acknowledging and understanding the need for the change
- Dr John Kotter's change process
- Tuckman's Model
- Communicating
- Evaluating
- Implementing
- Planning, for example:
 - succession
 - contingency
 - strategic
 - consultation
- Resistance and fear of change and how to manage this effectively
- Types of change:
 - developmental
 - incremental
 - process
 - structural
 - system
 - transformational/radical

Business finance

- Balance sheets
- Breakeven
- Budgets

- Cash flow
- Creditors
- Debtors
- Expenditure
- Liabilities
- Revenue
- Payroll

Project management

- Life cycle of a project
 - Project initiation
 - Project planning
 - Project execution
 - Project monitoring and control
 - Project closure
- Leading
- Managing
- Organising
- Resourcing
- Securing
- Succession

Processes

Knowledge

Understands the organisation's processes, e.g. making payments or processing customers' data. Is able to review processes autonomously and make suggestions for improvements. Applying a solutions-based approach to improve business's processes and helping define procedures. Understands how to administer billing, process invoices and purchase orders.

Project presentation

Pass criteria

PR1 Understands and consistently follows the organisation's processes

PR2 Makes suggestions for small improvements and supports on successful implementation

Distinction criteria

PR3 Understands and follows organisational processes and promotes their adherence and improvements

*PR4 Able to identify **inefficiencies** or **ineffectiveness** in a process and support on successful implementation*

Amplification and guidance

Inefficiencies

- Wastefulness
- Shortfalls
- Failures
- Faults

Ineffectiveness

- Not practical
- Unworkable
- Inadequate

External environment factors

Knowledge

Understands relevant **external factors**, e.g. market forces, policy and regulatory changes, supply chain, etc. and the wider business impact. Where necessary understands the international/global market in which the employing organisation is placed.

Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria

EE1 Understand the **external factors** affecting the organisation and how they relate to their role

Distinction criteria

*EE2 Shows a deep understanding of the **external factors** facing the organisation and how they relate to their role*

EE3 Seeks additional information about how those factors are developing

Knowledge test

Indicative assessment criteria

EE4 Describe relevant **external factors**:

- market forces
- policy and regulatory changes
- supply chain

Amplification and guidance

External factors

- Factors that positively or negatively affect the organisation such as:
 - political
 - environmental
 - social
 - technological
 - economic

- legal
- Economic factors:
 - affecting finance and/or the financial status of the business
- Business/market forces:
 - the actions of buyers and sellers that cause the prices of goods and services to change, without being controlled by the government
- Policy and regulatory changes:
 - developed by the sector and government
- Supply chain:
 - the sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of products and services
- Corporate social responsibility
- Effects of various external factors such as:
 - inflation
 - exchange rates
 - interest rates
 - unemployment
 - laws
 - economic upturn or downturn
 - recession
 - tariffs
 - barriers
 - embargos
- How external factors affect:
 - costs
 - revenues
 - profits
 - turnover
 - morale
 - supply

- demand
- growth
- contracting

IT	
Skills	
<p>Skilled in the use of multiple IT packages and systems relevant to the organisation in order to write letters or emails, create proposals, perform financial processes, record and analyse data. Examples include MS Office or equivalent packages. Able to choose the most appropriate IT solution to suit the business problem. Able to update and review databases, record information and produce data analysis where required.</p>	
Project presentation / Portfolio-based interview	
Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
<p>IT1 Demonstrates they can use IT packages, specifically to write letters or emails, and to record and analyse information</p> <p>IT2 Able to perform tasks relevant to their role using IT packages without supervision</p>	<p><i>IT3 Consistently demonstrates they can use IT packages and can provide varied, quality examples</i></p> <p><i>IT4 Able to perform tasks relevant to their role using IT packages and can coach others in using IT</i></p>
Amplification and guidance	
<p>IT packages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Office or equivalent. Bespoke packages may be used within the organisation, this will depend on the organisation and the job role. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ legal establishments ○ medical establishments ○ educational establishments <p>Write letters or emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate to the in-house style and recognised standard conventions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ grammatically correct ○ appropriate for the audience ○ professional format ○ formal/informal 	

Record

- Correctly/accurately
- Using the correct IT package such as:
 - spreadsheet
 - database
 - reports

Analyse

- Qualitative
 - deals with descriptions, data that can be observed but not measured
- Quantitative
 - deals with numbers, data that can be measured

Coach others

- Team members
- Peers
- Identify the need for coaching
- Communicate the required knowledge and check understanding
- Provide the opportunity for others to practice the tasks
- Provide constructive and supportive feedback
- Monitor progress of new workplace skills and give assistance
- Report progress
- Identify performance problems or difficulties

Record and document production

Skills

Produces **accurate** records and documents including emails, letters, files, payments, reports and proposals. Makes recommendations for improvements and present solutions to management. Drafts correspondence, writes reports and able to review others' work. Maintains records and files, handles confidential information in compliance with the organisation's procedures. Coaches others in the processes required to complete these tasks.

Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
RD1 Records are accurate , rarely require correction and are treated confidentially	<i>RD4 Records are consistently accurate and confidential</i>
RD2 Recommendations and solutions only need minor improvements	<i>RD5 Recommendations are insightful, clearly recorded and result in a clear benefit to the organisation</i>
RD3 Supports others in producing documents and can provide examples	<i>RD6 Offers to coach others and good performance is recorded in feedback</i>

Amplification and guidance

Accurate

- Precise, correct, exact, without errors and in line with organisational and recognised standard conventions, for example:
 - grammatically correct
 - appropriate for the audience
 - professional format

Clear benefit

- Financial
- Time
- Resources
- Productivity

Decision making

Skills

Exercises proactivity and good judgement. Makes effective decisions based on sound reasoning and is able to deal with challenges in a mature way. Seeks advice of more experienced team members when appropriate.

Project presentation

Pass criteria

DM1 Decisions are thought through, using a **range of information** to make a **sound judgement**

DM2 Challenges appropriately and is polite when doing so

DM3 Exercises **sound judgement** when asking for advice by choosing the appropriate time, manner and person

Distinction criteria

*DM4 Decisions are **timely and consistently** show good judgement*

DM5 Decisions are continuously made by thoughtfully considering different information and the risks of any action

DM6 Decisions are fully evidenced and justifiable

DM7 Consistently behaves and seeks advice in a mature way

Amplification and guidance

Range of information

- Reports
- Charts
- Databases
- Policies and procedures
- Discussion
- Questioning
- Research

Sound judgement

- Selecting the right person/source for advice at the most appropriate time, in the most appropriate way

Timely and consistently

- Appropriate, sensible, suitable, well-timed, reliable, dependable decisions

Interpersonal skills

Skills

Builds and maintains positive relationships within their own team and across the organisation. Demonstrates ability to **influence** and **challenge** appropriately. Becomes a role model to peers and team members, developing coaching skills as they gain area knowledge.

Project presentation / Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria	<i>Distinction criteria</i>
IS1 Works effectively with a range of people	<i>IS4 Influences managers as well as peers</i>
IS2 Influences and challenges peers when necessary	<i>IS5 Constructively challenges managers, as well as peers, when necessary</i>
IS3 Supports others in the organisation and demonstrates coaching skills	<i>IS6 Proactively offers to coach others and has had good performance recorded in feedback</i>

Amplification and guidance

Influence

- Sway, encourage, persuade, prompt, inspire and guide others

Challenge

- Contest, dispute and question others in a professional manner

Range of people

- Clients/customers
- Managers
- Peers/team members
- Stakeholders
- Suppliers

Communications

Skills

Demonstrates good communication skills, whether face to face, on the telephone, in writing or on digital platforms. Uses the most appropriate channels to communicate effectively. Demonstrates agility and confidence in communications, carrying authority appropriately. Understands and applies social media solutions appropriately. Answers questions from inside and outside of the organisation, representing the organisation or department.

Project presentation / Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria	<i>Distinction criteria</i>
CO1 Demonstrates they can communicate clearly, in both written and verbal communication	<i>CO5 Communication is consistently clear, both written and verbally</i> <i>CO6 Champions an appropriate choice of communication channels</i> <i>CO7 Consistently answers queries from both inside and outside of the organisation in a confident way</i>
CO2 Shows flexibility to different situations	
CO3 Uses appropriate communication channels dependent on the subject matter	
CO4 Demonstrates ability to answer queries effectively from both inside and outside the organisation	

Amplification and guidance

Communication channels

- Formal/informal
- Unsolicited
- Verbal
- Written
- Face-to-face
- Digital platforms

Quality

Skills

Completes tasks to a high standard. Demonstrates the necessary level of expertise required to complete tasks and applies themselves to continuously improve their work. Is able to review processes autonomously and make suggestions for improvements. Shares administrative best practice across the organisation, e.g. coaches others to perform tasks correctly. Applies problem-solving skills to resolve challenging or complex complaints and is a key point of contact for addressing issues.

Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria	<i>Distinction criteria</i>
QU1 Checks own work before submission and makes improvements	<i>QU5 Takes ownership for work and applies processes for checking work</i>
QU2 Work is largely accurate and meets expectations	<i>QU6 Work is consistently accurate and meets the agreed outcomes</i>
QU3 Identifies areas for improvement and can justify why	<i>QU7 Recommends and implements process improvements</i>
QU4 Promotes best practice examples of administration, such as accurate records	<i>QU8 Proactively offers to coach others in an area of work and communicates requirements for work</i>

Amplification and guidance

Consistently accurate

- Reliable
- Precise
- Correct
- Exact
- Without errors
- In line with organisational and recognised standard conventions

Planning and organisation

Skills

Takes responsibility for initiating and completing tasks, manages priorities and time in order to successfully meet deadlines. Positively manages the expectations of colleagues at all levels and sets a positive example for others in the workplace. Makes suggestions for improvements to working practice, showing understanding of implications beyond the immediate environment (e.g. impact on clients, suppliers, other parts of the organisation). Manages resources, e.g. equipment or facilities. Organises meetings and events, takes minutes during meetings and creates action logs as appropriate. Takes responsibility for logistics, e.g. travel and accommodation.

Project presentation / Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
PL1 Plans work and achieves deadlines PL2 Shares areas to improve plans with others PL3 Effectively manages resources and meetings PL4 Takes responsibility for logistics and can provide examples	<i>PL5 Makes plans that efficiently maximise resources and personally ensures results are achieved</i> <i>PL6 Improves the management of resources e.g. identifies cost savings or process improvements</i> <i>PL7 Is proactive in taking responsibility for areas of logistics and has excellent examples to demonstrate this</i>

Amplification and guidance

Responsibility for logistics

- Organisation of movement or delivery of items such as:
 - products
 - equipment or services to customers (internal or external)
- Organisation of travel/logistics, for example:
 - to meetings
 - visiting customers or sites
 - booking venues

Project management	
Skills	
Uses relevant project management principles and tools to scope, plan, monitor and report. Plans required resources to successfully deliver projects. Undertakes and leads projects as and when required.	
Project presentation	
Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
PM1 Effectively plans and manages small projects PM2 Able to lead small projects when required PM3 Demonstrates some understanding of project management tools and principles	<i>PM4 Plans and manages significant project and can describe what made it a success</i> <i>PM5 Demonstrates strong leadership skills when managing a project</i> <i>PM6 Understands and is able to apply a strong grasp of project management tools and principles</i>
Knowledge test	
Indicative assessment criteria	
PM7 Identify project management tools and principles	PM8 Describe strong leadership skills when managing a project
Amplification and guidance	
Project management principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling • Evaluating • Executing • Leading • Managing • Monitoring 	

- Organising
- Planning
- Reporting
- Resourcing
- Securing
- Succession

Resources

- Equipment
- Facilities
- Funding/finance
- Staff

Project management tools

- Gantt charts
- PERT chart
- project dashboard
- project database
- RACI matrix
- total quality management (TQM)
- Tuckman's model of team development - forming, storming, norming, performing
- work breakdown structure
- Life cycle of a project:
 - initiation
 - planning
 - execution
 - monitoring

- controlling
- closure

Leadership skills

- Commitment - follow through with agreements
- Communication - clear, succinct, listening, written, verbal
- Creativity - using non-traditional solutions
- Delegation - identify individual and team skills and utilise these
- Feedback - consistently and continually seek opportunities to give positive and constructive feedback
- Flexibility - ability to accept last-minute changes
- Motivation - able to inspire and build self-esteem
- Positivity - developing a positive atmosphere
- Professional- ability to be reliable, set high standards and follow regulations
- Responsibility - taking ownership of successes and failures
- Trustworthiness - demonstrate integrity and develop trust

Professionalism

Behaviours

Behaves in a professional way. This includes personal presentation, respect, respecting and encouraging diversity to cater for wider audiences, punctuality and attitude to colleagues, customers and key stakeholders. Adheres to the organisation's code of conduct for professional use of social media. Acts as a role model, contributing to team cohesion and productivity - representing the positive aspects of team culture and respectfully challenging inappropriate prevailing cultures.

Portfolio-based interview

Pass criteria	<i>Distinction criteria</i>
PF1 Consistently behaves in a professional way, showing punctuality, respect for others and personal presentation PF2 Follows the standard of conduct required by the organisation	PF3 <i>Is a role model employee, showing professionalism in their conduct, punctuality, presentation and respect for others, irrespective of background, even in difficult circumstances</i> PF4 <i>Can be relied upon to represent the team and be an ambassador for the organisation</i>

Amplification and guidance

Professionalism

- Shows competence/skill, in line with organisational requirements, with regards to:
 - personal presentation
 - professional use of social media
 - punctuality
 - respect

- respecting and encouraging diversity to cater for wider audiences

Ambassador

- Contributing to team cohesion and productivity - representing the positive aspects of team culture and respectfully challenging inappropriate prevailing cultures

Personal qualities	
Behaviours	
Shows exemplary qualities that are valued including integrity, reliability, self-motivation, being proactive and having a positive attitude. Motivates others where responsibility is shared.	
Project Presentation / Portfolio-based interview	
Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
PQ1 Regularly shows integrity, reliability, positivity and self-motivation	PQ2 Always shows integrity, reliability, positivity and self-motivation and successfully encourages others to show more of these qualities
Amplification and guidance	
<p>Regularly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show they have repeatedly behaved using all the qualities listed <p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners will need to show they have behaved, without fail, using all the qualities listed 	

Managing performance

Behaviours

Takes responsibility for their own work, accepts feedback in a positive way, uses initiative and shows resilience. Also takes responsibility for their own development, knows when to ask questions to complete a task and informs their line manager when a task is complete. Performs thorough self-assessments of their work and complies with the organisation's procedures.

Project Presentation / Portfolio interview

Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
MP1 Clarifies requirements and takes responsibility for work produced	<p><i>MP4 Shows a strong personal responsibility for all aspects of their work and can work with minimal supervision, whilst adhering to policies, procedures and standards</i></p> <p><i>MP5 Takes feedback on board and continually assesses the quality of their work</i></p>
MP2 Acts with responsibility and delivers their work to the right level of quality without requiring additional supervision and coaching	
MP3 Asks for feedback and takes feedback on board	

Amplification and guidance

Right level of quality

- Accurate, without errors and to the agreed requirements and organisational expectations

Adaptability	
Behaviours	
Is able to accept and deal with changing priorities related to both their own work and to the organisation.	
Project Presentation / Portfolio-based interview	
Pass criteria	Distinction criteria
AD1 Accepts and responds positively to change	AD2 Accepts change, <i>evaluates</i> the impact of any change and seeks to use it to improve their work
Amplification and guidance	
Evaluate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess • Judge • Measure • Review 	

Responsibility

Behaviours

Demonstrates taking responsibility for team performance and quality of projects delivered. Takes a clear interest in seeing that projects are successfully completed and customers' requests are handled appropriately. Takes initiative to develop own and others' skills and behaviours.

Project Presentation / Portfolio interview

Pass criteria

RE1 Accepts personal responsibility for their own work, delivering their work on time and to the right level of quality

RE2 Demonstrates ownership and willingness to see work completed

RE3 Applies initiative in developing their own skills and behaviour

Distinction criteria

RE4 Role model who takes personal responsibility for themselves and peers

*RE5 Aims to deliver work **within targets** and deliver more than required in their role*

RE6 Proactively seeks opportunities to develop themselves and shares this learning with others

Amplification and guidance

Within targets

- Timescale
- Budget
- Quality

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Assessment Summary

The end-point assessment for business administrator is made up of 3 components.

1. A 60-minute knowledge test consisting of 50 questions - *this should typically be passed before progressing to the interview or presentation.*
2. A Project presentation, which should last 15 minutes with a further 15 minutes for a Q&A session.
3. A 45-minute portfolio-based interview.

As an employer/training provider, you should agree a plan and schedule with the apprentice to ensure all assessment components can be completed effectively.

Each component of the end-point assessment will be assessed against the appropriate criteria laid out in this guide, which will be used to determine an overall grade for the apprentice.

Knowledge test

- To pass the knowledge test, apprentices must achieve at least 60%, which equates to 30 out of 50
- To achieve a distinction in the knowledge test, apprentices must achieve at least 80%, which equates to 40 out of 50

Project presentation

- To pass the project presentation, 100% of the mandatory pass criteria must be achieved
- To achieve a distinction in the project presentation, 100% of the mandatory pass and distinction criteria must be achieved
- In addition, a set of either/or pass and distinction criteria must be achieved across the project presentation and the portfolio-based interview.

Portfolio-based interview

- To pass the portfolio-based interview, 100% of the mandatory pass criteria must be achieved

- To achieve a distinction in the portfolio-based interview, 100% of the mandatory pass and distinction criteria must be achieved
- In addition, a set of either/or pass and distinction criteria must be achieved across the project presentation and the portfolio-based interview.

Grading

All 3 assessment methods are graded pass/distinction.

The Business Administrator standard includes a number of 'either/or' criteria that may be achieved in the project presentation or the portfolio-based interview, in addition to the mandatory criteria designated to each assessment method. All of the pass criteria must be met across the components in order to pass the apprenticeship overall. All of the distinction criteria must be met across the components in order to achieve a distinction overall.

Apprentices must achieve a pass in all 3 assessment methods to pass the apprenticeship. A distinction grade must be achieved in all 3 assessment methods to achieve an overall distinction for the apprenticeship.

Retake and resit information

If an apprentice fails an end-point assessment method, it is the employer, provider and apprentice's decision whether to attempt a resit or retake. If a **resit** is chosen, please call the Highfield scheduling team to arrange the resit. If a **retake** is chosen, the apprentice will require a period of further learning and will need to complete a retake checklist. Once this is completed, please call the Highfield scheduling team to arrange the retake.

A **maximum** of 2 resits and 2 retakes are permissible. Resits should be completed within a 3-month period from the initial fail. Timescales will be decided between the employer, the training provider and Highfield, dependent on the amount of re-learning that is required.

When undertaking a resit or retake, the assessment method(s) will need to be re-attempted in full, regardless of any individual assessment criteria that were passed on any prior attempt. It may be necessary to also re-attempt a 'pre-assessment' activity such as a project submission or proposal, we will advise this on the EPA Report and during the scheduling call. The EPA Report will contain feedback on areas for development and resit or retake guidance.

The Business Administrator standard has a number of 'either/or' criteria that may be assessed during either the project presentation or the portfolio-based interview. The 'either/or' criteria that have not been met during the project presentation may be carried over to the portfolio-based interview. Where criteria have been carried over and the learner subsequently does not meet them during the interview either, the apprentice will fail the interview. Providing the mandatory project presentation criteria have been achieved, they will pass the project presentation. When resitting or retaking the portfolio-based interview, all of the mandatory criteria for the portfolio-based interview must be re-attempted including any either/or criteria that weren't passed in the project presentation.

Should there be a situation where the assessor feels an apprentice is unlikely to be able to attempt a large number of carried over criteria as well as all criteria assigned to the portfolio-based interview in the time allowed, they will advise in their feedback that the apprentice should resit both the project presentation and the portfolio-based interview. It is then up to the employer, training provider and apprentice which option they take.

During the project presentation, if an apprentice fails to achieve any of the mandatory criteria designated for the project presentation alone, they will fail the project presentation and have to re-sit or retake.

During the portfolio-based interview, if an apprentice fails to achieve any of the mandatory criteria designated for the portfolio-based interview alone, they will fail the portfolio-based interview and have to re-sit or retake.

Apprentices who achieve a pass grade cannot resit or retake the EPA to achieve a higher score.

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Assessing the knowledge test

The following areas (knowledge) of the business administrator standard will be assessed by a 60-minute knowledge test consisting of 50 questions with the pass mark being 60% (30 out of 50) and the distinction mark being 80% (40 out of 50). The test is available as both an online and paper-based assessment.

The topics covered within the test are listed below:

- project management
- the organisation
- stakeholders
- relevant regulation
- business fundamentals
- external environment factors

In each paper, questions will cover each of the areas above, however, not every aspect of every area will be covered in every test.

Before the assessment

- While on-programme, the employer/training provider should brief the apprentice on the areas to be assessed by the knowledge test
- In readiness for end-point assessment, the apprentice should complete a sample test. The mock tests are available as paper-based tests and also on the Highfield mock e-assessment system.

Knowledge test criteria

The following pages include the criteria that are covered by the knowledge test.

The organisation	
The apprentice will	
	Understands their organisational, purpose, activities, aims, values, vision for the future, resources and the way that the political/economic environment affects the organisation.
Criteria covered in the knowledge test	
	TO4 Describe the purpose and vision of the organisation
	TO5 Explain how the wider political and economic environment can affect the organisation

Stakeholders	
The apprentice will	
	Has a practical knowledge of managing stakeholders and their differing relationships to an organisation. This includes internal and external customers, clients and/or suppliers. Liaises with internal/external customers, suppliers or stakeholders from inside or outside the UK. Engages and fosters relationships with suppliers and partner organisations.
Criteria covered in the knowledge test	
	ST5 Identify methods of stakeholder management
	ST6 Describe the differing stakeholder relationships to an organisation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• internal customers• external customers• clients and/or suppliers

Relevant regulation	
The apprentice will	
	Understands laws and regulations that apply to their role including data protection, health and safety, compliance etc. Supports the company in applying the regulations.
Criteria covered in the knowledge test	
	RR4 Outline relevant laws and regulations that apply to their role including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• data protection• health and safety• compliance

Business fundamentals

The apprentice will

Understands the applicability of business principles such as managing change, business finances and project management.

Criteria covered in the knowledge test

BF1 Describe the applicability of business principles

BF2 Describe the fundamentals of business finance

BF3 Describe the fundamentals of managing change

BF4 Describe the fundamentals of project management

External environmental factors

The apprentice will

Understands relevant external factors, e.g. market forces, policy and regulatory changes, supply chain, etc. and the wider business impact). Where necessary understands the international/global market in which the employing organisation is placed.

Criteria covered in the knowledge test

EE4 Describe relevant external factors:

- market forces
- policy and regulatory changes
- supply chain

Project management

The apprentice will

Uses relevant project management principles and tools to scope, plan, monitor and report. Plans required resources to successfully deliver projects. Undertakes and leads projects as and when required.

Criteria covered in the knowledge test

PM7 Identify project management tools and principles

PM8 Describe strong leadership skills when managing a project

PM9 Understands and is able to apply a strong grasp of project management tools and principles

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Assessing the project presentation

The apprentice will complete their project from month 9 of the apprenticeship, and this should be completed prior to the end-point assessment being triggered. The project will be submitted with the Gateway Readiness Report.

The apprentice will deliver a presentation on the project they have completed or a process they have improved. The presentation lasts 15 minutes, with a further 15 minutes for a Q&A session.

Once the project is submitted to Highfield, a question will be generated by the assessor. This question must be addressed/answered by the apprentice during the presentation.

Examples of possible questions include:

- how have you improved a process or operating practice?
- what were the steps you took to implement the project?
- what worked well and how would you improve the results in the future?

The presentation should summarise the aim, outcome and responsibilities of the criteria shown below. The presentation should demonstrate how they approached a task and the skills shown in doing so, building towards how they would improve the results going forward.

The presentation is expected to be produced using Microsoft Office PowerPoint, Prezi or similar, demonstrating the required level of IT skills.

Further requirements:

- a project or process improvement should account for 21 to 35 working hours over the apprenticeship, to adequately apply themselves
- must be work-based, incorporating scoping, planning, managing, communicating to stakeholders, monitoring and reporting results
- the apprentice chooses the project/process improvement with the guidance of the employer and training provider

Assessment criteria coverage

The presentation must cover the assessment criteria listed on the following pages.

The pages below identify the criteria which **must** be covered during the project presentation. In addition, there are criteria that may be achieved in **either** the portfolio interview, **or** the project presentation. It is recommended that the apprentice attempts to include at least 50% of the remaining criteria in their project presentation. Any that the assessor identifies as not being covered will be carried over and assessed during the portfolio-based interview.

Therefore, the project and presentation must be carefully planned to ensure coverage of as many criteria as reasonably possible to ensure sufficient time is afforded to the apprentice during each assessment component.

Apprentices must achieve 100% of the mandatory project presentation pass criteria to pass. In addition to this, apprentices must achieve 100% of the mandatory project presentation distinction criteria to achieve a distinction for this component. Where the other criteria have not been covered, these may be carried over to the portfolio-based interview, however it is strongly recommended that at least 50% of the remaining criteria is covered by this component to prevent carry over of a large amount to the interview.

Before the assessment

Employers/training providers should:

- ensure the apprentice knows the date, time and location of the assessment
- ensure the apprentice knows which business administrator criteria will be assessed (outlined on the following pages)
- encourage the apprentice to reflect on their experience and learning on-programme to understand what is required to meet the standard
- be prepared to provide clarification to the apprentice and signpost them to relevant parts of their on-programme experience as preparation for this assessment

It is suggested that a mock assessment is carried out by the apprentice in advance of the end-point assessment with the training provider/employer giving feedback on any areas for improvement.

Project presentation - mock assessment

It is the employer/training provider's responsibility to prepare apprentices for their end-point assessment, and Highfield recommends that they complete a mock project presentation in preparation for the real thing.

The employer/training provider should carry out a mock assessment of the presentation. This would take the form of the apprentice presenting their project, which could then be marked against the criteria on the following pages.

Consider an audio recording of the mock, and to allow the mock to be observed by other apprentices, especially if it is not practicable for the employer/training provider to carry out a separate mock assessment with each apprentice.

Ensure that the apprentice's performance is assessed by a competent trainer/assessor, and that feedback is shared with the apprentice, to complete the learning experience. Mock marking grids are available to download from the Highfield Assessment website.

Examples of the types of question that may be asked during the Q&A include:

- 'If you had noticed an inefficiency in a process, how would you have resolved this?'
- 'If you believed your line manager had made a mistake, how would you communicate this?'
- 'Tell me about how you react to change within your organisation.'
- 'Tell me about your interactions with different stakeholders.'

Project presentation criteria

The following are mandatory assessment criteria that **must** be covered during the project presentation.

Processes
To pass, the following must be evidenced.
PR1 Understands and consistently follows the organisation's processes
PR2 Makes suggestions for small improvements and supports on successful implementation
<i>To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced</i>
<i>PR3 Understands and follows organisational processes and promotes their adherence and improvements</i>
<i>PR4 Able to identify inefficiencies or ineffectiveness in a process and support on successful implementation</i>

Decision making
To pass, the following must be evidenced.
DM1 Decisions are thought through, using a range of information to make a sound judgement
DM2 Challenges appropriately and is polite when doing so
DM3 Exercises sound judgement when asking for advice by choosing the appropriate time, manner and person
<i>To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced</i>
<i>DM4 Decisions are timely and consistently show good judgement</i>
<i>DM5 Decisions are continuously made by thoughtfully considering different information and the risks of any action</i>
<i>DM6 Decisions are fully evidenced and justifiable</i>
<i>DM7 Consistently behaves and seeks advice in a mature way</i>

Project management

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

PM1 Effectively plans and manages small projects

PM2 Able to lead small projects when required

PM3 Demonstrates some understanding of **project management tools** and principles

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

PM4 Plans and manages significant project and can describe what made it a success

PM5 Demonstrates strong leadership skills when managing a project

PM6 Understands and is able to apply a strong grasp of project management tools and principles

Either/Or criteria

The following assessment criteria may be assessed in either the project presentation OR the portfolio-based interview. If not covered during the project presentation, they may be covered by the portfolio-based interview. It is **strongly** recommended that at least 50% of the criteria below are covered during the project presentation, and so this must be carefully planned to allow the apprentice the best chance.

*The criteria that lend themselves to the project presentation are indicated with an asterisk, however, this should be treated as guidance and as such is **not** a requirement of the end-point assessment.

Value of their skills

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

VS1 Understands the structure of the organisation and how their work contributes

VS2 Identifies their role within the team and value of their skills*

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

VS3 Understands the structure of the organisation and is able to discuss how different teams support each other

*VS4 Understands the contribution their work makes and promotes its value**

*VS5 Identifies their role within the team and is able to compare their skills with others**

Stakeholders

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

ST1 Understands how to manage stakeholders, e.g. clarifying and delivering on expectations*

ST2 Demonstrates they have worked with stakeholders to achieve results*

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

ST3 Understands and follows the principles of stakeholder management*

ST4 Goes beyond expectations to build constructive relationships with stakeholders

IT

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

IT1 Demonstrates they can use IT packages, specifically to write letters or emails, and to record and analyse information*

IT2 Able to perform tasks relevant to their role using IT packages without supervision

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

IT3 Consistently demonstrates they can use IT packages and can provide varied, quality examples

IT4 Able to perform tasks relevant to their role using IT packages and can coach others in using IT

Interpersonal skills

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

IS1 Works effectively with a range of people*

IS2 Influences and challenges peers when necessary*

IS3 Supports others in the organisation and demonstrates coaching skills

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

IS4 Influences managers as well as peers*

IS5 Constructively challenges managers, as well as peers, when necessary*

IS6 Proactively offers to coach others and has had good performance recorded in feedback

Communications

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

- CO1 Demonstrates they can communicate clearly, in both written and verbal communication*
- CO2 Shows flexibility to different situations
- CO3 Uses appropriate communication channels dependent on the subject matter
- CO4 Demonstrates ability to answer queries effectively from both inside and outside the organisation

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

- CO5 Communication is consistently clear, both written and verbally*
- CO6 Champions an appropriate choice of communication channels
- CO7 Consistently answers queries from both inside and outside of the organisation in a confident way

Planning and organisation

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

- PL1 Plans work and achieves deadlines*
- PL2 Shares areas to improve plans with others*
- PL3 Effectively manages resources and meetings*
- PL4 Takes responsibility for logistics and can provide examples

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

- PL5 Makes plans that efficiently maximise resources and personally ensures results are achieved*
- PL6 Improves the management of resources e.g. identifies cost savings or process improvements*
- PL7 Is proactive in taking responsibility for areas of logistics and has excellent examples to demonstrate this

Personal qualities

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

- PQ1 Regularly shows integrity, reliability, positivity and self-motivation

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

- PQ2 Always shows integrity, reliability, positivity and self-motivation and successfully encourages others to show more of these qualities

Managing performance

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

MP1 Clarifies requirements and takes responsibility for work produced*

MP2 Acts with responsibility and delivers their work to the right level of quality without requiring additional supervision and coaching*

MP3 Asks for feedback and takes feedback on board*

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

*MP4 Shows a strong personal responsibility for all aspects of their work and can work with minimal supervision, whilst adhering to policies, procedures and standards**

MP5 Takes feedback on board and continually assesses the quality of their work

Adaptability

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

AD1 Accepts and responds positively to change

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

AD2 Accepts change, evaluates the impact of any change and seeks to use it to improve their work

Responsibility

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

RE1 Accepts personal responsibility for their own work, delivering their work on time and to the right level of quality*

RE2 Demonstrates ownership and willingness to see work completed*

RE3 Applies initiative in developing their own skills and behaviour

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

RE4 Role model who takes personal responsibility for themselves and peers

*RE5 Aims to deliver work within targets and deliver more than required in their role**

RE6 Proactively seeks opportunities to develop themselves and shares this learning with others

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Assessing the portfolio-based interview

The interview will last 45 minutes. The portfolio of learning provides a structure for this conversation and should provide at least 1 piece of evidence for each of the knowledge, skills and behaviours outlined. A piece of evidence can cover more than 1 assessment criteria. This should be submitted to Highfield at gateway. Evidence is gathered on-programme and the employer should facilitate this through relevant tasks and support. The training provider should support where needed. The interview assesses the understanding and learning that is shown in the portfolio; the portfolio is not directly assessed.

The pages below identify the criteria which must be covered during the portfolio-based interview. Some criteria are open for assessment by the portfolio-based interview and the project presentation. Where possible, these criteria should be completed within the project presentation, however, they may be carried over to the portfolio interview if not covered.

Apprentices will be marked against the criteria included in the tables on the following pages. Apprentices must achieve 100% of the portfolio-based interview pass criteria **and** all either/or criteria not achieved within the project presentation to pass the assessment. In addition to this, apprentices must achieve 100% of the portfolio-based interview distinction criteria **and** all either/or distinction criteria not achieved within the project presentation to achieve a distinction for this component.

The apprentice is permitted to bring notes during the interview, however, these must be self-prepared notes and cannot be provided or influenced by the employer/training provider.

The interview assesses:

- understanding of the portfolio to validate competence shown
- self-reflection of performance, demonstrating knowledge and how appropriate skills and behaviours have been applied
- judgement and understanding to explain appropriate examples

The portfolio should contain:

- a minimum of 8-12 pages
- evidence of at least one of each of the minimum knowledge, skills and behaviours as outlined in the below assessment criteria
- documented evidence of practical observation and/or evaluation by the employer, such as acknowledgement of a skill shown or evidencing work completed on a particular project with manager comments, which is then discussed at interview

Note: the portfolio is not directly assessed; it is used to frame the discussion at interview, where criteria are to be demonstrated.

Before the assessment

- Employers should undertake a mock marking activity around the portfolio that will help to plan for the interview
- Employers/training providers should plan a mock interview that relates to the portfolio and gives the apprentice the opportunity to demonstrate each of the required standards in the following pages

Employers/training providers should:

- ensure the apprentice knows the date, time and location of the assessment
- brief the apprentice on the activities to be carried out and the duration of the assessment (a minimum of 30-45 minutes)
- ensure the apprentice knows which business administrator criteria will be assessed (outlined on the following pages)
- encourage the apprentice to reflect on their experience and learning on-programme to understand what is required to meet the standard
- be prepared to provide clarification to the apprentice, and signpost them to relevant parts of their on-programme experience in preparation for their assessment

It is suggested that a mock assessment is carried out by the apprentice in advance of the end-point assessment with the training provider/employer giving feedback on any areas for improvement.

The portfolio-based interview - mock assessment

It is the employer/training provider's responsibility to prepare apprentices for their end-point assessment, and Highfield recommends that the apprentice experiences a mock portfolio-based interview in preparation for the real thing. The most appropriate form of mock assessment will depend on the apprentice's setting and the resources available at the time. In designing a mock assessment, the employer/training provider should include the following elements in its planning:

- a 45-minute time slot should be available for the complete the portfolio-based interview. If it is intended to be a complete mock assessment covering all relevant standards, however, this time may be split up to allow for progressive learning.
- consider a video recording of the mock assessment, and allow it to be observed by other apprentices, especially if it is not practicable for the employer/training provider to carry out a separate mock assessment with each apprentice.
- ensure that the apprentice's performance is assessed by a competent trainer/assessor, and that feedback is shared with the apprentice to complete the learning experience. The mock assessment sheets may be used for this purpose.

Mock marking grids are available to download from the Highfield Assessment website.

Examples of the types of question that may be used include:

- 'Tell me about your organisational aims and objectives.'
- 'Tell me about occasions in which you have worked with different stakeholders.'
- 'Tell me about any laws and regulations that are relevant to your organisation.'
- 'Tell me about any external factors that may influence your organisation.'
- 'Can you tell me about any behavioural qualities that you feel may help you to fulfil your role?'

Portfolio-based interview criteria

The following are mandatory assessment criteria that **must** be covered during the portfolio-based interview. In addition, the 'either/or' criteria indicated may be covered if not previously met during the project presentation.

The organisation
To pass, the following must be evidenced.
TO1 Shows a working knowledge of the organisation's purpose, aims and ways of working, putting it in context of the local (or sector) environment
TO2 Provides some understanding of the political and economic environment
<i>To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced</i>
<i>TO3 Shows a thorough understanding of the organisation's purpose, aims and way of working, putting it in context of the wider economy and political environment</i>

Relevant regulation
To pass, the following must be evidenced.
RR1 Demonstrates knowledge of relevant laws and regulation and consistently follows them
<i>To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced</i>
<i>RR2 Shows a thorough knowledge of relevant laws and regulations and consistently follows them</i>
<i>RR3 Champions adherence to relevant laws and regulation within the organisation</i>

Policies
To pass, the following must be evidenced.
PO1 Understands and follows the organisation's internal policies
<i>To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced</i>
<i>PO2 Understands and promotes the organisation's internal policies</i>

External environmental factors

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

EE1 Understand the external factors affecting the organisation and how they relate to their role

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

EE2 Shows a deep understanding of the external factors facing the organisation and how they relate to their role

EE3 Seeks additional information about how those factors are developing

Record and document production

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

RD1 Records are accurate, rarely require correction and are treated confidentially

RD2 Recommendations and solutions only need minor improvements

RD3 Supports others in producing documents and can provide examples

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

RD4 Records are consistently accurate and confidential

RD5 Recommendations are insightful, clearly recorded and result in a clear benefit to the organisation

RD6 Offers to coach others and good performance is recorded in feedback

Quality

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

QU1 Checks own work before submission and makes improvements

QU2 Work is largely accurate and meets expectations

QU3 Identifies areas for improvement and can justify why

QU4 Promotes best practice examples of administration, such as accurate records

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

QU5 Takes ownership for work and applies processes for checking work

QU6 Work is consistently accurate and meets the agreed outcomes

QU7 Recommends and implements process improvements

QU8 Proactively offers to coach others in an area of work and communicates requirements for work

Professionalism

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

PF1 Consistently behaves in a professional way, showing punctuality, respect for others and personal presentation

PF2 Follows the standard of conduct required by the organisation

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

PF3 *Is a role model employee, showing professionalism in their conduct, punctuality, presentation and respect for others, irrespective of background, even in difficult circumstances*

PF4 *Can be relied upon to represent the team and be an ambassador for the organisation*

Either/Or criteria

The following assessment criteria may be assessed in either the project presentation OR the portfolio-based interview. **If not covered during the project presentation**, they may be covered by the portfolio-based interview.

Value of their skills

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

VS1 Understands the structure of the organisation and how their work contributes

VS2 Identifies their role within the team and value of their skills

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

VS3 *Understands the structure of the organisation and is able to discuss how different teams support each other*

VS4 *Understands the contribution their work makes and promotes its value*

VS5 *Identifies their role within the team and is able to compare their skills with others*

Stakeholders

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

ST1 Understands how to manage stakeholders, e.g. clarifying and delivering on expectations

ST2 Demonstrates they have worked with stakeholders to achieve results

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

ST3 *Understands and follows the principles of stakeholder management*

ST4 *Goes beyond expectations to build constructive relationships with stakeholders*

IT

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

IT1 Demonstrates they can use IT packages, specifically to write letters or emails, and to record and analyse information

IT2 Able to perform tasks relevant to their role using IT packages without supervision

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

IT3 Consistently demonstrates they can use IT packages and can provide varied, quality examples

IT4 Able to perform tasks relevant to their role using IT packages and can coach others in using IT

Interpersonal skills

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

IS1 Works effectively with a range of people

IS2 Influences and challenges peers when necessary

IS3 Supports others in the organisation and demonstrates coaching skills

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

IS4 Influences managers as well as peers

IS5 Constructively challenges managers, as well as peers, when necessary

IS6 Proactively offers to coach others and has had good performance recorded in feedback

Communications

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

CO1 Demonstrates they can communicate clearly, in both written and verbal communication

CO2 Shows flexibility to different situations

CO3 Uses appropriate communication channels dependent on the subject matter

CO4 Demonstrates ability to answer queries effectively from both inside and outside the organisation

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

CO5 Communication is consistently clear, both written and verbally

CO6 Champions an appropriate choice of communication channels

CO7 Consistently answers queries from both inside and outside of the organisation in a confident way

Planning and organisation

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

PL1 Plans work and achieves deadlines

PL2 Shares areas to improve plans with others

PL3 Effectively manages resources and meetings

PL4 Takes responsibility for logistics and can provide examples

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

PL5 Makes plans that efficiently maximise resources and personally ensures results are achieved

PL6 Improves the management of resources e.g. identifies cost savings or process improvements

PL7 Is proactive in taking responsibility for areas of logistics and has excellent examples to demonstrate this

Personal qualities

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

PQ1 Regularly shows integrity, reliability, positivity and self-motivation

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

PQ2 Always integrity, reliability, positivity and self-motivation and successfully encourages others to show more of these qualities

Managing performance

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

MP1 Clarifies requirements and takes responsibility for work produced

MP2 Acts with responsibility and delivers their work to the right level of quality without requiring additional supervision and coaching

MP3 Asks for feedback and takes feedback on board

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

MP4 Shows a strong personal responsibility for all aspects of their work and can work with minimal supervision, whilst adhering to policies, procedures and standards

MP5 Takes feedback on board and continually assesses the quality of their work

Adaptability

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

AD1 Accepts and responds positively to change

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

AD2 Accepts change, evaluates the impact of any change and seeks to use it to improve their work

Responsibility

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

RE1 Accepts personal responsibility for their own work, delivering their work on time and to the right level of quality

RE2 Demonstrates ownership and willingness to see work completed

RE3 Applies initiative in developing their own skills and behaviour

To gain a distinction, the following must be evidenced

RE4 Role model who takes personal responsibility for themselves and peers

RE5 Aims to deliver work within targets and deliver more than required in their role

RE6 Proactively seeks opportunities to develop themselves and shares this learning with others

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