Cyber Security Technical Professional Degree Apprenticeship - End Point Assessment (EPA) Overview

Contents

1. EPA headlines

- Passed all the modules in the BSc Cyber Security Technical Professional degree, other than the end point assessment which contributes 10 credits
- EPA period is 3 months
- Must provide gateway requirements according to EPAO listed below
- Must have ID and Webcam for EPA
- 2 Assessment methods at EPA

Practical Test

- o Four Exercises – each taking 12 hours (+/- discretionary 10%) to be completed within a two-week period
- o All exercises need to be passed in order for the Practical Test to be passed
- o Exams will be held away from the workplace, at a location arranged by the End Point Assessment Organisation

Technical Discussion

- o Informed by the content within the completed portfolio
- o Minimum of 7 working days' notice
- o 120 minutes (+/- discretionary 10%)
- o Minimum of 16 questions

2. Gateway

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

Apprentices must meet the following gateway requirements for Level 6 Cyber Security Technical Professional Degree Apprenticeship :

- Completed a portfolio of evidence
- Achieved 350 credits
- EPA gateway checklist

- Employer reference
- Level 2 English and Maths evidence
- Completion of the Off the Job hours

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

3.   End Point Assessment

The EPA window for Level 6 Cyber Security Technical Professional Degree Apprenticeship is typically 3 months.

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

- Assessment method 1: Practical Test
- Assessment method 2: Technical Discussion

Assessment Method 1: Practical Test

The Practical Test is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Fail. Each exercise in the Practical Test has to be passed in order for the Practical Test to be passed overall.

This assessment is not completed in the workplace, instead, the apprentice will need to attend one of the venues chosen by the End Point Assessment Organisation. The apprentice will complete four exercises, each exercise will take 12 hours (+/- discretionary 10%), totalling 48 hours (+/- discretionary 10%) for this assessment method. This will be completed over a two week period.

The Practical Test will follow the below framework:

- Outputs from Exercise One (Design for Security)
    - ❖ 1. A physical, designed network, plus software as set out in the KSBs listed in the assessment plan; and
    - ❖ 2. A written justification for the approach taken (a 1,000 word +/- 100 words written document).
- Outputs from Exercise Two (Test for Security)

- ❖ 1. A physical demonstration of a security test of a provided network as set out in the KSBs listed in the [assessment plan](#); and
    - ❖ 2. A written justification for the approach taken (a 1,000 word +/- 100 words written document).
  - Outputs from Exercise Three (Monitor)
    - ❖ 1. A physical demonstration of monitoring a provided network as set out in the KSBs listed in the [assessment plan](#); and
    - ❖ 2. A written justification for the approach taken (a 1,000 word +/- 100 words written document).
  - Outputs from Exercise Four (Defensive Programming)
    - ❖ 1. A defensive programme as set out in the KSBs listed in the [assessment plan](#); and
    - ❖ 2. A written justification for the approach taken (a 1,000 word +/- 100 words written document).

Assessment Method 2: Technical Discussion

The Technical Discussion assessment is graded Pass or Fail.

The Technical Discussion is carried out with an Independent Assessor, on a one-to-one basis, sourced by the EPAO. The Independent Assessor will be the same person who assessed the Practical Test. The apprentice will be given a minimum of 7 working days notice of the date and time of the Technical Discussion and it will last 120 minutes (+/- discretionary 10%). The apprentice will be asked a minimum of 16 open questions based on the knowledge, skills, and behaviours identified for this assessment method. The apprentice can use their portfolio to help them answer any questions.

4.   Grading

Both assessment methods must be passed in order to pass overall.

Practical Test	Technical Discussion	Overall Grade
Pass	Pass	Pass
Merit	Pass	Merit
Distinction	Pass	Distinction

5.   Resit and Retakes

Apprentices who fail one or more assessment methods will be offered the opportunity to take a resit or a retake. The employer will need to agree that either a resit or retake is an appropriate course of action. A resit does not require further learning, whereas a retake does. Where a specific exercise on the Practical Test is failed, then a resit/retake of that exercise is required NOT the whole test

Both assessment methods must be successfully passed within 3 months of the gateway; otherwise the entire EPA must be re-sat/re-taken. There are no restrictions on the grade awarded in the case of a re-sit/re-take.

Further information on the Level 6 Cyber Security Technical Professional Degree Apprenticeship can be found in the assessment plan. A full list of the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) can be found on the Institute for Apprenticeships website here.