

GQA PAA\VQSET LEVEL 5 AWARD IN METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFING

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Centre Qualification Handbook

Competence-based Qualifications

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PAA\VQ-SET

CONTENTS PAGE

INTRODUCTION TO THE HANDBOOK	3
Qualification Assessment and Support Materials	3
LEVEL 5 AWARD IN METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFING	4
ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.....	5
ASSESSMENT STRATEGY	5
ASSESSMENT METHODS AND TYPES OF EVIDENCE	8
GLOSSARY	10
LEVEL 5 AWARD IN METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFING	12
CONTENT OF THE QUALIFICATION	12
<u>MANDATORY UNITS</u>	12
UNIT MET 19B PREPARE AND DELIVER METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFINGS.....	12

INTRODUCTION TO THE HANDBOOK

This qualification sits within the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

This Qualification Handbook has been developed to ensure that GQA Centres understand the requirements of the qualification. The Handbook contains the following information:

- Qualification Structure
- Assessment Requirements
- Assessment Methods
- Glossary
- Qualification Units

This Qualification Handbook has been developed to provide support in the implementation of the qualification as well as giving information to ensure that the assessment and quality assurance is consistent, robust and reliable within each centre and nationally. The handbook also contains details of the skills and/or knowledge the learner must obtain to achieve the units and qualification.

Qualification Structure

This section of the handbook summarises the content of the qualification and the skills and/or knowledge learners that achieve it can be expected to gain. It also outlines the units required to achieve the qualification and will give the learner an idea of how long the qualification will take to achieve through the Total Qualification Time (TQT) and how much contact time they can expect through the Guided Learning Hours (GLH). It also provides information about possible progression opportunities once the qualification has been achieved.

Assessment Requirements

The assessment requirements for the qualification will cover any specific information about how the qualification may be assessed, such as whether assessors require specific qualifications or occupational competence and whether simulation is permitted in the achievement process.

Assessment Methods

This section summarises the different assessment methods and types of evidence that support assessment; these may be used to demonstrate competence or the achievement of knowledge and understanding.

Qualification Units

The unit overview summarises the content of the unit and the skills and/or knowledge the learner will have gained on achievement of the unit. The units may also contain additional information in the assessment context which will describe the areas to be covered and any appropriate assessment guidance and evidence requirements which will outline additional assessment requirements and should be built into assessment plans and included on assessment records. The unit detail will also confirm whether simulation is permitted for that particular unit.

Qualification Assessment and Support Materials

Centres will be sent the following qualification assessment and support materials:

- Assessment Forms - it is not mandatory to use these forms. Centres may wish to use their own assessment documentation - these should be approved by the External Verifier prior to use.
- Declaration of Validation - must be included in all completed learner portfolios
- Learner Guide
- Qualification Handbook
- Registration Spreadsheet & Certification Claim Forms

LEVEL 5 AWARD IN METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFING

Qualification Summary

This qualification will provide recognition of the skills and knowledge of individuals who make meteorological briefings; it covers preparing and delivering briefings.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Guided Learning Hours are the time the learner is under the immediate supervision or guidance of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider or education or training.

The GLH for this qualification is 20

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total Qualification Time is comprised of 2 elements:

1. GLH
plus
2. an estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by (but not under the immediate supervision of) a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider or education or training

The TQT for this qualification is 90

Achieving the Qualification

To achieve the qualification learners must complete 1 Mandatory Unit.

Unit No.	Unit Name
Met 19b	Prepare and deliver meteorological briefings

Progression

This Award is part of a suite of qualifications developed from the Meteorology National Occupational Standards at Levels 3 to 6.

Further information can be found on the GQA website www.gqaqualifications.com or on the Register of Regulated Qualifications website <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessors must ensure that, when assessing the skills, knowledge and/or understanding, the evidence produced by learners is:

- Valid - does evidence meet the requirements described in the unit?
- Authentic - has the learner produced the evidence?
- Current - has the evidence been produced recently and does it demonstrate current competence?
- Sufficient - is there enough evidence to demonstrate competence?

to enable reliable and consistent judgements to be made about the achievement of all the requirements of the unit(s) and qualification.

GQA Centres must ensure that people involved in the assessment process have the appropriate expertise and are adequately informed and supported to fulfil their responsibilities.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Below is the information to support the assessment requirements of the qualification:

- Mandatory use of evidence from workplace performance
- Use of Simulation
- Occupational competence of assessors and verifiers

Mandatory use of evidence from workplace performance

- a. Unless the use of simulation is expressly permitted within the qualification or unit specific evidence requirements, evidence must demonstrate the learner's competence in a real or realistic environment.
- b. Knowledge and Understanding will be assessed via (pre-set and/or free form) questions, or by inference from performance, which cover three primary types of knowledge:
 - Knowledge of facts and procedures
 - Understanding of principles, concepts and underpinning procedures
 - How to apply principles and procedures in specific contexts

All questions must be asked by the assessor at appropriate moments throughout the assessment process, preferably linked to observed activity and/or review of documentary evidence. The questions asked of, and answers provided by, the learner must be recorded.

Use of Simulation

- c. The qualification or unit specific assessment requirements will define where evidence from simulation is acceptable, and in which contexts.

Simulation should be used only where direct evidence of learner performance cannot be obtained. Under these circumstances simulation may be used for summative assessment. Reasons for the use of simulation should be made clear to and agreed by the external verifier and should include the following details:

- which competence (and standards) the simulation was designed to assess;
- the kind of equipment, facilities and physical environment proposed for the simulation of performance. It is unlikely that the External Verifier will approve a simulation if it does not involve real plant and equipment;

- how the simulated activity relates to the learner's normal work context in terms of the pressures of time, access to resources and access to information, and the communication media; and
- how the simulation was set up and conducted, preferably supported by physical evidence such as photographs or inspection of a test rig.

Assessors, internal verifiers and external verifiers should monitor the proportion of evidence generated via simulations to ensure that it is not the primary source of a learner's claim to competence.

- d. Under these circumstances simulations are reserved for aspects of competence illustrated by the following contexts:
- where demonstration of emergency shutdown and related safety procedures would be; **dangerous and/or disruptive** to plant/environment/individuals; **too costly** such as total plant shutdown or dealing with spillage of dangerous substances; where **issues of confidentiality** restrict access to real work opportunities;
 - demonstrating specific aspects of the operation which rarely or never occur due to effective quality assurance systems;
 - the capacity to integrate disparate knowledge to cope with unforeseen events and to solve problems; or
 - aspects of working relationships and communications for which no opportunity has presented for the use of naturally occurring workplace evidence of learner performance.
- e. Simulation must enable the individual to demonstrate competence in a real or realistic work environment. In this context this means in specialist centres which replicate the workplace in terms of equipment and environment, reflect normal working situations and use relevant industrial or commercial standards and procedures. Short work placements or non-realistic work environments which do not replicate the pressures and requirements of normal commercial or industrial activities will not be acceptable. The bulk of the learner's evidence should be drawn from their normal working activity and not consist of artificially contrived opportunities for one-off demonstration of competence. Similarly equipment must be that used in current commercial and industrial contexts. Procedures and standards used should be those which are nationally or internationally recognised or devised by specific companies as standard operating procedure.
- f. Simulation must enable the individual to acquire his/her skills and knowledge in a realistic work environment. In this context this means in specialist centres which replicate the workplace in terms of equipment and environment, it reflects normal working situations and uses relevant industrial or commercial standards and procedures. Where possible providers should attempt to replicate the pressures and requirements of normal commercial or industrial activities. Equipment must be that used in current commercial and industrial contexts. Procedures and standards used should be those which are nationally or internationally recognised or devised by specific companies as standard operating procedure.
- g. Circumstances outside of those listed in Section D above may also be considered suitable for the use of simulation with the agreement of the External Verifier and GQA. Under these circumstances simulation may be used for formative assessment only.

Occupational competence of Assessor and Verifiers

- h. Assessors:
- must be competent in the units they are assessing. This is shown through the assessor having achieved the award they are assessing OR providing quality evidence to the external verifier that they are able to make valid judgements of the competence of learners. This could be done through a combination of a) personal interview, b) review of employment histories and/or c) examination of the assessor's judgement during assessments.
 - must have a working knowledge of awards and a full understanding of that part of the award for which they have responsibility.
 - should hold or be working towards suitable qualifications for assessment, as defined by GQA.

i. Internal verifiers:

- must be either working in the appropriate sector itself OR they must be able to demonstrate they possess practical and up-to-date knowledge of current working practices appropriate to the sector in which they are carrying out verification practices; and
- must be appointed by a GQA recognised centre
- must have a working knowledge of the awards they are internally verifying
- should hold or be working towards suitable qualifications for verification, as defined by PAA\VQ-SET.

ASSESSMENT METHODS AND TYPES OF EVIDENCE

The following section gives information on the different assessment methods/types of evidence that support assessment. The following assessment methods/types of evidence may be used to demonstrate competence or that the learner has achieved the required level of knowledge and understanding.

Observation of Performance

Observation allows the assessor to see learners carrying out their work activities. It will take place primarily in the workplace but can also be undertaken in a training scheme. Natural discussion should take place where possible during observation, allowing the assessor to ask questions relating to what they are observing at the time. Assessors must capture their observations either by a written report and/or other methods (e.g. video, audio recording).

Questioning

This method of assessment can be used to ensure that the learner has knowledge and understanding to support their skills. Questions can be used to check knowledge - these questions can either be verbal during or at the end of an observation, or they can be set in a written format in formal or informal conditions. As some units may focus entirely on learners' knowledge, assessors may encourage a variety of evidence to meet the requirements of the unit - use of verbal and/or written questions, learner statements and professional discussion (see below). Verbal questioning or professional discussion should be captured, either by written notes or audio recording.

Products

Work product evidence may be generated as a result of work activities undertaken by learners, and could include reports, letters, or records of work carried out.

Witness Statement or Testimony

A Witness Statement or Testimony is confirmation by others that the learner carried out an activity or series of activities relevant to the requirements of the unit. It could be written by the learner and signed by the witness to confirm that it did take place, or the witness may write the statement. Alternatively, the assessor could speak to the witness and record the discussion. The statement can then be used as evidence within an assessment.

There may be occasions when an Expert Witness may be required to contribute to the assessment process. GQA's definition of an Expert Witness is 'an experienced employee who works in partnership with the assessor, by observing the learner carrying out their duties and recording their observations in line with the assessment procedures'. It should be noted that while the Expert Witness makes a valued contribution to the assessment process, it is the assessor who makes the assessment decision.

Simulation

Simulations are a source of performance evidence showing how an activity is carried out. Simulations require careful planning to ensure that they reflect as near as possible "real life" conditions and the requirements of the qualification(s). As a result of this the costs to set up a simulation may be considerable. Simulations are likely to be used in the following situations:

- they occur infrequently (e.g. dealing with emergencies)
- they involve unusual working conditions (e.g. working in isolation, outside the workplace)
- the work is hazardous
- it is not cost effective

Any use of simulation should be discussed and agreed with the GQA External Verifier and approved prior to implementation.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

This is the process whereby credit is given to experienced individuals for their previous achievements. It requires careful mapping of the individual's experience to the unit(s) to ensure that it meets the requirements. This exercise must be referred to the External Verifier to ensure that all the evidence presented is acceptable.

Professional Discussion

A Professional Discussion gives the learner the opportunity to tell their assessor what they are doing and why they are doing it in a particular way. The discussion should be supported by appropriate evidence - an observation report, work product or witness testimony. Professional Discussions should be planned to give the learner the chance to prepare, and should be recorded.

Learner Statements

A Learner Statement is an account of an activity that took place, described by the learner. A detailed statement could demonstrate skill, and also provides evidence of knowledge and understanding. Learner statements should be authenticated by an appropriate person.

Photographs and use of other media

Photographs and use of other media, e.g. video and audio, can provide detail of work activities carried out and questioning. Photographs are more effective when used with supporting statements. Video and audio evidence should be effectively referenced to allow specific activities or questioning to be found easily. It is important to note that if photographs and other media are to be used, the learner and assessor should ensure that permission is gained from all people who may be involved.

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Access Arrangements	Arrangements that are approved in advance of an examination or assessment to allow achievement to be demonstrated by learners with a disability, special learning needs (including where the learner's first language is not English, Welsh or Irish) or to avoid unlawful discrimination
Appeal	The process through which an awarding organisation may be challenged on the outcome of an enquiry about results or, where appropriate, other procedural decisions affecting a centre or an individual learner
Assessment	The process of making judgements about the extent to which a learner's work meets the requirements of a unit, or any additional assessment requirements of a qualification
Assessor	A person who assesses a learner's work
Award of Qualifications	A certificate (electronic or paper-based) issued to an individual that recognises their achievement
Award	A qualification with a TQT value between 10 and 129
Awarding Organisation	A body recognised by the qualifications regulators to award qualifications
Centre	An organisation accountable to an awarding organisation for assessment arrangements leading to the award of qualifications
Centre Recognition	A process through which a centre wishing to offer an award or awards is confirmed as being able to maintain the required quality and consistency of assessment, and comply with other requirements of the awarding organisation
Certificate (1) for a Unit or Qualification	A record of attainment of a qualification issued by an awarding organisation
Certificate (2)	A qualification with a TQT value between 130 and 369
Credit	An award that may be made to a learner in recognition of the achievement of a unit or qualification
Credit Value	The number of credits that may be awarded to a learner for the successful achievement of a unit or qualification
Diploma	A qualification with a TQT value of 370 or above
Guided Learning Hours	The number of hours of teacher-supervised or directed study time required to teach a qualification or unit of a qualification
Learning Time	The amount of time a learner at the level of the unit is expected to take, on average, to complete the unit to the standard required
Level	An indication of the relative demand, complexity and/or depth of achievement, and/or the autonomy of the learner in demonstrating that achievement

Term	Definition
Mandatory Units	Units that must be achieved for the qualification to be awarded
National Occupational Standards (NOS)	Describe what a person needs to do, know and understand in a job to carry out the role in a consistent and competent way
Optional Unit	A unit that a learner may choose to complete to achieve the required number of units for award of the qualification
Pathway	A route to the achievement of a qualification that requires particular units to be achieved and is identified by an endorsement to a qualification title
Qualification	An award made to a Learner for the achievement of the required units or other components for that qualification
Qualification Level	An indication of the relative demand, complexity and/or depth of achievement, and/or the autonomy of the learner, represented by a qualification
Qualifications Regulators	Government-designated statutory organisations required to establish national standards for qualifications and secure consistent compliance with them
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	A method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess and do not need to develop through a course of learning
Sector Skills Council	A body responsible for formulating and reviewing occupational standards for a specific sector across the UK, and for supporting the development of units and qualifications based on these standards. Each SSC is an employer-led, independent organisation and is licensed by government
Standardisation Of Assessment	A process to ensure that assessment leading to the award of qualifications is applied consistently by individuals, centres and awarding organisations
Unique Learner Number (ULN)	The unique number that is used to identify an individual learner
Unit	A component of a qualification

LEVEL 5 AWARD IN METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFING

CONTENT OF THE QUALIFICATION

MANDATORY UNITS

UNIT MET 19B	PREPARE AND DELIVER METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFINGS
LEVEL	5
GUIDED LEARNING HOURS	20

Unit Overview

This unit describes the activities and understanding needed to demonstrate that the learner can prepare and then deliver a meteorological brief to an audience. The learner will be required to base their presentation on relevant and accurate information, structure it in a logical manner and present it using appropriate visual aids. The learner must present their brief fluently and capture and retain their audience's attention.

Assessment Guidance and Evidence Requirements

Evidence Requirements

The learner should provide evidence to meet the requirements of the Assessment Criteria, and those aspects of the Assessment Context (described below) that are relevant to their workplace and work role.

The learner must generate evidence to show that they can make presentations over a sustained period. For this unit relevant evidence could include:

- Observing the learner preparing and delivering a presentation
- An explanation by the learner of the factors that they need to take into account for the presentation
- Copies of the learner's briefing material

The medium used should include at least two of the following: written; verbal; using visual aids.

For the Assessment Criteria relating to the learner's knowledge, different types of evidence and assessment methods could be used, for example learner statements, questioning and professional discussion which should be recorded for verification.

Assessment Guidance

- The use of simulation is not acceptable in the assessment of this unit.

Assessment Context

The following terms have a specific meaning in this unit:

Audiences: small groups, large groups.

Other factors relevant to the briefing may include but not be limited to room configuration, audio-visual systems (including microphones), dress code.

Weather conditions: benign, hazardous

Hazardous weather conditions will occur in synoptic situations which lead to significant impact on customer's operations within the sphere of the learner's responsibility, and where relevant will lead to the learner

issuing a warning. Depending on the customers involved, these may include but not be limited to - frontal passage, low cloud and advection fog during warm sector, cumulonimbus and associated warnings during unstable conditions, radiation fog due to high pressure, significant winds, passage of an active trough, cold weather bringing frost, ice, snow and freezing precipitation, and scenarios where there are rapid fluctuations in low cloud and/or visibility.

Learning Outcome and Assessment Criteria

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1. Prepare meteorological briefings	1.1. Verify the purpose and objectives of the meteorological briefing 1.2. Base their meteorological briefing on relevant and accurate information 1.3. Prepare the content of the meteorological briefing to meet the needs of the target audience, and make any amendments when required 1.4. Prepare answers to anticipated questions 1.5. Check that the equipment has been set up correctly
2. Deliver meteorological briefings	2.1. Deliver the meteorological briefing in a logical, structured and customer-focused way 2.2. Deliver the meteorological briefing clearly, with a confident and authoritative manner 2.3. Articulate the brief to meet the needs of the audience, providing recommendations where appropriate 2.4. Use the equipment correctly and safely, enabling a fluent delivery 2.5. Respond to any questions appropriately
3. Know how to prepare and deliver meteorological briefings	3.1. Explain the purpose of the meteorological briefing and their key messages 3.2. State the time available to prepare their meteorological briefing 3.3. State the time available to deliver their meteorological briefing 3.4. Suggest the questions they might expect to receive as a result of the briefing
4. Know best practice relating to meteorological briefings	4.1. Explain the different methods of presentation and their respective advantages and disadvantages 4.2. Describe best practice in preparing and delivering meteorological briefings 4.3. Describe any other factors that may be relevant to providing the meteorological briefings