Assessment Strategy

BIIAB Level 3 Diploma in Professional Cookery

Outline of an Assessment Strategy and its Purpose

An Assessment Strategy provides a clear outline to how learners will be assessed when undertaking a regulated qualification. The Assessment Strategy aligns with the qualification specification and guides both tutors and learners through the assessment process.

The purpose of an Assessment Strategy is to align all assessment factors linked to a regulated qualification specification by clarifying what is required. This ensures that:

- All required assessments are appropriate
- Assessments are clear, fair and reliable
- Assessments support learning and allow learners to achieve
- Assessments meet regulation and Awarding Body requirements

The Assessment Strategy is broken down per unit, allowing for there to be a clear understanding to the required Assessments, per unit in order to achieve the overall qualification.

Assessment

This qualification is internally assessed and requires internal and external moderation. Specific requirements and restrictions may apply to individual units within qualifications. Please check unit and qualification details for specific information.

Centres must take all reasonable steps to avoid any part of the assessment of a learner (including any internal quality assurance and invigilation) being undertaken by any person who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment.

Overview of assessment strategy

The qualification contains competence units and a knowledge unit. Competence units are assessed following principles.

Assessors must refer to the People 1st set Evidence Requirements and ensure they are being met in full for the 'what you must know', 'what you must do' and 'what you must cover'. The Evidence Requirements are available to download from the Hospitality section of the BIIAB website. They have also been included within the units in the handbook and unit pack.

Assessment Strategy

BIIAB has developed an Assessment Knowledge Module (AKM) for unit ERRHLTS. AKMs are internally marked assessments, containing a series of questions, marked and internally verified by the centre and with external verification by the BIIAB External Quality Assurer (EQA).

Assessments provided by BIIAB Qualifications Limited will ensure that effective learning has taken place and that learners have the opportunity to:

- Meet the assessment criteria
- Achieve the learning outcomes

Alternatively, centres may wish to devise their own assessments for the knowledge units. If so Centres must obtain approval for any Centre Devised Assessments before their use. Please contact BIIAB Qualifications Limited for details of the Centre Devised Assessment process and procedure.

Assessment Process

Assessment is the process used to judge the competence, of a learner, against set standards. The assessor is the person who is responsible for determining learners' competence. The assessor may be a workplace supervisor or an external person who is trained and qualified or working towards a qualification relevant to the assessor role.

Assessors base their judgement on performance and decide how it compares to the national standard. The assessor will also ask questions based on the knowledge required to do the work, to ascertain the knowledge and understanding of the learner.

When the required units have been completed and the assessor is satisfied that the learner has met the national standard, a recommendation for a certificate will be made.

An Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) is responsible for the quality assurance of the qualifications within the training organisation and will provide advice, guidance and support to the assessors. IQAs also ensure that the assessors apply the standards consistently and fairly. The IQA will review the portfolio of evidence during the assessment process.

An External Quality Assurer (EQA), who is appointed by BIIAB, will quality assure the assessment and internal quality assurance decisions involved in the development of the portfolio. The EQA will quality assure the qualification process, which ensures that certification of the qualification is reliable, consistent and to the national standard, by checking the consistency of assessments made by the training provider, and across training providers.

Assessment Strategy

The Assessment Strategy has been designed by People 1st. While BIIAB Qualifications Limited has not itself designed the strategy it agrees with the principles and their suitability as an Assessment Strategy for this qualification, it has agreed that this strategy will be applied for this qualification and it has agreed that it will monitor the compliance of BIIAB Qualifications Limited centres offering this qualification against the criteria. As such all centres and their assessment must adhere to the current People 1st designed assessment strategy for this qualification.

The assessment strategy for this qualification can be seen in the section which follows, and it provides details of the key requirements for the qualification and the assessor, verifiers delivering, quality assuring and certificating the qualification.

People 1st Assessment Strategy

Occupational expertise of assessors and verifiers

The requirements relating to the occupational expertise of assessors and verifiers is set out in Table 1. Guidance on additional qualifications and / or training relevant to assessors and verifiers can be found in Table 2.

Table 1 – Occupational Expertise of Assessors and Verifiers

The requirements set out below relate to all assessors and verifiers. The only exception may relate to in-house employees and managers that are not required to achieve the regulatory approved assessor and verified units based on the arrangement referred to in section 4.1 of this assessment strategy.

✓= mandatory

Assessors, Internal Quality Assurers and External Quality Assurers must:	A	IQA	EQA
Have a good knowledge and understanding of the national occupational standard and competence-based units and qualifications that is being assessed or verified.	✓	✓	✓
Hold or be working towards relevant assessment and/or verification qualification(s) as specified by the appropriate authority, confirming their competence to assess or externally verify competence-based units and qualifications assessment. These should be		✓	

achieved within eighteen months of commencing their role. These are as follows:			
Have relevant occupational expertise and knowledge, at the appropriate level of the occupational area(s) they are assessing and verifying, which has been gained through 'hands on' experience in the industry	✓	✓	✓
Adhere to the awarding organisation's assessment requirements and practice standardised assessment principles	✓	✓	✓
Have sufficient resources to carry out the role of assessor or verifier, i.e. time and budget	✓	✓	
Have supervisory/management, interpersonal and investigative skills, including the ability to analyse information, hold meetings, guide, advise, plan and make recommendations at all levels, taking into account the nature and size of the organisation in which assessment is taking place. High standards of administration and record keeping are also essential.		✓	✓
Hold qualifications, or have undertaken training, that has legislative relevance to the competence-based units and qualifications being assessed (See Table 2).	✓	Good Practice	Good Practice
Update their occupational expertise and industry knowledge in the areas being assessed and verified through planned Continuous Professional Development (see Table 3).	✓	✓	✓

Table 2 – Qualifications and Training relevant to Assessors and Verifiers

The following sets out areas in which assessors, verifiers and external verifiers should either receive training or achieve qualifications. People 1st is not stipulating that assessors, verifiers or external verifiers must achieve specific qualifications, there is the option to either undertake appropriate training or an accredited qualification.

✓= mandatory

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Qualification / Training	Competence based unit / qualification	A	IQA	EQA
Health and Safety	All sector units and qualifications	✓	Good Practice	Good Practice
Food Safety	Food Processing and Cooking Multi-Skilled Hospitality Services Professional Cookery Food and Drink Service Hospitality Supervision and Leadership (with food and drink units)	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	Good Practice	Good Practice
Licensing	Food and Drink Service Hospitality Supervision (with food and drink units)	✓	Good Practice	

Continuous Professional Development

To maintain high standards of quality and standardisation within assessment and achieve best practice People 1st require all external verifiers, internal verifiers and assessors to maintain a record of their continuous professional development – see guidance at Table 3.

Table 3 – Continuous Professional Development for Assessors and Verifiers

It is necessary for assessors and verifiers to maintain a record of evidence of their continuous professional development (CPD). This is necessary to maintain currency of skills and understanding of the occupational area(s) being assessed and can be achieved in a variety of ways. It should be a planned process, reviewed on an annual basis, for example as part of an individual's performance review.
Assessors and verifiers should select CPD methods that are appropriate to meeting their development needs. The following provides an example of a variety of methods that can be utilised for CPD purposes.

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Updating occupational expertise	> Internal and external work placements > Work experience and shadowing (e.g. within associated departments) > External visits to other organisations > Updated and new training and qualifications > Training sessions to update skills > Visits to educational establishments > Trade fairs
Keeping up to date with sector developments and new legislation	> Relevant sector websites > Membership of professional bodies > Papers and documents on legislative change > Networking events > Seminars, conferences, workshops, membership of committees / working parties (e.g. People 1st events) > Staff development days
Standardising and best practice in assessment	> Regular standardisation meetings with colleagues > Sharing best practice through internal meetings, newsletters, email circulars > Comparison of assessment and verification in other sectors > Attending awarding organisation meetings / seminars

Assessment

People 1st advocate the integration of national occupational standards within employers' organisations in order to achieve a national level of competence across the sector's labour market.

As such assessment of the sector's competence-based units and qualifications will, ideally, take place within the workplace and assessment should, where possible, be conducted by the candidate's supervisors and/or line managers. People 1st recognise, however, that it is not always feasible for candidates to be assessed in the workplace and as such it permits the use of assessment within Realistic Working Environments (RWE). Additionally, where sector employers do not have the infrastructure to manage assessment independently, it values the role of peripatetic assessors to support the assessment process.

Within these parameters, People 1st expects that:

- the majority of assessments of the sector's competence-based units and qualifications will be based on performance evidence, i.e. direct observation, outputs of work and witness testimony within the workplace or an RWE approved by an awarding organisation, (see section 3.4 of People 1st Assessment Strategy).
- opportunities to ascertain candidate's accreditation of prior learning is maximised by early contact between the assessor and candidate and during initial assessment / induction period.

Simulation

Simulation can only be used to assess candidates for the sector's competence-based units and qualifications where the opportunity to assess naturally occurring evidence is unlikely or not possible, for example assessment relating to health and safety, fire and emergency procedures. It should not include routine activities that must be covered by performance evidence.

There are no People 1st units that can be solely achieved by simulation. In the case of imported units, where simulation is acceptable in the evidence requirements, it should only be used when performance evidence is unlikely to be generated through normal working practices.

Assessment of the Knowledge Units

When assessing the knowledge and understanding based unit, it is important that the chosen assessment methodology is appropriate to this and is accurately recorded.

Assessment methodologies that are appropriate for the knowledge and understanding units include:

- Professional discussion
- Learner reflective accounts
- Question and Answer
- Assignments and Projects

These must be planned, assessed and verified by centres, using approved and robust systems and procedures.

Assessors and IQAs must ensure that they are able to demonstrate their own CPD and competence across the units being delivered and assessed, because of the nature of the theoretical content that has to be covered.

Particular attention must be paid to units which permit learners to use their places of study or research of organisations in order to achieve the unit, and those which can only be achieved if the learner is in current employment, or

there is recognition of prior learning from extensive experience in that particular occupational sector.

Appeals

If learners are dissatisfied with an assessment outcome, they have the right to appeal. The **main** reasons for an appeal are likely to be:

- learners do **not** understand why they are **not** yet regarded as having sufficient knowledge
- learners believe they are competent and that they have been misjudged

BIIAB Qualifications Limited expects most appeals from learners to be resolved within the centre. BIIAB Qualifications Limited will only consider a learner's appeal after the centre's internal appeals procedure has been fully exhausted.

For full details of the BIIAB Qualifications Limited's appeals procedure please refer to https://biiab.co.uk/policies-and-procedures/

Assessments will be accessible and will produce results that are valid, reliable, transparent and fair. BIIAB Qualifications Limited will ensure that the result of each assessment taken by a learner in relation to a qualification reflects the level of attainment demonstrated by that learner in the assessment and will be based upon the achievement of all of the specified learning outcomes.

BIIAB Qualifications Limited will make every effort to ensure that it allows for assessment to:

- be up to date and current
- reflect the context from which the learner has been taught
- be flexible to learner needs

Please refer to the Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations and Other External Assessment for further information.