



Draft Preview

DRAFT APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR THE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATOR APPRENTICESHIP

ST1378/V2

APPRENTICESHIP REFERENCE NUMBER	LEVEL OF THIS APPRENTICESHIP	INTEGRATION
ST1378	3	None

Assessment Plan

Assessment details

Introduction

This Apprenticeship Assessment Plan (AAP) sets out the requirements for the assessment of the Level 3 rail infrastructure operator apprenticeship. It should be read in conjunction with the General Requirements for Apprenticeship Assessment. Where there is conflict between this AAP and the General Requirements, this AAP takes precedence. Assessment organisations must also comply with the relevant regulatory framework for apprenticeship assessment.

It is important that the assessment of apprentices is proportionate, valid, and provides reliable evidence of an apprentice's attainment of the relevant knowledge and skills. As such, assessment organisations must design assessments to ensure:

- employers have confidence that the apprentice has reached the expected performance standard
- apprentices are sufficiently secure in their knowledge and skills, so that they could demonstrate their competence in different contexts (for example, a different workplace)

Assessment Outcomes

The assessment outcomes group and summarise the knowledge and skills that must be demonstrated in assessments. All assessment outcomes must be assessed.

Knowledge and skills statements in **bold** are mandatory and must be assessed in every version of the assessment that is made available.

Assessment Outcome	Mapping
<p>AO1: Railway Operations Planning, Control, and Coordination</p> <p>Plans, coordinates, and manages the operation of the railway system by producing and applying train, resource, and engineering works plans, and by using train control and information systems to deliver the agreed service. Applies operating procedures, including those for planned, unplanned, and emergency situations, and handover requirements to adapt to changing conditions and support safe, effective, and continuous network operation.</p>	<p>K1, K4, K5, K9</p> <p>S2, S4, S6</p>
<p>AO2: Incident, Disruption, and Emergency Management</p> <p>Responds to incidents, disruptions, and emergency events by applying incident response, recovery, escalation, and investigation procedures, and supports reporting and learning activities to restore services and strengthen future resilience. Works collaboratively with internal and external parties, gathers and interprets information from multiple sources, and prioritises workload under operational pressure to minimise impact on the network.</p>	<p>K15, K16, K17, K22, K23</p> <p>S13, S14, S15, S16, S17*, S20</p>
<p>AO3: Safety, Risk, and Regulatory Compliance</p> <p>Applies safety legislation, safety management systems, and risk-based decision-making principles to maintain safe railway operations. Takes personal responsibility for safety, challenges unsafe practices, and applies environmental and sustainability requirements in the operational environment.</p>	<p>K3, K6, K8, K11, K19, K20, K21*</p> <p>S1, S3, S7, S18, S19*</p>
<p>AO4: Communication, Stakeholder, and Customer Interaction</p> <p>Communicates effectively using verbal, written, and safety-critical communication protocols to exchange operational information with colleagues, stakeholders, and customers. Manages common complaints and works collaboratively to support service delivery and network outcomes.</p>	<p>K10, K12, K13*</p> <p>S5*, S9*, S10, S11*</p>
<p>AO5: Professional Practice and Continuous Development</p>	<p>K2, K7, K14, K18*</p>

Applies professional behaviours that support safe and effective practice, including maintaining fitness for duty, working inclusively, understanding organisational priorities, and engaging in continuous professional development. Demonstrates collaborative and reflective approaches to improve personal and organisational performance within an operational railway environment.

S8, S12*

Knowledge and skills statements which offer opportunities to develop functional English and maths are identified with an asterisk.

Assessment requirements

Assessment organisations must set apprenticeship assessments. Assessment organisations should consider how technology and digital tools can support innovation and efficiency.

Assessment organisations must design apprenticeship assessments to include at least **one simulated practical task**.

Any additional assessment(s) must be selected from the following list of methods to ensure the assessment outcomes are met in full:

- **professional discussion**
- **portfolio**
- **question and answer**
- **additional simulated practical task**
- **case study**

Assessment organisations must have due regard to any relevant frameworks, standards, guidance or other documents that may be published by industry regulators, professional bodies, and other representative groups.

Apprentices may be assessed at any appropriate point during their apprenticeship programme.

Assessments may be designed to allow a centre or training provider to mark assessments. The assessment organisation is responsible for ensuring all assessments are sufficiently reliable and valid, and for the accuracy of any centre or training provider marking.

Performance descriptors

Performance descriptors describe the level of performance required to achieve a pass or distinction grade. Assessment organisations must design assessments that align with these descriptions.

Performance Category	Pass	Distinction
Applied Knowledge	Demonstrates sound application of factual, procedural, and theoretical rail infrastructure operations knowledge across routine and non-routine situations, completing them to an acceptable standard while supporting safe, effective, and continuous network operation in familiar but sometimes complex work contexts.	Applies a thorough understanding of factual, procedural, and theoretical rail infrastructure operations knowledge to manage and resolve routine and non-routine situations with discernment and skill, adapting confidently to changing operational conditions within familiar but sometimes complex work contexts.
Applied Skills	Identifies and applies appropriate rail operations skills, methods, and procedures to complete operational duties and address challenges with a reasonable degree of autonomy and effectiveness when responding to incidents, disruption, or emergency situations.	Selects and integrates appropriate rail operations skills, methods, and procedures proactively and resourcefully to complete operational duties and address challenges effectively and with minimal oversight, supporting timely recovery and operational resilience.
Regulatory and Procedural Awareness	Applies legislation, regulation, and guidance relevant to rail infrastructure operations, with minimal noncritical errors, with some depth of insight and	Demonstrates refined judgement in interpreting legislation, regulation, and guidance relevant to rail infrastructure operations, confidently navigating nuanced issues in practice while maintaining safety,

	<p>adaptability, supporting safe working practices and risk-based decision making in routine and non-routine situations.</p>	<p>environmental, and sustainability requirements.</p>
<p>Communication and Collaboration</p>	<p>Communicates clearly using required operational and safety-critical protocols to support effective information exchange. Participates constructively in activities, handovers, and incident coordination, contributing to safe service delivery and effective day-to-day operations.</p>	<p>Communicates persuasively and adapts confidently to different audiences and colleague dynamics, taking initiative in delivering customer and colleague interactions that support service delivery and positive network outcomes.</p>
<p>Information Use and Decision Making</p>	<p>Accurately interprets and evaluates relevant operational information from a variety of sources to support problem-solving in mostly familiar but sometimes complex work contexts, particularly when balancing safety and competing priorities under pressure.</p>	<p>Evaluates diverse and sometimes conflicting information sources with insight, drawing informed conclusions that improve service outcomes or efficiency when responding to operational pressures and emerging constraints.</p>
<p>Responsibility and Autonomy</p>	<p>Takes responsibility for initiating and completing rail operational duties within limits of</p>	<p>Pre-empts the need for tasks to be initiated, within set parameters demonstrating accountability, and</p>

	authority, set parameters and, where relevant, contributes to guiding or supporting others, demonstrating accountability and maintaining fitness for duty.	responsiveness to emerging priorities or risks, and leading others to achieve team outcomes with minimal oversight.
--	--	---

Professional recognition

This apprenticeship aligns with the professional body recognition detailed in the occupational standard.

Please contact the relevant professional body for further information.

Crown copyright 2026 You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. Visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence.