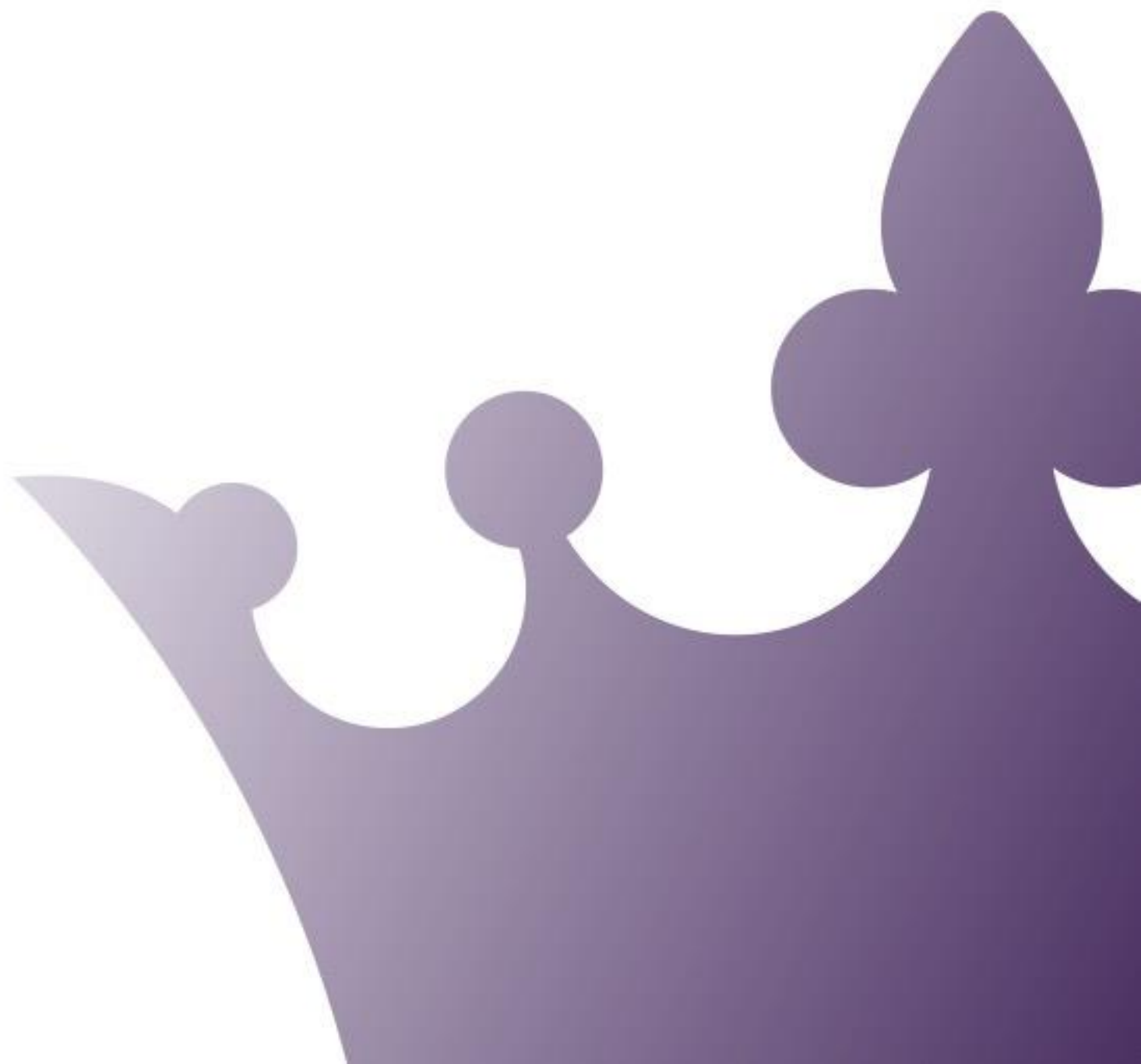




Level 3 Award in CCTV Investigation and Evidence Retrieval



Qualification Handbook

SFJ Awards Level 3 Award in CCTV Investigation and Evidence Retrieval

Qualification Number: 610/0843/6

Operational Start Date: 1st May 2022

Version	Date of issue	Amendment(s)	Page
V1	1 May 2022	N/A	

Contents

Contents	3
1 Introduction	4
1.1 About us	4
1.2 Customer Service Statement	4
1.3 Centre support	4
2 The Qualification	5
2.1 Qualification objective	5
2.2 Pre-entry requirements	5
2.3 Qualification structure	5
2.4 Total Qualification Time (TQT)	6
2.5 Age range and geographical coverage	7
2.6 Opportunities for progression	7
2.7 Use of languages	7
3 Qualification Units	8
4 Centre Requirements	22
5 Assessment	23
5.1 Qualification assessment methods	23
5.2 Assessor and internal quality assurer and requirements	23
5.3 Expert witnesses	25
5.4 Assessing competence	25
5.5 Methods for assessing competence	26
5.6 Assessing knowledge and understanding	28
5.7 Methods for assessing knowledge and understanding	28
5.8 Assessment planning	29
5.9 Standardisation	29
5.10 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	29
5.11 Equality and diversity	30
5.12 Health and safety	30

1 Introduction

1.1 About us

SFJ Awards is part of the Workforce Development Trust, together with Skills for Justice and Skills for Health. For over 10 years Skills for Health and Skills for Justice have been working with employers, Governments of the UK and agencies within the skills system, to better equip workforces with the right skills now and for the future.

During this time both Skills for Health and Skills for Justice have earned an enviable reputation for their knowledge of the health and justice sectors and their proactive approach to the development of skills and qualifications, along with an ability to deliver genuinely workable solutions for the employers they represent.

SFJ Awards is an awarding organisation that builds upon this reputation. We work with employers in the policing, community safety, legal, armed forces, security, and health sectors and understand their specific challenges, enabling us to quality assure learning outcomes that are suited to the needs of the sectors.

Customer satisfaction is the cornerstone of our organisation, and is delivered through an efficient service, providing excellent value for money.

1.2 Customer Service Statement

Our Customer Service Statement is published on SFJ Awards website giving the minimum level of service that centres can expect. The Statement will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary in response to customer feedback, changes in legislation, and guidance from the qualifications Regulators.

1.3 Centre support

SFJ Awards works in partnership with its customers. For help or advice contact:

SFJ Awards
Consult House
Meadowcourt Business Park
4 Hayland Street
Sheffield
S9 1BY

Tel: 0114 284 1970

E-mail: info@sfjawards.com

Website: www.sfjawards.com

2 The Qualification

2.1 Qualification objective

This handbook relates to the following qualification:

SFJ Awards Level 3 Award in CCTV Investigation and Evidence Retrieval

The objective of this qualification is to provide learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required in CCTV investigation and evidence retrieval.

The qualification is aimed at individuals working within and/or on behalf of Police forces and will provide knowledge surrounding roles, responsibilities and legislation in CCTV investigation and evidence retrieval, as well as the skills required to retrieve CCTV footage for investigative purposes.

This qualification has been developed by SFJ Awards in collaboration with Red Snapper Learning.

2.2 Pre-entry requirements

There are no pre-entry requirements for enrolling on this qualification.

However, centres must ensure that learners are able to complete this qualification, for example, through completing a skills scan to ensure they can work at the appropriate level.

2.3 Qualification structure

This qualification is made up of 3 mandatory units. To be awarded this qualification the learner must achieve the 3 mandatory units as shown in the table below.

Mandatory Units					
Unit Number	Odyssey Reference	Unit Title	Level	GLH	TQT
1	6222	Roles, Responsibilities and Legislation involved in CCTV Investigation and Retrieval	3	12	20
2	6223	CCTV Systems and Health & Safety Considerations	3	8	14

3	6224	Navigating, Seizing, Installing and Testing CCTV Machines	3	4	4
---	------	---	---	---	---

2.4 Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Values for Total Qualification Time¹, including Guided Learning, are calculated by considering the different activities that Learners would typically complete to achieve and demonstrate the learning outcomes of a qualification. They do not include activities which are required by a Learner's Teacher based on the requirements of an individual Learner and/or cohort. Individual Learners' requirements and individual teaching styles mean there will be variation in the actual time taken to complete a qualification. Values for Total Qualification Time, including Guided Learning, are estimates.

Some examples of activities which can contribute to Total Qualification Time include

- Independent and unsupervised research/learning
- Unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience
- Unsupervised e-learning
- Unsupervised e-assessment
- Unsupervised coursework
- Watching a pre-recorded podcast or webinar
- Unsupervised work-based learning
- All Guided Learning

Some examples of activities which can contribute to Guided Learning include:

- Classroom-based learning supervised by a Teacher
- Work-based learning supervised by a Teacher
- Live webinar or telephone tutorial with a Teacher in real time
- E-learning supervised by a Teacher in real time
- All forms of assessment which take place under the Immediate Guidance or Supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training, including where the assessment is competence-based and may be turned into a learning opportunity.

Please note these are estimated hours. It is the responsibility of centres to decide the appropriate course duration, based on their learners' ability and level of existing knowledge. It is possible, therefore, that the number of guided learning hours will vary from one centre to another according to learners' needs.

¹ Total Qualification Time, Ofqual
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofqual-handbook/section-e-design-and-development-of-qualifications>

The Total Qualification Time and Guided Learning Hours for this qualification are as follows:

Qualification Title	TQT	GLH
SFJ Awards Level 3 Award in CCTV Investigation and Evidence Retrieval	38	24

2.5 Age range and geographical coverage

This qualification is available to learners aged 18 years and over and is regulated in England and Wales.

2.6 Opportunities for progression

This qualification creates a number of opportunities for progression into roles around CCTV investigation and evidence retrieval.

2.7 Use of languages

SFJ Awards business language is English and we provide assessment materials and qualification specifications that are expressed in English. Assessment specifications and assessment materials may be requested in Welsh or Irish and, where possible, SFJ Awards will try to fulfil such requests. SFJ Awards will provide assessment materials and qualification specifications that are expressed in Welsh or Irish and support the assessment of those learners, where the number of learners makes it economically viable for SFJ Awards to do so. More information is provided in the SFJ Awards' Use of Language Policy.

For learners seeking to take a qualification and be assessed in British Sign Language or Irish Sign Language, please refer to SFJ Awards' Reasonable Adjustments Policy. A learner may be assessed in British Sign Language or Irish Sign Language where it is permitted by SFJ Awards for the purpose of Reasonable Adjustment.

Policies are available on our website www.sfjawards.com or on request from SFJ Awards.

3 Qualification Units

Title	Roles, Responsibilities and Legislation involved in CCTV Investigation and Retrieval		
Level	3		
Unit Number	1		
GLH	12		
Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>		Guidance and/or Indicative Content
1. Understand the purpose of CCTV	1.1	Define what is meant by CCTV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) • Designed to capture video
	1.2	Summarise the reasons why CCTV is used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring staff • Crime prevention • Crime investigation and detection • Traffic management and safety • Public safety and protection • Intelligence gathering

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) • Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) • Facial recognition • Access control
	1.3	Evaluate the limitations of CCTV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV Masking • Machine size (number of cameras) • Hard drive size (length of recording and storage limitations) • Frames per Second (FPS) • CCTV quality • Camera quality • Poor lighting • Poor angle • Poor connections • Fragile cables and connectors
2. Understand the legislation relevant to CCTV investigation and retrieval	2.1	Identify legislation which may be relevant to CCTV investigation and retrieval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Act (1998) • Data Protection Act (1998) • Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act (1996) • PACE (1984) • Criminal Justice and Police Act (2001)
	2.2	Explain the implications of legislation to CCTV investigation and retrieval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV investigation and retrieval is not in accordance with the law • Consequences of not following guidelines • Implications for prosecution (criminal) • Implications of prosecution (civil)
3. Understand the principles of retrieval, management and retention of CCTV evidence	3.1	Explain the practical issues in relation to replaying and removing CCTV evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost or damaged CCTV evidence • Evidence inadmissible in court • Considerations to who is authorised to view the CCTV content (consider laws/legislation) • Write Once Read Many (WORM media) • Health and Safety • Forensic write blocker for USB devices

	3.2	Summarise the processes involved before seizing CCTV footage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of government legislation • Understanding the health and safety risks involved • Retention and storage of images • Time / date comparison • Export in native format where possible
	3.3	Outline the purpose of Management of Police Information (MoPI) guidelines in relation to retrieval, management and retention of CCTV evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoPI – retrieval for lawful policing purposes
	3.4	Explain the seizure of evidence and the continuity of evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of government legislation • Seizing officer's responsibility, e.g. clear audit trail for exhibiting, confirming date / time, sealing bag • Health and safety risks involved • Keep it secure
	3.5	Outline good practice when gathering digital evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing standards, e.g. policies and procedures • Seizing officer's responsibility, e.g. exhibiting, confirming date / time, sealing bag

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety risks involved • Application of government legislation • Export in native format • Export on WORM or transfer data to WORM if applicable
	3.6	Explain measures relating to the return of seized material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of government legislation • Disclosure of material in court
4. Understand the principles of presenting evidence in court	4.1	<p>Explain the processes involved in presenting CCTV evidence in court:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal proceedings • Civil proceedings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with CPS and having authorisation for prosecution • Good practice when working with the CPS • Differences in roles / responsibilities between criminal and civil proceedings
	4.2	Outline the checks to be conducted prior to presenting CCTV evidence in court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check CCTV footage is of acceptable quality prior to the day of the trial • Check equipment is compatible • Ensure CCTV evidence is accurate

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check exhibit numbers and seals • Have a working copy
	4.3	Identify when and why evidence may be challenged in court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process / audit trail could be challenged, e.g. chain of evidence is not complete • Validity and authenticity of evidence could be challenged • Security of evidence could be challenged • Evidence exhibited wrong
		Additional information about the unit	
Assessment guidance	This unit is assessed using methods appropriate for knowledge-based assessment.		

Title	CCTV Systems and Health & Safety Considerations		
Level	3		
Unit Number	2		
GLH	8		
Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>		Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Guidance and/or Indicative Content
1. Understand different types of CCTV systems	1.1	Identify the types of CCTV recording systems and cameras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static, ANPR, PTZ (pan tilt and zoom) Cameras • SD, HD, 4K and 8K cameras • Day / night, Infrared, Thermal, BNC, Network, Wireless, Facial Recognition Cameras • Analogue, Digital, NVR and Wi-Fi CCTV systems • PC base, cloud base and memory card base CCTV Systems • BNC and RJ45 connectivity (wiring)
	1.2	Identify the types of connectors and adapters used in CCTV systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BNC, BNC video Balun and RJ45 connectivity • HDMI and Video Graphics Array (VGA)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power Connector
2. Understand the storage and recording types used in CCTV systems	2.1	Compare different types of storage used in CCTV systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System hard drives and storage – Parallel ATA (PATA), Serial ATA (SATA), Solid State Drives (SSD) (SSD's are rare to find in CCTV system)
	2.2	Describe the different recording types, including Frames Per Second (FPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidential opportunities (time perimeter) • Seizing officer's responsibility – understand camera setting • Retention and storage of images • QCIF, CIF, 2CIF, VGA, D1, 960H, 720P, 1080P, 4K and 8k recording resolution • Continuously, motion, event and alarm base recordings
	2.3	Describe what is meant by 'Camera Masking' and its limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention and storage of images • Protect personal privacy

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black out part of the area to protect privacy such card machine pin pad • Application of government legislation RIPA and GDPR • Seizing officer's responsibility • Masking cannot be removed from the recorded footage
3. Understand the health and safety risks involved in using CCTV equipment	3.1	Explain the risks of electricity supply and voltage when accessing CCTV machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check / test plug – requires 3 lights. If not, then don't touch it. Volt Light • Health and safety risks involved • Seizing officer's responsibility - only if they are seizing the machine or accessing difficult to access machine • Check for any cuts in the cable prior to handling • Turned off the power supply prior to removing a system

	3.2	Explain the risks of working in unknown premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heights, confined spaces, slip hazards – oil / grease in restaurants • Unfriendly / unsafe environment • Pets • Unknown substance • Vermin droppings • Health and safety risks involved • Evidential opportunities • Seizing officer's responsibility, e.g. exhibiting, confirming date / time, sealing bag • Retention and storage of images
	3.3	Explain how to manage risks and safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety legislation • COVID, oil, electricity, dust • Wear gloves and mask • Sanitise hand and tools • Own responsibilities • Health and safety risks involved

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidential opportunities • Seizing officer's responsibility, e.g. exhibiting, confirming date / time, sealing bag • Retention and storage of images
4. Understand the process involved when dealing with CCTV owners	4.1	Explain what needs to be considered when retrieving CCTV evidence from system owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety risks involved • Application of government legislation • Data Protection Act • Potential licensing regulations (shops, pubs, restaurants etc) • Seek permission • Your identification
	4.2	Summarise the processes involved in retrieving CCTV evidence from system owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of government legislation • Potential licensing regulations (shops, pubs, restaurants etc) • Seek permission • Seizing officer's responsibility, e.g. exhibiting, confirming date / time, sealing bag

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention and storage of images
Additional information about the unit			
Assessment guidance	This unit is assessed using methods appropriate for knowledge-based assessment.		

Title	Navigating, Seizing, Installing and Testing CCTV machines		
Level	3		
Unit Number	3		
GLH	4		
Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>		Guidance and/or Indicative Content
1. Be able to use CCTV systems to conduct CCTV searches and download CCTV evidence	1.1	Navigate CCTV menus	
	1.2	Conduct CCTV system searches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own responsibilities • Evidential opportunities • Processing personal data • Retention and storage of images
	1.3	Download CCTV footage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own responsibilities • Evidential opportunities • Processing personal data • Retention and storage of images • Seek permission • System location • Password • Search data

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide time parameters • Export in native format where applicable • Export on WORM where applicable
2. Be able to install and test CCTV storage systems when conducting a swap / replace on a CCTV unit (Digital Video Recorder (DVR) / Network Video Recorder (NVR))	2.1	Disconnect, seize, and reconnect a replacement CCTV storage system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety • Own responsibilities (cables are labelled) • Evidential opportunities (time / date) • Application of government legislation (seizing systems)
	2.2	Check new CCTV storage system is operational and recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety • Own responsibilities (cables are labelled) • Evidential opportunities (time / date) • Application of government legislation • Check replacement unit is recording
Additional information about the unit			
Assessment guidance	This unit is assessed through practical observation / assessment.		

4 Centre Requirements

Centres must be approved by SFJ Awards and also have approval to deliver the qualifications they wish to offer. This is to ensure centres have the processes and resources in place to deliver the qualifications. Approved centres must adhere to the requirements detailed in the SFJ Awards Centre Handbook, which includes information for centres on assessment and internal quality assurance (IQA) processes and procedures and is available in the centres' area of the SFJ Awards website <http://sfjawards.com/approved-centres>.

Centres are responsible for ensuring that their assessor and internal quality assurance staff:

- are occupationally competent and/or knowledgeable as appropriate to the assessor or IQA role they are carrying out
- have current experience of assessing/internal quality assuring as appropriate to the assessor or IQA role they are carrying out, and
- have access to appropriate training and support.

Information on the induction and continuing professional development of those carrying out assessment and internal quality assurance must be made available by centres to SFJ Awards through the external quality assurance process.

This qualification handbook should be used in conjunction with the SFJ Awards Centre Handbook, the SFJ Awards Assessment Guidance and the SFJ Awards Quality Assurance (Internal and External) Guidance, available in the centres' area of the SFJ Awards website <http://sfjawards.com/approved-centres>.

5 Assessment

5.1 Qualification assessment methods

Assessment methods² that can be used for the SFJ Awards Level 3 Award in CCTV Investigation and Evidence Retrieval are as follows:

- Coursework
- Practical Demonstration / Assignment

5.2 Assessor and internal quality assurer and requirements

5.2.1 Occupational knowledge and competence

All assessors, internal and external quality assurers must:

- be occupationally knowledgeable across the range of units for which they are responsible prior to commencing the role
- engage in continuous professional development activities to maintain:
 - occupational competence and knowledge by keeping up-to-date with the changes taking place in the sector(s) for which they carry out assessments
 - professional competence and knowledge.

Assessors must also:

- be occupationally competent in the functions covered by the units they are assessing
- have gained their occupational competence by working in the sector relating to the units or qualifications they are assessing. This means they must be able to demonstrate consistent application of the skills and the current supporting knowledge and understanding in the context of a recent role directly related to the qualification units they are assessing as a practitioner, trainer or manager
- be able to interpret and make judgements on current working practices and technologies within the area of work.

Internal quality assurers (IQAs) must also:

- understand the nature and context of the assessors' work and that of their learners. This means that they must have worked closely with staff who carry out the functions covered by the qualifications, possibly by training or supervising them, and have sufficient knowledge of these functions to be able to offer credible advice on the interpretation of the units

² Selected from assessment methods listed on Ofqual's regulatory system (Portal)

- understand the content, structure and assessment requirements for the qualification(s) they are internal quality assuring*.

**Centres should provide IQAs with an induction to the qualifications that they are responsible for quality assuring. IQAs should also have access to ongoing training and updates on current issues relevant to these qualifications.*

Approved centres will be required to provide SFJ Awards with current evidence of how each member of their team meets these requirements, for example certificates of achievement or testimonials.

5.2.2 Assessor competence

Assessors must be able to make valid, reliable and fair assessment decisions. To demonstrate their competence, assessors must be:

- qualified with a recognised assessor qualification, or
- working towards a recognised assessor qualification, or
- able to prove equivalent competence through training to appropriate national standards, for example, National Occupational Standard 9: Assess learner achievement³ or Police Sector Standard for the Training of Assessors, Assessor Standard.

Approved centres will be required to provide SFJ Awards with current evidence of how each assessor meets these requirements, for example certificates of achievement or testimonials.

5.2.3 Internal Quality Assurer competence

IQAs must occupy a position in the organisation that gives them the authority and resources to:

- coordinate the work of assessors
- provide authoritative advice
- call meetings as appropriate
- conduct pre-delivery internal quality assurance on centre assessment plans, for example, to ensure that any proposed simulations are fit for purpose
- visit and observe assessment practice
- review the assessment process by sampling assessment decisions
- ensure that assessment has been carried out by assessors who are occupationally competent, or for knowledge-based qualifications occupationally knowledgeable, in the area they are assessing
- lead internal standardisation activity
- resolve differences and conflicts on assessment decisions.

³ National Occupational Standards for Learning and Development, LLUK 2010
<https://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/>

To demonstrate their competence, IQAs must be:

- qualified with a recognised internal quality assurance qualification, or
- working towards a recognised internal quality assurance qualification, or
- able to prove equivalent competence through training to appropriate national standards, for example National Occupational Standard 11: Internally monitor and maintain the quality of assessment⁴ or Police Sector Standard for the Training of Internal Verifiers, Internal Verifier Standard.

Approved centres will be required to provide SFJ Awards with current evidence of how each IQA meets these requirements, for example certificates of achievement or testimonials.

5.3 Expert witnesses

Expert witnesses, for example line managers and supervisors, can provide evidence that a learner has demonstrated competence in an activity. Their evidence contributes to performance evidence and has parity with assessor observation. Expert witnesses do not however perform the role of assessor.

5.3.1 Occupational competence

Expert witnesses must, according to current sector practice, be competent in the functions covered by the units for which they are providing evidence.

They must be able to demonstrate consistent application of the skills and the current supporting knowledge and understanding in the context of a recent role directly related to the qualification unit that they are witnessing as a practitioner, trainer or manager.

5.3.2 Qualification knowledge

Expert witnesses must be familiar with the qualification unit(s) and must be able to interpret current working practices and technologies within the area of work.

5.4 Assessing competence

The purpose of assessing competence is to make sure that an individual is competent to carry out the activities required in their work. Assessors gather and judge evidence during normal work activities to determine whether the learner demonstrates their competence against the standards in the qualification unit(s). Competence should be demonstrated at a level appropriate to the qualification. The skills required at the different qualification levels are defined in Ofqual's level descriptors.⁵ Further information on qualification levels is included in the SFJ Awards Assessment Guidance.

⁴ National Occupational Standards for Learning and Development, LLUK 2010

<https://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/>

⁵ Qualification and Component Levels, Ofqual

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofqual-handbook/section-e-design-and-development-of-qualifications>

Evidence must be:

- Valid
- Authentic
- Sufficient
- Current
- Reliable

Assessment should be integrated into everyday work to make the most of opportunities that arise naturally within the workplace.

5.5 Methods for assessing competence

Qualifications may be assessed using any method, or combination of methods in Section 5.1, which clearly demonstrate that the learning outcomes and assessment criteria have been met.

Assessors need to be able to select the right assessment methods for the competences that are being assessed, without overburdening the learner or the assessment process, or interfering with everyday work activities. SFJ Awards expects assessors to use a combination of different assessment methods to make decisions about an individual's occupational competence. Further information on assessment methods is provided below and in the SFJ Awards Assessment Guidance.

5.5.1 Observation

SFJ Awards believes that direct observation in the workplace by an assessor or testimony from an expert witness is preferable as it allows for authenticated, valid and reliable evidence. Where learners demonstrate their competence in a real work situation, this must be done without the intervention from a tutor, supervisor or colleague.

However, SFJ Awards recognises that alternative sources of evidence and assessment methods may have to be used where direct observation is not possible or practical.

5.5.2 Testimony of witnesses and expert witnesses

Witness testimonies are an accepted form of evidence by learners when compiling portfolios. Witness testimonies can be generated by peers, line managers and other individuals working closely with the learner. Witnesses are defined as being those people who are occupationally expert in their role.

Testimony can also be provided by expert witnesses who are occupationally competent and familiar with the qualification/unit(s)/criteria. Expert witnesses are the preferred witness type recommended by SFJ Awards as they provide a stronger form of evidence which is more easily authenticated and verified.

The assessor should consider witness testimonies of either type as a typical form of evidence. Assessors are therefore responsible for making the final judgement in terms of the learner meeting the evidence requirements of the qualification/unit(s)/criteria.

5.5.3 Work outputs (product evidence)

Examples of work outputs include plans, reports, budgets, photographs, videos or notes of an event. Assessors can use work outputs in conjunction with other assessment methods, such as observation and discussion, to confirm competence and assure authenticity of the evidence presented.

5.5.4 Professional discussion

Professional discussions are a free-flowing two-way dialogue between the assessor and learner. It should not be confused with questioning where the assessor asks specific questions and the learner provides answers. Discussions allow the learner to describe and reflect on their performance and knowledge in relation to the standards. Assessors can use discussions to test the authenticity, validity and reliability of a learner's evidence. Written/audio/electronic records of discussions must be maintained.

5.5.5 Questioning the learner

Questioning can be carried out orally or in written form and used to cover any gaps in assessment or corroborate other forms of evidence. Written/audio/electronic records of all questioning must be maintained.

5.5.6 Simulations

Simulations may take place either in an operational or non-operational environment, for example a training centre, or in the learner's workplace. Proposed simulations must be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose as part of the IQA's pre-delivery activity.

Simulations can be used when:

- the employer or assessor consider that evidence in the workplace will not be demonstrated within a reasonable timeframe
- there are limited opportunities to demonstrate competence in the workplace against all the assessment criteria
- there are health and safety implications due to the high-risk nature of the work activity
- the work activity is non-routine and assessment cannot easily be planned for
- assessment is required in more difficult circumstances than is likely to happen day to day.

Simulations must follow the principles below:

1. The nature of the contingency and the physical environment for the simulation must be realistic
2. Learners should be given no indication as to exactly what contingencies they may come across in the simulation
3. The demands on the learner during the simulation should be no more or less than they would be in a real work situation

4. Simulations must be planned, developed and documented by the centre in a way that ensures the simulation correctly reflects what the specific qualification unit seeks to assess and all simulations should follow these documented plans
5. There should be a range of simulations to cover the same aspect of a unit and they should be rotated regularly.

5.6 Assessing knowledge and understanding

Knowledge-based assessment involves establishing what the learner knows or understands at a level appropriate to the qualification. The depth and breadth of knowledge required at the different qualification levels are defined in Ofqual's level descriptors.⁶ Further information on qualification levels is included in the SFJ Awards Assessment Guidance.

Assessments must be:

- Fair
- Robust
- Rigorous
- Authentic
- Sufficient
- Transparent
- Appropriate

Good practice when assessing knowledge includes use of a combination of assessment methods to ensure that as well as being able to recall information, the learner has a broader understanding of its application in the workplace. This ensures that qualifications are a valid measure of a learner's knowledge and understanding.

A proportion of any summative assessment may be conducted in controlled environments to ensure conditions are the same for all learners. This could include use of:

- Closed book conditions, where learners are not allowed access to reference materials
- Time bound conditions
- Invigilation.

5.7 Methods for assessing knowledge and understanding

Qualifications may be assessed using any method, or combination of methods in Section 5.1, which clearly demonstrate that knowledge-based learning outcomes and assessment criteria have been met. Evidence of assessment, examples listed below, can be included in a portfolio of evidence.

- a) Written tests in a controlled environment
- b) Multiple choice questions
- c) Evidenced question and answer sessions with assessors
- d) Evidenced professional discussions
- e) Written assignments (including scenario-based written assignments).

⁶ Qualification and Component Level, Ofqual
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofqual-handbook/section-e-design-and-development-of-qualifications>

Where written assessments are used centres must maintain a bank of assessments that are sufficient to be changed regularly.

5.8 Assessment planning

Planning assessment allows a holistic approach to be taken. Holistic assessments are those which focus on assessment of the learner's work activity as a whole. This means that the assessment:

- reflects the skills requirements of the workplace
- saves time and streamlines processes
- makes the most of naturally occurring evidence opportunities.

Planning assessment enables assessors to track learners' progress and incorporate feedback into the learning process. By effectively planning assessors can therefore be sure that learners have had sufficient opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to perform competently and consistently to the standards before being assessed. As a consequence the assessment is a more efficient, cost effective process which minimises the burden on learners, assessors and employers.

5.9 Standardisation

Internal and external standardisation is required to ensure the consistency of evidence, assessment decisions and qualifications awarded over time. Written/audio/electronic records of all standardisation must be maintained, including records of all involved parties.

IQAs should facilitate internal standardisation events for assessors to attend and participate to review evidence used, make judgments, compare quality and come to a common understanding of what is sufficient. In addition, it is also good practice to participate in external standardisation activities. SFJ Awards will facilitate external standardisation events which are open to centres and their teams.

Further information on standardisation is available in the SFJ Awards Quality Assurance (Internal and External) Guidance and the SFJ Awards Standardisation Policy.

5.10 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is the process of recognising previous formal, informal or experiential learning so that the learner avoids having to repeat learning/assessment within a new qualification. RPL is a broad concept and covers a range of possible approaches and outcomes to the recognition of prior learning (including credit transfer where an awarding organisation has decided to attribute credit to a qualification).

The use of RPL encourages transferability of qualifications and/or units, which benefits both learners and employers. SFJ Awards supports the use of RPL and centres must work to the principles included in Section 6 Assessment and Quality Assurance of the SFJ Awards Centre Handbook and outlined in SFJ Awards Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

5.11 Equality and diversity

Centres must comply with legislation and the requirements of the RQF relating to equality and diversity. There should be no barriers to achieving a qualification based on:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnerships
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation

Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that learners who have specific learning needs are not disadvantaged in any way. Learners must declare their needs prior to the assessment and all necessary reasonable adjustment arrangements must have been approved by SFJ Awards and implemented before the time of their assessment.

Further information is available in the SFJ Awards Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and the SFJ Awards Equality of Opportunity Policy.

5.12 Health and safety

SFJ Awards is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of learners, employees and volunteers and expect everyone to share this commitment.

SFJ Awards fosters an open and supportive culture to encourage the safety and well-being of employees, learners and partner organisations to enable:

- learners to thrive and achieve
- employees, volunteers and visitors to feel secure
- everyone to feel assured that their welfare is a high priority.

Assessment of competence based qualifications in the justice sector can carry a high-risk level due to the nature of some roles. Centres must therefore ensure that due regard is taken to assess and manage risk and have procedures in place to ensure that:

- qualifications can be delivered safely with risks to learners and those involved in the assessment process minimised as far as possible
- working environments meet relevant health and safety requirements.

Copyright

The content of this document is, unless otherwise indicated, Copyright © SFJ Awards and may not be copied, revised, reproduced or distributed, without prior written consent from SFJ Awards.

However, approved SFJ Awards centres may use and reproduce this document free of charge when teaching/assessing learners working towards SFJ Awards qualifications, or for SFJ Awards related administration purposes. Learners may copy the document for their own use only when working towards SFJ Awards qualifications via an approved SFJ Awards centre.