

A1 – Level 3 Award in Assessing Candidates using a range of methods

D unit qualifications are being replaced with new **Assessor and Verifier Awards** (A and V Awards) If you are already qualified with D units, *you don't need to achieve the new Awards* – but – you are expected to understand the requirements of the new standards and incorporate them into your assessment and verification practice **Here we outline the differences between D32/D33 and the new A1 Award. A1 replaces the old D32 and D33 combined.** (NB – if you are already registered on D units, you will have time to achieve them. Check with your assessor.)

Explaining the new jargon

Single Unit Awards

The new A and V Awards are taken from the suite of national occupational standards for Learning and Development. They are also now recognised as *Single Unit Awards*. Information relating to Single Unit Awards simply refers to the A and V Awards as stand-alone qualifications that are not being achieved as part of the full Learning and Development S/NVQ.

Independent assessment for the single unit Awards

It is a requirement of the new Awards that some independent assessment takes place. *This does not mean that the unit has to be assessed twice!* It does mean that an independent assessor has to assess a **key piece of evidence** presented by candidate-assessors and candidate-internal verifiers. For example, this could be an assessment plan. Your external verifier will be able to guide you on what may be counted as key evidence.

How the new Award compares

The A1 Award focuses more on how assessors communicate with candidates to help ensure that both are clear on agreed plans and how assessment decisions are reached. **Note the new emphasis on internal quality assurance with the new element A1.4** Here's how the element titles compare:

D32.1	Agree and review a plan for assessing performance	D33.1	Agree and review an assessment plan	A1.1	Develop plans for assessing competence with candidates
D32.2	Collect and judge performance evidence against criteria	D33.2	Judge evidence and provide feedback	A1.2	Judge evidence against criteria to make assessment decisions
D32.3	Collect and judge knowledge evidence	D33.3	Make assessment decision using differing sources of evidence and provide feedback	A1.3	Provide feedback and support to candidates on assessment decisions
D32.4	Make assessment decision and provide feedback			A1.4	Contribute to the internal quality assurance process

Performance requirements

The most notable differences between the old D32 and D33 units and the new A1 Award are that assessors must now also:

- Ensure that *candidates understand* the assessment process involved, the support available to them and the complaints and appeals procedure
- Identify how the *past experience and achievements of candidates* will contribute to the assessment process and use this as part of the assessment
- *Identify, agree and apply any special arrangements* needed to make sure the assessment process is fair
- Identify how *other people* will contribute to assessments and what support they may need
- Identify how to *protect confidentiality and agree arrangements to deal with sensitive issues*
- *Agree how disputes and difficulties* during assessments will be handled
- use *agreed* assessment methods
- *Collect evidence from other people* involved in the assessment process

- Base decisions on all relevant evidence and *take this evidence from as many places as possible*
- *Explain and resolve any inconsistencies* in the presented evidence
- That feedback is given *at an appropriate time and place*
- *Next steps* in the assessment process are identified and agreed *during feedback*
- *Follow complaints and appeals procedures* if candidates disagree with a assessment decisions

Knowledge requirements

These are now presented in a different format. Instead of appearing alongside individual elements, a list of 37 knowledge requirements, numbered 1-37, specify what all A1 assessors must know. They're broken down into three sections and the most notable differences are that assessors must now demonstrate that they have the knowledge detailed below (using the numbers from the standard)

The nature and role of assessments in national standards

- 4) How to *collect and use evidence from candidates' prior experience and achievements* within the current assessment process
- 5) How to develop and agree assessment plans with candidates and the *other people involved*
- 7) How to take appropriate action and help candidates *develop their competence*
- 10) How to follow *standardisation and internal quality assurance procedures*

Principles and concepts

- 11) How to *measure existing levels* of competence
- 17) How to *encourage candidates to consider and use their past experience and achievements*
- 20) How to keep to the *Data Protection Act*
- 22) How to use *language and behaviour that does not discriminate* against any candidate
- 27) How to identify *changes in levels of candidates' competence and assess how this affects your own competence*
- 28) How to use opportunities to *update your skills and experience*
- 29) How to *identify and use information on current assessment best practice*
- 30) How to *use personal development opportunities* to improve your assessment skills

External factors influencing the assessment of national standards

- 31) How to meet candidates' needs for access to safe, fair, valid and reliable assessment, *in line with relevant legislation*
- 32) How to *recognise and challenge unfair discrimination* in assessments
- 33) *Who to get advice from* about meeting candidates' special assessment requirements
- 34) How to *identify and plan for issues of confidentiality and data protection* during the assessment process
- 35) How to record, store and pass on assessment decisions to *other people within an agreed system*
- 36) How to *identify and assess things that can influence your own competence*
- 37) How to *identify appropriate sources of support for your own development*

Evidence requirements

There is now more guidance to help candidate-assessors gather evidence to prove competence in the Award. It may appear that the evidence requirements are asking for a lot more evidence than the D units demanded. However, *more guidance doesn't mean more evidence* – it means that assessor-candidates are expected to produce higher-quality, more relevant evidence as the requirements are now clearer. Evidence requirements are now split into two sections:

- a) Evidence required to support performance claims
- b) Evidence required to support knowledge claims

This document only provides summary information – refer to the full standards for the new Awards to find out more, or contact GQA:

Tel: 0114 272 0080/0114 272 0033
Fax: 0114 272 0060

Web: www.glassqualificationsauthority.com
Email: gqa@btconnect.com



**Glass
Qualifications
Authority**