NOCN Credit and Qualification Framework Assessment Definitions



Assessment Definitions

Assessing Learning - Descriptors Assessment activity

1. Case Studies

Consideration of a particular, relevant situation or example, selected by the tutor or by learners, which enables learners to apply knowledge to specific situations. May be used as a collective / group activity and discussed in a group of learners or by an individual learner. **Or** may be used with individual learners as a written activity through case study materials and learner responses.

The learning may be assessed by:

- Tutor observation
- Class discussion
- One to one
- Group tutorial discussion

- Tutor record of observation
- Learner notes
- Summary of class discussion
- Tutorial notes
- Audio/video/photographic record

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	Case studies should be simple, immediate and familiar to the learner. Discussion should be	Assessment through tutor	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation,
Level	short, structured and supervised (group or one-to-one). Written work should be short	observation and discussion or tutor	summary of discussion, audio / video /
	structured and supervised.	assessment of written work.	photographic record or written work.
Level	Case studies should be limited in range, familiar and require a narrow range of knowledge.	Assessment through tutor	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation,
One	Discussion should be structured and involve a limited degree of judgement (group or one-to-	observation, discussion or tutor	summary of discussion, learner notes, audio /
	one). Written work should be structured and involve a limited degree of judgement.	assessment of written work.	video / photographic record or written work.
Level	Case studies should allow the application of knowledge in a number of areas and contexts.	Assessment through peer	Evidence could be; tutor record, learner record,
Two	Discussion should be directed but should allow for a degree of autonomy (group). Written	assessment, self-assessment, tutor	peer checklist, summary of discussion or audio /
	work should be directed but allow for a degree of autonomy (GL ¹ = 500 words).	observation, or assessment of written	video / photographic record or written work.
		work.	
Level	Case studies should allow the application of knowledge in a range of complex areas, in a	Assessment through peer	Evidence could be; tutor record, learner record,
Three	variety of familiar and unfamiliar contexts. Discussion should be guided but self-directed	assessment, self-assessment, tutor	peer checklist, summary of discussion, audio /
	(group). Written work should allow for autonomy, evaluation and reasoned judgements to be	observation or assessment or written	video / photographic record or written work.
	made (GL = 1000 words).	work.	

2. Oral Question and Answer

Specific, open or closed questions for immediate response. Can range from quite formal questions, for example, an oral test, to a quick, fun way of finding out where learners are up to, for example, a quiz. Allows response and questioning from learners and immediate feedback from tutor.

The learning may be assessed through:

• Responses by both tutor and individual learners.

- Tutor record/notes
- Learner notes or log
- Audio / video record

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	Process should be informal and non-threatening and questions should	Assessment by tutor.	Evidence could be; tutor / record
Level	cover a narrow range of areas. Learners should be supported in		notes or audio / video record.
	answering and given a number of opportunities to respond.		
Level	Process should be informal and should include both open and closed	Assessment by tutor.	Evidence could be; tutor record /
One	questions covering a narrow range of knowledge. Learners should be		notes or audio / video record.
	encouraged by the use of supplementary questions.		
Level	Open and closed questions should be included, covering a number of	Assessment by tutor, with a	Evidence could be; tutor records,
Two	topics. Learners should be encouraged to expand on their answers.	degree of self-assessment.	learner log or audio / video record.
Level	Questions should cover a wide range of knowledge and contexts. They	Assessment by tutor, with a	Evidence could be; tutor record,
Three	should allow responses to unfamiliar and unpredictable problems. The	degree of self-assessment and	learner log or audio / video record.
	process may be time limited and formal, or may be a structured two-way	evaluation of own learning.	
	discussion.		

3. Written Question and Answer / Test / Exam

Specific, open and closed questions for immediate response. Can range from formal exams and tests, to a quick, fun way of finding out where learners are up to, for example, a quiz. Allows response and questioning from learners and feedback from tutor.

The learning may be assessed through:

- Responses by individual learners.
- May make use of on-line assessment.

- Written questions
- Learner responses
- Tutor feedback

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	Process should be informal and non-threatening and questions should	Assessment by tutor.	Evidence could be; written
Level	cover a narrow range of areas. Possible use of multi-choice questions.		responses.
Level	Process should be informal and non-threatening. Questions should	Assessment by tutor or external	Evidence could be; written
One	encourage learners to make use of knowledge rather than just testing	marker (for exams / tests).	responses.
	recall.		
Level	Open and closed questions should be included, covering a number of	Assessment by tutor or external	Evidence could be; written
Two	areas. Learners should be encouraged to make use of / interpret	marker (for exams / tests).	responses.
	knowledge rather than just testing recall. May be time limited.		
Level	Questions should cover a wide range of knowledge and contexts, and	Assessment by tutor or external	Evidence could be; written
Three	allow responses to unfamiliar and unpredictable problems. Learners	marker (for exams / tests).	responses.
	should be encouraged to make use of / interpret knowledge rather than just		
	testing recall. The process may be time limited.		

4. Essay

A discursive, written response to a question or statement which involves the learner in finding and presenting information and opinion in a structured way, which normally includes an introduction, the information / opinions / evaluation / analysis and a conclusion.

The learning may be assessed by:

• Tutor against clear criteria.

- Essay
- Detailed tutor feedback

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	It would be unlikely that an essay would be used as an assessment	Assessment by the tutor	Evidence could be; the
Level	activity at Entry Level as it would not be appropriate for the learner.	through discussion.	essay and tutor feedback.
	However, it could be used in a very simple form to allow learners to		
	demonstrate recall and comprehension in a narrow range of ideas.		
Level	The essay subject should be simple and the response should be	Assessment by the tutor.	Evidence could be; the
One	descriptive and not analytical or evaluative. A narrow range of applied		essay and tutor feedback.
	knowledge and demonstration of basic comprehension would be		
	expected. Learners should be given detailed information on how to		
	structure the essay and on the criteria for achievement.		
Level	The essay subject should be familiar and the response should	Assessment by the tutor.	Evidence could be; the
Two	demonstrate the ability to interpret information, make comparisons and		essay and tutor feedback.
	apply knowledge and demonstrate comprehension in a number of		
	different areas. Learners should be given information on the expected		
	structure of the essay and criteria for achievement. GL = 500 words.		
Level	The essay subject should allow the learner to access and evaluate	Assessment by the tutor.	Evidence could be; the
Three	information independently, to analyse information and to make reasoned		essay and tutor feedback.
	judgements and demonstrate comprehension of relevant theories.		
	Learners should be given information on possible structures for an essay		
	and for the criteria for achievement. GL = 1000 words.		

5. Report

A record of an activity and / or a summary of research which presents information in a structured way. Does not include opinion, but may include analysis or evaluation. May be presented in written or oral form.

The learning may be assessed by:

- Tutor for written report.
- Tutor and / or peers for oral presentation of report.

- Written report with tutor feedback
- Notes for oral presentation with tutor and / or peer feedback.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	Report should be oral and informal. The information or activity being reported on	Assessment by	Evidence could be; tutor record.
Level	should be simple and familiar. Learners should be supported in preparing and	tutor.	
	giving a report and given a number of opportunities to respond.		
Level	Report could be presented orally or in written format. Oral presentation should be	Assessment by	Evidence could be; a written report
One	informal. Information used in the report should be readily available and activities	tutor.	with tutor feedback or learner
	should be in familiar contexts. Learners should be clear on the expected structure		notes of oral presentation with
	and criteria for the report and given support on planning and presentation.		tutor feedback.
Level	Report could be presented in orally or in written format. Oral presentation should	Assessment by	Evidence could be; written report
Two	be to a familiar audience. Information should be from a range of sources and	tutor and / or	with tutor feedback or learner plan
	activities, should be from familiar or unfamiliar but predictable contexts. Learners	peers for oral	for oral presentation with peer and
	should be clear on possible structures for the report and the criteria for	presentation.	/ or tutor feedback.
	achievement. GL = 4 minutes for oral / 500 words for written. Learners should be		
	given guidance on planning and presentation.		
Level	Report could be presented orally or in written format. Oral presentation should be	Assessment by	Evidence could be; written report
Three	formal and could include a range of methods. Information should be from a wide	tutor and or	with tutor feedback or plan for oral
	range of sources and should be evaluated. Activities should be well defined but	peers for an oral	presentation with peer and / or
	could be unfamiliar or unpredictable. Learners should be clear on the criteria for	presentation.	tutor feedback.
	achievement but would be expected to decide on the format and structure of the		
	report. GL = 8 minutes for oral / 1000 words for written		

6. Project

A specific task involving private study and research for individuals or groups. Normally involves selection of a topic, planning, finding information and presenting results orally or in writing.

The learning may be assessed by:

• Tutor, learner or peers, during and at the end of process through discussion and observation.

- · Notes, plans, record of project process.
- Tutor record.
- Peer records.
- Learner log.
- Audio / video / photographic record.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry Level	Task should be simple, familiar, informal and supervised. It should involve repetitive and predictable processes.	Assessment through tutor observation and questioning during and at end of process.	Evidence could include, tutor record, learner notes, plans, reports, learner log or audio / video / photographic record.
Level One	Task should be selected with support from tutor to allow the demonstration of knowledge and skills in a range of predictable, structured and familiar contexts.	Assessment through tutor observation and questioning during at the end of the process.	Evidence could be; tutor record, learner notes, plans, reports, learner log or audio / video / photographic record.
Level Two	Task should be selected with tutor guidance to allow the demonstration of knowledge and understanding in a range of areas and contexts, and the interpretation of information. The project should be completed within an agreed timescale.	Assessment through tutor / learner discussion during and at the end of the process, and through self-assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record, learner notes, plans, reports, learner log or audio / video / photographic record.
Level Three	Task should be selected with tutor guidance to allow the demonstration of knowledge and skills in a range of areas and contexts, and to show the use of reasoned judgements. The project should be planned and completed within an agreed timescale.	Assessment through tutor / learner discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record, learner notes, plans, reports, learner log or audio / video / photographic record.

7. Production of artefact

Production of a relevant artefact selected by the tutor or by learners, which enables learners to demonstrate skills and to apply knowledge.

The learning may be assessed by:

- Tutor / peer observation.
- One to one tutorial.
- Discussion.
- Self-assessment.

- Tutor record of observation.
- Learner notes.
- Tutor lesson plan.
- Tutorial notes.
- Audio / video / photographic record.
- Learner log.
- Completed artefact.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	Artefact should be simple, familiar and informal. Its production	Assessment through tutor / peer	Evidence could be; tutor record,
Level	should be supervised and involve repetitive and predictable	observation, one to one tutorial, discussion,	learner notes, plans, reports, learner
	processes.	self-assessment and questioning during	log, audio / video / photographic
		and at end of process.	record and completed artefact.
Level	Artefact should be selected with support from tutor to allow the	Assessment through tutor, peer	Evidence could be, tutor record,
One	demonstration of skills and apply knowledge in a range of	observation, one to one tutorial, discussion,	learner notes, plans, reports, learner
	predictable, structured and familiar contexts.	self-assessment and questioning during	log, audio / video / photographic
		and at end of process.	record and completed artefact.
Level	Artefact should be selected with tutor guidance to allow the	Assessment through tutor / peer	Evidence could be; tutor record,
Two	demonstration of skills and the application of knowledge in a range of	observation, one to one tutorial, discussion,	learner notes, plans, reports, learner
	areas and contexts. A degree of learner autonomy should be	self-assessment and questioning during	log, audio / video / photographic
	encouraged within the scope of the demonstration. The artefact	and at end of process.	record and completed artefact.
	should be completed within an agreed timescale.		
Level	Artefact should be selected with tutor guidance to allow the	Assessment through tutor / peer	Evidence could be; tutor record,
Three	demonstration of skills and application of knowledge in a range of	observation, one to one tutorial, discussion,	learner notes, plans, reports, learner
	areas and contexts. Production of the artefact should be guided but	self-assessment and questioning during	log, audio / video / photographic
	self-directed. Production of the artefact should be planned and	and at end of process.	record and completed artefact.
	completed within an agreed timescale.		

8. Role Play / Simulation

Use of a situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practice and apply skills and to explore attitudes.

The learning may be assessed by:

- Tutor / peer observation.
- One to one tutorial.
- Discussion.
- Self-assessment.

- Tutor record of observation.
- Learner notes.
- Tutor lesson plan.
- Tutorial notes.
- Audio / video / photographic record.
- Learner log.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	Role-plays should be simple with scenarios that	Assessment through, tutor / peer observation, one	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation,
Level	are familiar to the learner. Role-plays should be short, structured and supervised.	to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record or learner log.
Level One	Role-plays should be limited in range, be familiar and require a narrow range of skills. Role-plays should be structured and involve limited degree of learner choice.	Assessment through, tutor / peer observation, one to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record or learner log.
Level Two	Role-plays should allow the application of skills in several areas and contexts. Role-plays should be directed, but allow for a degree of learner autonomy.	Assessment through tutor / peer observation, one to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record or learner log.
Level Three	Role-plays should allow the application of skills in a range of complex areas and in a variety of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.	Assessment through tutor / peer observation, one to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record or learner log.

9. Written Description

Consideration of a particular subject, situation or example selected by the tutor or by learners, which enables learners to apply knowledge to specific situations and to present them in written format.

The learning may be assessed by:

- Tutor.
- One to one tutorial.
- Discussion.

- Tutor record of observation.
- Learner notes.
- Tutorial notes.
- Completed report.
- Charts.
- Plans.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry Level	Subjects should be simple and familiar to learner. Written work should be short, structured and supervised.	Assessment through tutor assessment and discussion.	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation and feedback, summary of discussion or completed work.
Level One	Subjects should be limited in range, be familiar and require a narrow range of knowledge. Written work should be structured and involve limited degree of judgement.	Assessment through tutor assessment and discussion.	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation, summary of discussion and feedback or completed work.
Level Two	Subjects should allow the application of knowledge in a number of areas and contexts. Written work should be directed but should allow for a degree of autonomy. GL = 500 words.	Assessment through self-assessment and tutor assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record, learner record, summary of discussion and feedback or completed work.
Level Three	Subjects should allow the application of knowledge in a range of complex areas, in a variety of familiar and unfamiliar context. GL = 1000 words.	Assessment through self-assessment and tutor assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record, learner record, summary of feedback or completed work.

10. Practical Demonstration

A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge.

The learning may be assessed by:

- Tutor.
- Peer observation.
- One to one tutorial.
- Discussion.
- Self-assessment.

- Tutor record of observation.
- Learner notes.
- Tutor lesson plan.
- Tutorial notes.
- Audio / video / photographic record.
- Learner log.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry Level	Practical demonstrations should be simple with situations that the learner is familiar with. They should be short, structured and supervised.	Assessment through tutor / peer observation, one to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could be; tutor record of observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record and learner log.
Level One	Practical demonstrations should be limited in range, be familiar and require a narrow range of skills and knowledge.	Assessment through tutor / peer observation, one to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could include tutor record of observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record and learner log.
Level Two	Practical demonstrations should allow the application of skills and knowledge in several areas and contexts. A degree of learner autonomy should be encouraged within the scope of the demonstration.	Assessment through tutor / peer observation, one to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could include tutor record of observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record and learner log.
Level Three	Practical demonstrations should allow for the application of skills and knowledge in a range of complex areas and in a variety of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.	Assessment through tutor / peer observation, one to one tutorial, discussion and self-assessment.	Evidence could include tutor record of observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes, audio / video / photographic record and learner log.

11. Group Discussion

Discussion of a topic or situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to share knowledge and thoughts and to assess their learning.

The learning may be assessed by:

- Tutor.
- Peer observation.
- One to one tutorial.
- Discussion.
- Self-assessment.

- Tutor record of observation.
- Learner notes.
- Tutor lesson plan.
- Tutorial notes.
- Audio/video/photographic record.
- Learner log.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry	Discussions should be simple with subjects that	Assessment through tutor, peer observation, one	Evidence could include; tutor record of
Level	are familiar to the learner. The discussion should	to one tutorial discussion and self-assessment.	observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan,
	be short, structured and supervised.		tutorial notes, audio / video record and learner log.
Level	Discussions should be limited in range, cover	Assessment through tutor, peer observation, one	Evidence could include; tutor record of
One	topics that are familiar to the learner. These	to one tutorial discussion and self-assessment.	observation, learner notes, tutor lesson plan,
	should require a narrow range of skills. The		tutorial notes, audio / video record and learner log.
	discussion should be structured and involve a		
	limited degree of learner choice.		
Level	Discussions should allow for consideration of	Assessment through tutor, peer observation, one-	Evidence could include; tutor record observation,
Two	several topics covering a number of contexts. The	to one tutorial discussion and self-assessment.	learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes,
	discussion should be directed, but allow for a		audio / video record and learner log.
	degree of learner autonomy.		
Level	Discussion should allow for consideration of a	Assessment through tutor, peer observation, one	Evidence could include; tutor record observation,
Three	range of complex topics and in a variety of familiar	to one tutorial discussion and self-assessment.	learner notes, tutor lesson plan, tutorial notes,
	and unfamiliar contexts.		audio / video record and learner log.

12. Performance / Exhibition

A performance or exhibition or music or drama with an audience, or a rehearsal or learner demonstration for individuals or groups.

The learning may be assessed by:

• Tutor, learner or peers, at end of performance through discussion and observation.

- Notes.
- Plans.
- Audio/video/photographic record of performance/exhibition.
- Tutor records.
- Peer records.
- Learner log.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry Level	The performance / exhibition should be simple, informal and supervised.	Assessment through peer assessment, self-assessment and / or tutor observation.	Evidence could include; tutor record, notes, plans, audio / video / photographic record of performance / exhibition, peer records, learner log and summary of feedback.
Level One	The performance / exhibition should be limited in range, familiar and require a narrow range of knowledge.	Assessment through peer assessment, self-assessment and / or tutor observation.	Evidence could include; tutor record, notes, plans, audio / video / photographic record of performance / exhibition, peer records, learner log and summary of feedback.
Level Two	The performance / exhibition should be chosen with tutor guidance to allow the demonstration of knowledge and understanding in a range of areas. Provide the opportunity for interpretation of the chosen piece.	Assessment through peer assessment, self-assessment and / or tutor observation.	Evidence could include; tutor record, notes, plans, audio / video / photographic record of performance / exhibition, peer records, learner log and summary of feedback.
Level Three	The performance / exhibition should be chosen with the tutor to allow for the application of knowledge in a range of complex areas, in a variety of contexts. Performance should be guided but self-directed.	Assessment through peer assessment, self-assessment and / or tutor observation.	Evidence could include; tutor record, notes, plans, audio / video / photographic record of performance / exhibition, peer records, learner log and summary of feedback.

13. Reflective log or diary

A description, normally in writing but may be oral, by the learner reflecting on how and what they have learned. Often completed at regular intervals during the learning process thus allowing discussion on individual progress and how further learning could be supported.

The learning may be assessed by:

Learner, often supported through tutorial discussions with tutor.

- Log / diary (however this may be confidential and therefore not available for moderation).
- Tutorial notes.
- Tutor record.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry Level	The reflection process should normally be oral and supported. It may be supplemented by the use of drawings or diagrams. Learners should be asked to describe simply what they have learned with direction from the tutor.	Assessment by learner with tutor support.	Evidence could include; drawings, diagrams and tutor record.
Level One	The reflection process should be written and may be in the form of brief, structured notes. Learner should be asked to record what they have learner at regular intervals and advised on what information to include. Learners should make limited judgements on what has been learned in terms of, for example, usefulness or interest.	Assessment by learner supported by tutor through tutorials.	Evidence could include; log / diary, tutorial notes and tutor record.
Level Two	The reflection process should be written in a structured format that allows some autonomy in recording. Learners should be asked to record regularly what they have learned and to make judgements on the learning in terms of, for example, usefulness, interest, how it has extended their knowledge / skills, what else they need to learn.	Assessment by learner supported by tutor through tutorials.	Evidence could include; log / diary, tutorial notes and tutor record.
Level Three	The reflection process should be written and learners given guidance on appropriate methods. Learners should be asked to record regularly what they have learned and to make judgements on how effective the learning process has been in terms of, for example, usefulness, interest, extension of knowledge / skills, their own learning style and what else they need to learn.	Assessment by learner, discussed with the tutor.	Evidence could include; log / diary and tutor notes.

14. Practice File

A structured collection of documents from real situations such as work or voluntary activity, which evidence the application of knowledge and / or skills. The documents should be mapped to specific learning outcome/s in a unit of assessment. May need a short explanation of how the particular document evidences achievement of a specific learning outcome.

The learning may be assessed through:

• Discussion with the tutor.

Evidence could include:

• Form mapping to learning outcomes, plus explanation if necessary and the documents, for example, minutes, reports, brochures, plans, witness statements, letters or e-mails.

	Activity	Assessment	Evidence
Entry Level	Practice evidence should be simple and specific. Learners should be directed on what to include. The tutor should map the evidence to specific learning outcome/s.	Assessment through discussion with the tutor.	Evidence could include; document/s and tutor notes.
Level One	Practice evidence should demonstrate the application of a narrow range of skills and / or knowledge. Learners should be given detailed guidance on what documents would be appropriate, how the evidence should be presented, and on mapping to learning outcomes.	Assessment through discussion with the tutor.	Evidence could include; documents, learner notes and tutor comments.
Level Two	Practice evidence should be chosen from a number of possible contexts to demonstrate application of a range of skills and / or knowledge. Learners should receive guidance on the type of document which could be appropriate, for example, a list, and advice on how to ensure the documents evidence specific learning outcomes, for example, highlighting sections, notes and on how the file should be presented.	Assessment through discussion with the tutor.	Evidence could include; structured file with tutor feedback.
Level Three	Practice evidence should be chosen to demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills in a range of complex activities. Learners should be expected to select appropriate and relevant evidence with minimal guidance, and to present the evidence in a structured format with sufficient information to demonstrate achievement.	Assessment through discussion with the tutor.	Evidence could include; structured file with tutor feedback.