# epaplus

# Teaching Assistant

## ① What the role entails

Teaching Assistants work in Primary, Special and Secondary education across all age ranges encompassing special educational needs and emotional vulnerabilities. The primary role of the Teaching Assistant is to support the class teacher to enhance pupils' learning either in groups or individually, ensuring pupils understand the work set, know their learning objectives and stay on task in order to make progress. Promoting self-belief, social inclusion and a high self-esteem play an integral part to pupils' well-being; ensuring pupils thrive in a positive, nurturing, safe environment.

**!** **Entry:** apprentices may be expected to have already achieved 5 GCSEs, including maths and English, Grade C or above or 4/5 (new grading). Some employers will accept other relevant qualifications and experience, including a relevant Level 2 qualification.

## ② On-programme assessment

The apprentice must achieve the following on-programme assessment requirements prior to Gateway:

- Level 2 English and maths.

## ③ Gateway requirements

The decision to take an apprentice through Gateway is made between the employer, Independent Training Provider and apprentice. The apprentice must have achieved all the required on-programme elements before they enter Gateway, including completion of a Portfolio of Evidence to support the Professional Discussion.

## ④ End-Point Assessment

The EPA for Teaching Assistant contains 2 methods of assessment as outlined below:

**Practical Observation with Questions & Answers (Q&As)**

The Practical Observation will be carried out over 2 hours (+/- 10%) and will take place in the apprentice's workplace. During the Practical Observation, the apprentice will have the opportunity to demonstrate how they have applied the skills, knowledge and behaviours identified in the assessment plan in a work environment. A Q&A session will take place once the final observation has been completed and will last for 15 minutes (+/- 10%).

**Grade Weighting** - the Practical Observation is graded as Pass or Distinction by the Independent End-Point Assessor (IEPA).

**Professional Discussion supported by a Portfolio of Evidence**

The Professional Discussion is a structured discussion of 90 minutes (+/- 10%), following the Practical Observation, which will establish the apprentice's understanding and application of the knowledge, skills and behaviours identified in the assessment plan.

The Portfolio of Evidence will be completed during the on-programme learning and will enable the IEPA to prepare for the Professional Discussion. It should cover the knowledge, skills and behaviours to be assessed by the Professional Discussion.

**Grade Weighting** - the Professional Discussion is graded as Pass or Distinction by the IEPA.

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## ⑤ Grade aggregation table

| Practical Observation with Q&As | Professional Discussion supported by a Portfolio of Evidence | Overall Grading |
|---|---|---|
| Fail | Fail | Fail |
| Pass | Fail | Fail |
| Fail | Pass | Fail |
| Distinction | Fail | Fail |
| Fail | Distinction | Fail |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |
| Distinction | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | Distinction | Pass |
| Distinction | Distinction | Distinction |

## ⑥ Completion and certification

Once the IEPA verifies the apprentice has successfully completed all EPAs, CACHE will activate certification. Working with the apprenticeship certificate issuing authority, we'll ensure the apprentice receives their certificate.

## ⑦ What next?

As well as ensuring full competency as a Teaching Assistant, this standard provides a foundation for potential progression into a number of career paths in the Educational sector including Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Assistant Teacher and Teacher.

## Why choose EPA Plus?

We are an approved End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) specialising in EPA delivery across Health, Education & Care and Business apprenticeship standards. EPA Plus offers a flexible and reliable EPA solutions supported by sector expertise, guidance documents and proactive service and support.

https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/teaching-assistant/