Level 3 Broadcast and Media Systems Technical Operator V1.2

End-Point Assessment Specification



AIMASSESSMENT

www.aimgroup.org.uk/epa

Who is this specification for?

This specification has been created for anyone involved in training and supporting apprentices on this standard and should be read in conjunction with AIM's policies and procedures found on **www.aimgroup.org.uk/eparesources**

Disclaimer

The information contained in this specification was correct at the time of publication. Whilst we endeavour to keep the content up to date, we would recommend that you also refer to **https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/st0424-v1-2** for up to date information on the EPA standard and the assessment plan.

To report any errors, please contact: **assessment@aimgroup.org.uk**

Version history

Version number	Version code	Date	Description	Checked by (initials and date)
4	BAMSTO1.2/SP/022/V4/130726/LC	13.07.26	Updated to V1.2	MP 29.07.2026

Contents

1. An Introduction to AIM Assessment 3
Who is AIM Assessment? 3
Role 3
2. Why choose AIM for your EPA? 4
3. Standard summary 5
4. Assessment methods 7
5. Grading criteria/KSBs 8
6. Regulatory references (internal use) 14

1. An Introduction to AIM Assessment

Who is AIM Assessment?

AIM Assessment is part of the AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group, a leading Awarding Organisation (AO) and Access Validating Agency (AVA) offering award-winning qualifications and Access to HE Diplomas for over thirty years.

AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group is an independent, Ofqual recognised, end-point assessment organisation (EPAO) responsible for an apprentice's final assessment to ensure they can do the job for which they've trained.

AIM is regulated by Ofqual, CCEA, Qualifications Wales and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to ensure we maintain quality standards in our delivery and provision.

Role

As an end-point assessment organisation (EPAO) we assess apprentices' knowledge, skills and behaviours learnt throughout their apprenticeship.

The assessment is taken after the training has been completed, and when the apprentice's employer and training provider are satisfied that the apprentice is ready. If the end-point assessment (EPA) is successful, an apprenticeship certificate is issued by the Department for Education (DfE). We work closely with employers and providers from the start of the apprenticeship to support apprentices and their employer/training provider on their journey towards a successful EPA.

2. Why choose AIM for your EPA?

AIM's exceptional end-point assessments are characterised by ten guiding principles.

By embodying these principles, we not only validate an apprentice's readiness for the industry but also enhance the overall quality and credibility of apprenticeships.

1. Assessments are undertaken by assessors with the **relevant skills**, **experience** and specific **industry knowledge**.
2. Assessments should produce **consistent results**, no matter who conducts or takes it, ensuring reliability in the evaluation process.
3. Assessments should **accurately measure** what it's intended to assess in order to guarantee that the assessment truly reflects the apprentice's capabilities.
4. The assessment process should be **fair and impartial**, avoiding bias or discrimination against any apprentice.
5. Assessments should be **accessible to all** apprentices, accommodating diverse backgrounds, abilities, and learning styles.
6. Assessments should have **clearly defined criteria and expectations** to ensure apprentices understand what they're being assessed on.
7. All parties (apprentice, employer and training provider) should know how the apprentice will be assessed; the process should be **transparent** to instil confidence in its fairness.
8. Assessment tasks and questions should mirror **real work scenarios** to help apprentices showcase their practical skills, knowledge and behaviours.
9. The assessor should provide **constructive feedback** to help apprentices understand their strengths and areas for improvement.
10. There should be **a close partnership** between the EPAO, and the training provider/employer to ensure the assessment meets everyone's needs.

3. Standard summary

Standard name	AIM Qualifications Level 3 Broadcast and Media Systems Technical Operator End-Point Assessment
ST code	ST0424 Version: 1.2
Role profile of the apprenticeship* *(* this outlines the purpose of the qualification)*	The broad purpose of the occupation is to operate equipment involved in programme making for any of the media outlets supported by their organisation. To do this successfully and professionally, there must be an understanding of workflow, equipment capabilities, and technical standards they are operating within. Equipment is complex, and they are often working within tight timescales, it is also necessary to be able to perform diagnostics in real-time and communicate with engineers, technicians or workflow experts to help solve problems and maintain service. The purpose of the apprenticeship (qualification) including end-point assessment, is to ensure that the apprentice has learnt the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to undertake the role of a broadcast and media systems technical operator. Typical job titles include: Audio and visual operator, Broadcast playout operator, Livestream operator, Multi-skilled technical operator, Production specialist, Production technology support, Systems operator, Technical operator, Transmission operator.
Duration	Typically 22 months training and two months EPA
Apprenticeship process	The apprentice will typically spend 22 months on their apprenticeship. Apprentices working 30+ hours per week will spend a minimum of 20% (ie, at least six hours per week) of their time off-the-job, learning with a training provider, college, or with their employer. After their training period the apprentice will begin their end-point assessment (EPA) to check they have the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) required for this role. This assessment should be completed within two months and will be conducted by AIM's specialist end-point assessors.
Gateway*/ other requirements	Apprentices must have satisfied the following before Gateway*: ▪ Spent at least 12 months on their apprenticeship programme (only applies to apprentices registered before 01.08.25) ▪ Spent at least 8 months on their apprenticeship programme (only applies to apprentices registered on or after 01.08.25) ▪ Employer confirmation that the apprentice is ready to take EPA ▪ Achieved maths and English qualifications at Level 2 - this only applies to apprentices aged 16-18 at the start of their apprenticeship training. For apprentices aged 19+ at the start of their apprenticeship training, achieving L2 English and maths is not mandatory. ▪ Submitted and had approved, a presentation proposal ▪ Submitted a portfolio of evidence accompanied by a portfolio mapping grid. *Gateway is the point at which apprentices enter the end-point assessment period
Assessment methods	▪ **Assessment method one:** Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence ▪ **Assessment method two:** Presentation and questions

<table>
<tr><td>Overall grading</td><td>Grading that is achievable for this standard:

<table>
<tr><th>PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION UNDERPINNED BY A PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE</th><th>PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS</th><th>OVERALL GRADING</th></tr>
<tr><td>Fail</td><td>Fail</td><td>Fail</td></tr>
<tr><td>Any grade</td><td>Fail</td><td>Fail</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fail</td><td>Any grade</td><td>Fail</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pass</td><td>Distinction</td><td>Merit</td></tr>
<tr><td>Distinction</td><td>Pass</td><td>Merit</td></tr>
<tr><td>Distinction</td><td>Distinction</td><td>Distinction</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Appeals</td><td>The AIM Results and Appeals Policy can be viewed on the AIM website here: AIM Policies and Procedures</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reasonable adjustments</td><td>AIM can make reasonable adjustments to the way that an apprentice is assessed during their EPA, according to individual circumstances. For example, they may require practical arrangements be put in place to support them in an in-person assessment due to a diagnosed condition. For further information on applying for reasonable adjustments please visit: AIM Policies and Procedures</td></tr>
<tr><td>Results</td><td>AIM anticipates the release of results within 15 working days after the apprentice’s final assessment.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Preparation and support</td><td>Before Gateway, AIM will approve a project’s suitability and establish time frames with the apprentice. For the assessments, AIM will provide guidance and preparation documents. AIM also runs online clinics to support the employer and apprentice.</td></tr>
</table>

4. Assessment methods

Assessment method One: Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence	
Summary of the assessment: A structured discussion with an EPA assessor related to the Apprentices in-learning journey.	
Components	Component one: Professional discussion
Timings/duration	Professional discussion: 60 minutes (+10%)
Submission requirements	Portfolio of evidence and associated mapping grid submitted at Gateway. Portfolio will typically contain 15 pieces of evidence.
Grading for this assessment method	This standard is assessed holistically across all assessment methods. Fail Pass Merit – Only applies to overall grade Distinction
Assessment preparation and support from AIM	For the assessment, AIM will provide detailed guidance and preparation documents, including sample questions, which are available upon contracting with AIM. AIM also runs apprentice clinics to support the employer and apprentice.

Assessment method two: Presentation and questions	
Summary of the assessment: The apprentice delivers a presentation to an independent assessor on a chosen BAMSTO subject related to work they have done whilst in-learning. The delivery of the presentation is then followed by questions from an End Point Assessment (EPA) Assessor.	
Components	Component one: Presentation Component two: Questions
Timings/duration	Presentation: 20 minutes Questions: 40 minutes (+10% of the overall time)
Submission requirements	Presentation proposal – must be submitted at least 2 weeks before the scheduled Gateway date. Must be approved by an EPA assessor before the EPA period can begin. Presentation materials and presentation mapping grid – must be submitted a maximum of 4 weeks from the beginning of the EPA period.
Grading for this assessment method	This standard is assessed holistically across all three assessment methods. Fail Pass Merit – Only applies to overall grade Distinction
Assessment preparation and support from AIM	For the assessment, AIM will provide detailed guidance and preparation documents, including sample questions, which are available upon contracting with AIM. AIM also runs apprentice clinics to support the employer and apprentice.

5. Grading criteria/KSBs

During their end-point assessment (EPA), apprentices are assessed against the grading criteria which is underpinned by the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) which have been attained during the on-programme period. These have been listed below and are sourced from the Skill England EPA assessment plan for this standard **https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/st0424-v1-2** [accessed: 13/07/2026].

Grading criteria

Assessment method one: Professional discussion underpinned by portfolio of evidence		
Theme and KSBs	**Pass grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors**	**Distinction grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors and all of the distinction descriptors**
Industry awareness K1 K5 K24 S11 S20 B2 B3	Explains their understanding of key industry standards and the regulatory environment specific to their organisation and how broadcast media and streaming services operate within this. (K1, K5) Describes the organisational processes designed and how they work to ensure the physical and network security of data and systems whilst always maintaining commercial confidentiality and professional practice. (K24, S11, S20, B3) Explains how they take the initiative and responsibility for their own learning and development and seeks opportunities to work with and learn from peers. Explains how they stay informed about developments in broadcast technologies. (B2)	None
Broadcast communications and systems networks K3 K4 K6 K9 K10 K12 S4 S8 S9 S10 B1	Describes the differences between cloud based and on premises systems and the principles of design architecture of networks. (K3, K4) Describes potential variations that might occur during system operation and how they take the lead in identifying and addressing issue using their own initiative, showing a proactive and inquisitive approach to tasks. (K6, B1) Explains various formats required for different transmission methods and how they apply this technical knowledge in practical scenarios, including ingesting, processing, playing out, and exporting media content, including checking and confirming that media content is in the correct format for the	Justifies the principles, protocols, and processes involved in network maintenance and evaluates how they carry out checks and confirm that broadcast operations comply with regulations and standards. (K12, S4)

Assessment method one: Professional discussion underpinned by portfolio of evidence		
Theme and KSBs	**Pass grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors**	**Distinction grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors and all of the distinction descriptors**
	intended broadcast method, job, and region. (K9, K10, S8, S9, S10) Describes the principles, protocols, and processes involved in network maintenance and describe how they carry out checks to confirm that broadcast operations comply with the regulations and standards. (K12, S4)	
Problem solving K17 K19 K20 K22 S7 S12 S16 S17 B5	Explains techniques used to identify and prioritise operational problems and how business continuity procedures are applied to recover service. (K17, K19) Describes techniques to gather and analyse data regarding service operations and how they apply incident management procedures ensuring that incidents are managed in line with organisational protocols. Explains how they accurately records maintenance requirements ensuring that all necessary information is documented for future use or corrective action. (K20, S12, S16) Explains how they identify and rectify faults in broadcast systems using tools and techniques, communicate monitoring activities and outcomes, recognise and address faults following procedures, and demonstrate initiative and innovation in resolving technical failures, especially in time-critical situations. (K22, S7, S17, B5)	Evaluates techniques used to identify and prioritise operational problems and how business continuity procedures are applied to recover service. (K17, K19) Justifies their approach to identifying and rectifying faults in broadcast systems using tools, techniques and adherence to procedures. (K22, S17)

Assessment method two: Presentation and questions		
Theme and KSBs	**Pass grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors**	**Distinction grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors and all of the distinction descriptors**
Broadcast communications and networks K2 K8 K11 K21 S1 S2 S3 S6	Explains the purpose, benefits, limitations, and risks of specific equipment and software. Describes the operational requirements and protocols for broadcast and media systems, software, and equipment alongside identifying who can use them. (K2, S1) Describes how to connect broadcast and media systems and equipment to network systems. (S2)	Evaluates the purpose, benefits, limitations, and risks of specific equipment and software. Justifies the operational requirements and protocols for broadcast and media systems, software, and equipment alongside

Assessment method two: Presentation and questions		
Theme and KSBs	**Pass grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors**	**Distinction grading criteria - Apprentices must demonstrate all of the pass descriptors and all of the distinction descriptors**
	Describes electrical engineering principles and the end-to-end broadcast workflow from production to distribution and their own role within this process. Explains how they monitor the operation of broadcast and media systems at required times. (K8, K21, S6) Explains how equipment and media systems are used within the organisation's workflow and how they use industry-standard software, hardware and follows processes to deliver workflow outputs. (K11, S3)	identifying who can use them. (K2, S1)
Service delivery K7 K15 K16 K18 K23 S5 S14 S15 B4	Explains how they take responsibility to deliver the level of service agreed and agree clear terms of reference with stakeholders to assess if objectives have been met. (K15, S14) Explains the procedure for contacting and recording stakeholder information. Outlines how they engage with and adapt their communication style with stakeholders to achieve common goals. (K16, K18, S15, B4) Describes the effects of the working environment on colour balance, lighting, and sound. Explains techniques to assess sites and event spaces for safety, operational, and creative suitability and the how to check the quality of broadcast outputs. (K7, K23, S5)	Evaluates the effects of the working environment on colour balance, lighting, and sound and the methods used to check the quality of broadcast output. Justifies the techniques used to assess sites and event spaces for safety, operational, and creative suitability. (K7, K23, S5)
Sustainability K14 S13	Explains how they have taken responsibility for achieving sustainable outcomes by referencing environmental good practice. (K14, S13)	Justifies how they have taken responsibility for achieving sustainable outcomes and evaluates the impact of their actions on sustainability. (K14, S13)
Health and safety K13 S18 S19	Explains how they work in accordance with health and safety regulations, policies, and procedures. Including specific safety equipment when working with broadcasting equipment. (K13, S18, S19)	None

Knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs)

Knowledge
K1: Industry standards, such as delivery protocols and recommendations for example Digital Production Partnership - DPP, European Broadcasting Union - EBU and Society of Motion Picture Television Engineers - SMPTE.
K2: The purpose, benefits, limitations and risks of specific equipment and software required for example microphones, cameras.
K3: Differences between cloud based and on premises systems.
K4: Principles of design and architecture of networks, such as streaming protocols, systems and connectivity.
K5: The regulatory environment of own organisation. How the broadcast media and streaming services operate within this.
K6: Potential variations from plans and schedules that might occur during system operation for example environmental changes, systems changes, locations, in the event of breaking news.
K7: The effects that the working environment can have on colour balance and lighting and sound. How to rectify.
K8: End-to-end broadcast workflow from production - studio- to distribution - home - and own role within this.
K9: Formats required for different transmission methods such as encoders, decoders, bit rates.
K10: Industry protocols for metadata in relation to file transfer such as timecode, schemas, DPP standards.
K11: How equipment and media systems are used as part of workflow within the organisation.
K12: Principles, protocols and processes for network maintenance, and the different types of maintenance, such as preventative, corrective and emergency repair.
K13: Safe systems including precautions of work and isolation for working on broadcast and network system areas such as antennas, high voltage, power boards, switchboards and uninterruptable power supplies.
K14: The impact of environmental sustainability and organisational processes relating to broadcasting and systems resources.
K15: The importance of the level of service agreed in relation to role, technical quality and delivery.
K16: Organisational systems for recording information including stakeholder requirements, process requirements, technical details, unique features and agreed changes.
K17: Techniques to identify and prioritise operational problems such as equipment failure
K18: The procedures for contacting the stakeholder's department or organisation.
K19: The business continuity procedures for the organisation and the steps to follow to recover the service.

K20: Techniques to gather and analyse data regarding service operations to aid problem solving and incident management.
K21: Electrical engineering principles such as the use of an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) and systems earthing.
K22: Tools and techniques to use to identify and rectify the causes of faults in broadcast and media systems and equipment.
K23: Techniques to assess new and existing sites, event spaces- venues- for safety, operational and creative suitability.
K24: Organisational processes and procedures for ensuring physical and network security of data and systems.

Skills
S1: Agree the operational requirements and protocols relating to broadcast and media systems, software and equipment including who can use them.
S2: Connect broadcast and media systems and equipment to network systems.
S3: Use industry software, hardware and follow organisational processes and procedures to deliver workflow outputs.
S4: Check and confirm that broadcast operation complies with relevant regulations, standards, guidelines and procedures such as flashing images, loudness consistency.
S5: Check the quality of outputs of broadcast systems using subjective and objective assessments such as output picture and sound quality, comparison with industry standards and system specifications, data stream and signal path analysis.
S6: Monitor the operation of broadcast and media systems at required times.
S7: Inform relevant personnel of monitoring activities and outcomes.
S8: Apply techniques to ingest content, process, play out or export broadcast data or media.
S9: Check and confirm the content or data to be broadcast is in the required format for the broadcast method, job, and region.
S10: Play out or export media in line with technical requirements.
S11: Work in line with organisational processes and procedures to maintain the integrity and security of file-based media content to avoid hacking or theft of assets, reporting if there are any breaches.
S12: Record maintenance requirements in organisational systems for future use or corrective action.
S13: Follow sustainable practices in line with industry standard recommendations.
S14: Establish and agree clear terms of reference with stakeholders to assess if objectives have been met.
S15: Provide updates to technical and non-technical stakeholders adapting language to suit the audience.
S16: Apply incident management procedures, and report in line with organisational procedures.

S17: Recognise faults and follow procedures to rectify these or escalate within own level of responsibility.
S18: Comply with health and safety legislation and policies, including electrical safety procedures, reporting any health and incidents or hazards.
S19: Operate within specific safety precautions when working with broadcast equipment, software and systems.
S20: Maintain a secure working environment, in line with organisational policies, protect individuals, information and organisational assets.

Behaviours
B1: Works on own initiative, is proactive and inquisitive working to timelines; if mistakes are made take personal responsibility to address them.
B2: Takes the initiative and responsibility for own learning and development, working with and learning from peers. Keeps abreast of developments in emerging, contemporary and advanced broadcast technologies
B3: Maintain commercial confidentiality and professional practice at all times and in all settings.
B4: Works collaboratively with stakeholders and colleagues, developing strong working relationships to achieve common goals. Support an inclusive culture and treat colleagues and stakeholders with respect.
B5: Use initiative and innovation to respond to technical failures, problem solve and trouble shoot, providing solutions in time critical environments.

6. Regulatory references (internal use)

Ofqual General Conditions of recognition	
Design and development of qualifications	Condition E3 Publication of a qualification specification

Contact information

If you need help/assistance from the Apprenticeship team, please contact us using the details below.

Tel: +44 (0)1332 224654

Enquiries: assessment@aimgroup.org.uk

More information can be found on: **www.aimgroup.org.uk/epa**