

REMOTE ASSESSMENT IN TAQA QUALIFICATIONS

The TAQA suite contains several qualifications and there are different assessment demands depending on the units taken. We encourage the use of technology to support the **transfer and storage** of evidence (for example, e-portfolio systems) across the whole suite as long as the usual safety and security requirements continue to be met.

We permit the use of **remote assessment** (assessment over distance with the aid of technology) in a large part of the TAQA Suite.

In specific circumstances, such as those where observation is specifically required, it is unlikely that a substitution of face-face observation for technologically aided observation over distance can be applied without compromising the validity or reliability of the assessment.

We have provided some explanation to support you below, **however we recommend that you always ask your EQA for advice on the suitability of use.**

The TAQA has:

- **Complex and Unique Assessment Demands:**
The complexity of the applied units in the TAQA suite mean that it is extremely rare for Centres to find an appropriate solution that allows a confident judgement of competence where only remote observation is used. The set-up requires a competent assessor, to observe a candidate assessor who is in turn observing a candidate (where the example may involve observing groups of young people or working with complex machinery). The level of autonomy and orientation that the competent assessor requires in order to appraise both the overall and detailed situation, in this instance, is not generally possible using static equipment with limited control of scenario view. The suitability of this approach may also be impacted by other practical and legal constraints associated with video capture of evidence within the sector.
- **Vocational Significance & Quality:**
The TAQA qualification has particular significance for those working in the vocational sector. It is a gateway qualification, which means it is a doorway to all other vocational assessors irrespective of industry. For this reason, it was a 'protected' qualification, regulated by Ofqual until we recently acquired guardian status and the right to adjust and develop. Its significance for all related aspects of quality assurance means that we take particular care to apply our highest standards to ensuring the validity and reliability of any accreditation outcomes.
- **Consistency, Comparability & Parity of Esteem:** The qualification is widely offered by a range of AOs who, as far as we are aware, make good effort to uphold the original LLUK & LSIS assessment strategy. This consistency in approach is essential to maintaining the quality of the qualification, since varying standards would reduce credibility and mean that we could not be confident about ability. The strategy is also consistent with other reputable teaching and assessment awards, where similar difficulties are encountered. Consistency of approach in this instance helps parity of esteem between academic and vocational fields. This increases the value and demand for the qualification and contributes to the reputation of the profession.