

Smart Awards Level 2 in SA002A Underground Safety Awareness

Specification

SMART AWARDS
Awarding Platform for Smart Qualifications

Version Number	Date	Purpose of Change	Classification	Sign Off
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Introduction

This qualification covers:

- Gas Testing
- Cover Lifting

The Underground Safety Awareness qualification provides knowledge regarding legislation and dangers associated with working in or around underground structures and operational buildings in a telecommunications environment. Learners are provided with the knowledge to understand the hazards and potential risks associated with this work, as well as gaining knowledge of compliance with Health and Safety legislation. It tests learners' knowledge and understanding of the dangers associated with these works and the safety precautions required when working in or around underground structures and operational buildings.

The qualification ensures that individuals who require an awareness of working in or around underground structures and operational buildings are suitably trained and understand the dangers associated with this environment. It is aimed at those who require an awareness of, supervise, or plan the work of operatives who work in or around underground structures and operational buildings within a telecommunications environment, or similar utilities, including suppliers and contractors.

This qualification does not cover confined space working. Those individuals who need to enter confined spaces **must** hold appropriate accreditation/accreditations to enter confined spaces. Any references made in this material to confined spaces are for information only and to make learners aware of the risks and presence of gases that may also be present in confined spaces.

Key Information	
Name	Smart Awards Level 2 SA002A Underground Safety Awareness
Accreditation	This qualification is approved by: • Smart Awards
Level	2
Duration	1 day
Age	This qualification is available to anyone age 16 and over who can reach the required standard. There are no barriers that restrict access or progression thereby promoting equal opportunity.
Qualification type	Vocationally Related Qualification
Smart Awards product area	Safety Qualifications
Sector subject area	6.1 – Digital technology (practitioners)
Certification	This qualification is valid for a period of three years from the date of certificate issue. To remain compliant and eligible to work on telecommunications networks, individuals must renew their qualification before the expiry date.
Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS)	This qualification is fully aligned with the requirements of the Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS). Successful completion of this qualification is recorded within the NOPS system, ensuring operatives are visible and verifiable to employers and site access systems across the industry.

Prerequisites and entry requirements	There are no formal entry requirements and Smart Awards will not restrict access on the grounds of prior academic attainment, employment, geographic location, or any other grounds. There are no barriers to access or progression, supporting inclusivity and equal opportunity for all learners. Learners must have a basic understanding of the English language for regulated qualifications that are approved by Ofqual or Qualifications Scotland Accreditation. Please note: The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) requires at least one person on site to hold a Street Works card to work on the highway. This Smart Awards accreditation is based on a prerequisite that any work on the highway requires appropriate Street Works accreditation to be held by an individual working on site, and that this individual is qualified to check that the planned provision of footways, traffic lanes and safety zones determined by the site survey meets with the requirements of the site location and approved procedures and practices required by the NRSWA 1991. Some companies' policies may vary where more than one person on site is required to hold a valid Street Works card.
Mandatory units and optional routes to completion	Learners must complete the Underground Safety Awareness unit in full to achieve this qualification. No optional units or routes are available.
Additional requirements to achieve this qualification	None.
Methods of assessment	This qualification will be assessed through a theory test. The aim of the assessment is to ensure that successful learners have the knowledge and understanding required to supervise or plan the work of operatives working in, or around underground structures and operational buildings within a telecommunications environment or similar utilities including suppliers and contractors. Assessment guidance, assessor requirements and additional qualification documentation is supplied to approved Smart Awards centres via Quartz.
Theory test	Learners are required to pass a 20-question multiple-choice test, with questions randomly selected from a secure question bank to ensure comprehensive coverage of all assessment criteria. The test is timed, and learners will have 30 minutes to complete it. All multiple-choice tests are conducted online via the Smart Awards online assessment platform.
Practical assessment	There is no practical assessment requirement for SA002A.
Grading	Learners will be graded on an achievement or non-achievement basis. The final grade will be determined by the performance in the theory assessment. Theory assessment: • 20 questions • Learners will have 30 minutes to complete the assessment. • To achieve a pass, 80% or more is required

Reasonable adjustments and special considerations	Smart Awards approved centres that have learners with specific requirements should refer to the Smart Awards Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure. This document outlines the support available to ensure fair access to assessments. It can be found on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk.
Recognition of Prior Learning	Smart Awards is committed to supporting Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has established a dedicated policy and set of procedures to guide and assist approved centres in its implementation. The full policy is available on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk.
Required resources and site requirements for delivering this qualification	To ensure a safe and effective learning and assessment environment, the following site requirements must be met for the delivery of the SA002A Underground Safety Awareness qualification: • Access to a suitable training area that simulates real-world telecoms environments, including footway chambers, carriageway chambers or other relevant infrastructure • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by all learners and assessors, including safety helmets, high-visibility clothing, gloves, and appropriate footwear • The site must comply with current health and safety regulations, including safe access/egress, signage, and emergency procedures. • Adequate first aid provision must be available on-site throughout the training and assessment period • Learners must have access to safety equipment for example, gas detection unit (GDU) that has been inspected and approved in line with relevant legislation • The site must provide access to classroom or indoor facilities for the delivery of theoretical content and the completion of the online multiple-choice assessment

Qualification Structure

The level 2 Underground Safety Awareness qualification consists of one mandatory unit, which learners must complete to achieve the qualification. Attainment at level 2 demonstrates the learner's ability to apply relevant knowledge, skills, and procedures to carry out clearly defined tasks and resolve straightforward problems with appropriate direction or supervision.

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Minimum TQT for this pathway = 8 Minimum number of credits = 1 Minimum number of units = 1			Minimum number of GLH = 7.5 Minimum assessment time = 0.5 Other learning time = 0					
Unit Number	Unit title	Level	M/O	GLH	ASS	OTHER LEARNING	TQT	CREDITS
	Underground Safety Awareness	2	M	7.5	0.5	0	8	1

Learner Support and Assessment Conditions

Learners will have access to support throughout the training period via their trainer. Trainers are responsible for ensuring that each learner is adequately prepared and competent before presenting them for assessment.

No support or assistance may be given to the learner during either the theory assessment, to maintain the integrity and validity of the qualification.

The theory test is a multiple-choice online test completed under appropriate examination conditions. An invigilator must be used for the theory part of the assessment (An assessor can act as the invigilator). The invigilator is responsible for ensuring that the examination room meets the following:

- You must pay attention to the level of outside noise
- Desks/tables must be provided that have sufficient room for learners to work comfortably
- Learners must be seated sufficiently far apart to ensure they cannot see each other's work
- Display material must not be visible in the examination room
- A reliable clock must be visible to each learner in the examination room
- You must create a seating plan that is in keeping with an examination room
- Please refer to Smart Awards invigilation guide

There is only the provision for the assessments to be undertaken in English.

Qualification Objectives and Requirements

This qualification confirms that the learner has demonstrated the required knowledge and understanding to have an awareness, supervise or plan the work of operatives working in, or around underground structures and operational buildings within a telecommunications environment or similar utilities including suppliers and contractors. To successfully obtain this qualification, the learners will need to demonstrate the knowledge and ability requirements set out in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Unit Title:	Smart Awards SA002A Underground Safety Awareness
Unit Reference Number:	SA002A

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice.	1.1. Outline the key health and safety legislation and industry good practice. 1.2. Outline the key health and safety regulations that need to be observed when working underground. 1.3. Describe how to use and maintain tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment. 1.4. Outline the emergency planning procedures relevant to the work area.
2. Know the hazards of working in underground chambers or structures.	2.1. State the dangers when entering underground chambers or structures. 2.2. Outline the equipment used by industry for detecting gas. 2.3. Describe what needs to be done if gas is found. 2.4. State the types of gases. 2.5. State safe working in locations which, potentially, have hazardous gas. 2.6. Outline the reporting requirements where gas has been found. 2.7. Outline the requirements for water testing. 2.8. Describe how to keep own safety and safety of others.
3. Know how to carry out cover lifting safely.	3.1. State how to manage the risks associated with cover lifting.

	3.2. State how to avoid injury to operatives and the general public. 3.3. Outline the different covers used. 3.4. Describe how to identify polluted water in underground structures in line with environmental requirements. 3.5. State how to avoid damage to underground apparatus.