



**SPECIFICATION - LEVEL 2  
DRAINAGE NETWORK OPERATIVE  
v1.0 (ST1348)**



## Introduction

The Drainage Network Operative Level 2 apprenticeship develops the skills and knowledge to maintain and repair private and public sewerage systems in both domestic and commercial settings. Operatives work in the field at a range of sites, including public highways, to clean, clear, and identify defects in drainage networks. The role involves using specialist plant and equipment, working to industry standards and operating procedures, and ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of themselves, colleagues, and the public, while delivering a high level of customer service.

Key Information	
Name	Drainage Network Operative ST1348
Level	2
Duration	18 months on-programme, 3 months EPA window
Funding Band	£9,000
Prerequisites and Entry Requirements	Before final assessment of the qualification, the Learner must be employed in a relevant role, meet Gateway requirements before taking the End-Point Assessment. have completed a portfolio of evidence and, if applicable, have passed the required Functional Skills. There are no mandatory qualifications required for this this End-Point Assessment.
Methods of Assessment	There are three assessment methods, observation, multiple-choice test, question and answer session (underpinned by a portfolio of evidence).
Grading	Learners will be assessed across all assessment components and awarded a grade of Fail, Pass, or, where applicable, Distinction. The results from each assessment method will be combined to determine the overall grade of a Fail, Pass or Distinction. Grading combinations and criteria are set out in the End-Point Assessment Plan and associated guidance documents.
Link to assessment plan	<a href="#">Drainage network operative / Skills England</a>

## End-Point Assessment Objective

The End-Point Assessment (EPA) confirms the apprentice's ability to work independently as a Drainage Network Operative, maintaining the serviceability of sewerage networks through cleaning, clearance, defect identification, and repair. This includes operating equipment safely and effectively, responding to emergencies, complying with industry standards and health and safety regulations, and delivering quality service to internal and external customers across varied work environments.

## Programme Structure

Throughout the programme, apprentices will gain practical skills and underpinning knowledge in a variety of settings. They will be employed in a relevant role for typically 18 months, during which they will compile a portfolio of evidence with support from their assessor. The assessor will monitor progress against the standard to ensure the apprentice is fully prepared for the EPA.

## Available Support

Sample assessment materials for the observation, multiple-choice test, question and answer session are available to approved training providers to support learner preparation and ensure consistency in delivery.

## KSB Mapping Table

Knowledge	Assessment Method
K1 The drainage industry. Stakeholders and responsibilities for drainage network assets.	Multiple-choice test
K2 Common faults and issues in drainage. Fault-finding techniques.	Observation with questions
K3 Tools and equipment used in the drainage industry, for example use of hydrant standpipes and jetting equipment. Purpose and operation. How to use manufacturer's instructions and manuals.	Observation with questions
K4 Standard operating procedures (SOP).	Observation with questions
K5 Types of incidents - accidents, near misses and mitigation methods.	Question and answer session
K6 Reporting and escalation procedures.	Question and answer session
K7 Asset maps and plans and how to use them. Sewerage systems and cable avoidance.	Observation with questions
K8 Site preparations for safe systems of work, including setting up chamber barriers and appropriate signage, in accordance with the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) when working on the highway.	Multiple-choice test
K9 Hydrant regulations.	Multiple-choice test
K10 Principles to differentiate between the requirements of an open-cut repair and a repair using no-dig technology.	Multiple-choice test
K11 Sewer sensors and remote monitoring technology.	Question and answer session
K12 Awareness of health and safety regulations: Health and Safety at Work Act – responsibilities; Lone working; Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER); Risk assessments; Situational awareness; Types of hazards; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Working in confined spaces; Working at Height; New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA); manual handling; industry codes of practice.	Multiple-choice test
K13 Verbal communication techniques. Giving and receiving information, for example to customers, colleagues and stakeholders.	Observation with questions
K14 Awareness of the relevant regulations and how they apply to their role: Water Environment Regulations; Environmental Protection Act and environmental signage.	Multiple-choice test
K15 Environmental impacts that can arise from drainage operations activities and escaped or discharged sewage. Types of pollution and control measures: noise, odours, spills, and waste.	Multiple-choice test

K16 Equality Act. Equality, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace.	Question and answer session
K17 Documentation requirements.	Observation with questions
K18 Information technology and digital: email, collaboration packages, equipment digital interfaces, management information systems, virtual learning platforms, work sharing platforms. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Cyber security.	Question and answer session
K19 Quality assurance requirements and procedures. Procedures for confirming blockage removal.	Observation with questions
K20 Team working principles.	Question and answer session
K21 Sustainability and efficient use of resources. Recycling, reuse and safe disposal of waste.	Observation with questions
K22 Written communication techniques.	Question and answer session
<b>Skill</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>
S1 Apply fault-finding techniques in the drainage system.	Observation with questions
S2 Use equipment including CCTV, push rods and sewer sensors.	Question and answer session
S3 Identify and resolve common issues in the drainage system.	Observation with questions
S4 Escalate issues in line with responsibilities.	Question and answer session
S5 Identify, organise and use resources to complete tasks.	Observation with questions
S6 Follow standard operating procedures (SOP).	Observation with questions
S7 Work in accordance with water and environment protection regulations, standards and guidance.	Observation with questions
S8 Clean and maintain tools and equipment, for example check oil levels and apply grease.	Question and answer session
S9 Use drainage operative tools and equipment, including jetting equipment.	Observation with questions
S10 Fill jetting unit saddle tank.	Question and answer session
S11 Apply safety practices and techniques. Signage, lighting and guarding.	Observation with questions
S12 Conduct housekeeping for example, tidy work area.	Observation with questions
S13 Communicate with others verbally, for example with colleagues, customers and stakeholders.	Observation with questions
S14 Communicate in writing with others for example, internal and external customers, colleagues, and managers.	Question and answer session
S15 Record task information – paper based or electronic. For example, job sheets, equipment service records, test results, handover documents and	Observation with questions

manufacturers' documentation, work sheets, checklists, waste environmental records and any legal reporting requirements.	
S16 Interpret asset maps and plans and update where appropriate.	Observation with questions
S17 Follow procedures in line with environmental regulations, standards, and guidance. Segregate resources for reuse, recycling and disposal.	Observation with questions
S18 Apply sustainability principles.	Observation with questions
S19 Follow equity, diversity and inclusion policies.	Question and answer session
S20 Carry out and record learning and development activities.	Question and answer session
S21 Use information technology and digital systems. Comply with GDPR and cyber security.	Question and answer session
S22 Apply team working principles.	Question and answer session
S23 Follow quality assurance procedures to confirm that the blockage has been removed.	Observation with questions
<b>Behaviours</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>
B1 Seek learning and development opportunities.	Question and answer session
B2 Consider the impact on the environment when using resources and carrying out work.	Observation with questions
B3 Support an inclusive workplace for example, respectful of different views.	Question and answer session
B4 Put health and safety first for self and colleagues.	Observation with questions
B5 Take ownership of given work.	Observation with questions
B6 Team-focus to meet work goals.	Question and answer session