



**NEBOSH Health and Safety at Work Award (June 2021
Specification)**

**FAQs for Learners
(v1)**

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What's changed and why

Why has the syllabus been updated?

NEBOSH has reviewed the syllabus in line with the normal qualification development cycle. The syllabus content, following extensive research, has been updated to provide learners with the knowledge, skills and understanding required in the modern workplace.

What are the differences between the July 2016 and June 2021 specifications?

The syllabus content has been thoroughly researched and checked, and its content has remained broadly the same as the previous specification. This is because the technical content is still in line with current best health and safety management practice. However, the assessment has changed as follows:

- The previous specification was assessed by both a multiple-choice examination, and a practical assessment (risk assessment).
- The new specification is assessed by a single, practical, assessment. You will be required to carry out a review in your workplace to identify current health and safety management practices, as well as health and safety hazards, and recommend improvements for both.

The following table gives a summary of the changes:

HSW 2016 specification		HSA 2021 specification	
Total hours (taught + self-study)	Assessment Units	Total hours (taught + self-study)	Assessment units
24	HSW1 multiple choice examination (1 hour)	23	HSA1 Practical assessment (3 hours)
	HSW2 Practical assessment (1.5 hours)		

Other changes include:

- The syllabus wording is easier to understand, more direct and less formal;
- We have produced a new course book to support learners' study, and new learning materials for Learning Partners to deliver.



Has the grading structure for the qualification changed?

The qualification grade is now based on a single assessment result. Unit HSA1 has a pass mark of 45, from 60 available marks (75%).

Has the assessment structure of the 2021 specification changed?

Yes, the qualification is now assessed by a single practical assessment, carried out by learners in their own workplace. This assessment is designed to allow you to apply your knowledge gained across the whole HSA syllabus and should take around 3 hours to complete. The assessments will be marked internally by an approved practical assessor from your Learning Partner, and subject to moderation by NEBOSH.



What do the changes mean for me?

I have already started my studies, what does this mean for me?

You will not be automatically transferred between the old and new qualifications. You can remain on the July 2016 specification and can continue to sit assessments until 21 March 2022 (please see '*What are the timeframes*').

If you have not yet taken either the HSW1 or HSW2 assessments, and would prefer to sit the 2021 specification assessment, you must discuss this with your Learning Partner to see if they can transfer your registration. Any previous units achieved as part of the old specification **cannot** be transferred.

How do I know which specification I am studying?

The easiest way of telling which specification you are on is the name of the qualification (HSW vs HSA). If you are unsure, please speak to your Learning Partner.

What if I originally registered to sit the July 2016 specification and have not completed my qualification?

You will have until 21 March 2022 (please see '*What are the timeframes*') to pass your unit HSW1 and/or HSW2 assessments in order to complete your qualification.

If you have not completed the qualification by the last exam date, your previous units will no longer be valid. If you still wish to achieve the qualification, you will need to register for the new specification.

Can I take the assessments in a language other than English?

Currently, assessments for this qualification are offered in English only.

Are qualifications gained under previous specifications of the HSW still valid?

All qualification parchments and certificates gained under previous specifications of the Health and Safety at Work Award are still valid; NEBOSH qualification certificates do not have expiry dates.



Transition arrangements

What are the timeframes?

June 2021 specification	
Product launch	10 November 2021
Taught from	24 November 2021
First assessments from	26 November 2021
July 2016 specification	
Accreditation end date*	31 December 2021
Last date for registering new learners to the July 2016 specification (note this registration is to confirm the learner is studying rather than registering to an assessment)	21 December 2021
Last assessment date	21 March 2022

*dates are subject to change based on SQA accreditation

How does NEBOSH define a 'new learner' and 'existing learner'?

A '**new learner**' is a person that has not been registered as studying for the July 2016 specification (ie they do not have a record in the NEBOSH systems against the current HSW qualification).

An '**existing learner**' is a person that has been registered as studying the qualification and/or for an assessment of the July 2016 specification. The status against the learner will show as 'Studying', 'Absent', 'Pending', 'Pass' or 'Refer'.



Fees / costs

Are the unit registration fees changing?

There has been a change to the registration fee structure. The fees are:

	Cost
Unit HSA1	£60



Qualification level and recognition

Will the June 2021 specification of the NEBOSH Health and Safety at Work Award be accredited by SQA?

Yes, it has been accredited and credit rated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA; www.sqa.org.uk) at SCQF Level 5 with 2 SCQF credit points within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF; www.scqf.org.uk).

In England this is comparable to a Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) at level 2 within the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and Qualifications, comparable to a GCSE standard.

If you require further information, please visit our [contact us](#) page.