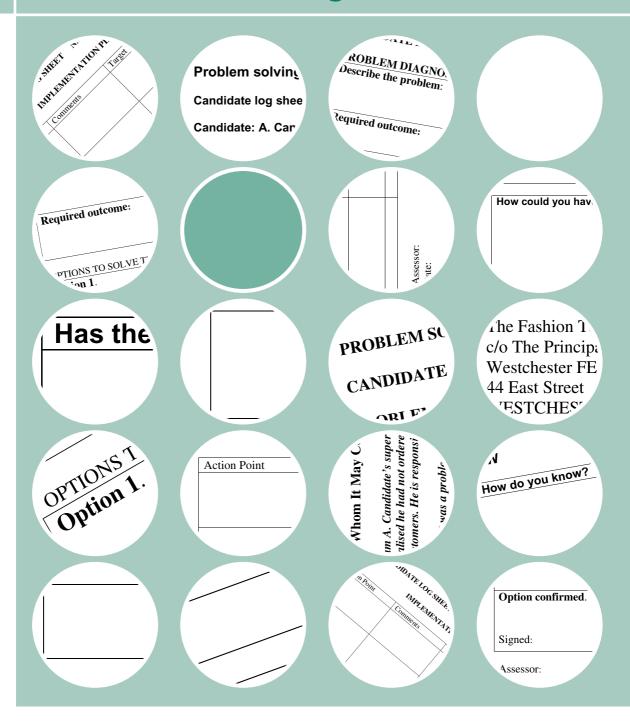
2004

Example portfolio

Level 1

Problem solving









First published in 2004

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Foreword

Key skills are for everyone, from learners in the workplace, colleges and schools to chief executives in large companies. They are the skills most commonly needed for success in education, training, work and life in general.

The six key skills are:

- application of number
- communication
- improving own learning and performance
- information and communication technology
- problem solving
- working with others.

In developing key skills, people improve the quality of their learning as well as their performance in the world of work.

When QCA completed its review of the key skills qualifications and units, it was clear that there was a need for examples of key skills portfolios. We produced example portfolios in application of number, communication and information technology earlier in 2004. We have now produced example portfolios for improving own learning and performance, problem solving and working with others at levels 1 to 3.

The example portfolios provide practical guidance on organising and referencing portfolio evidence, and on the kind and amount of evidence required. They are intended, along with the 2004 key skills standards and guidance, to help assessors interpret the key skills. They are based on the 2004 key skills standards and guidance and show real work from real candidates. Their production is supported by the key skills awarding bodies.

Ken Boston AO

Chief Executive, QCA

Overview

The key skills awarding bodies and the regulatory authorities (QCA, ACCAC and CCEA) have produced this example portfolio as a result of a collaborative project. The purpose of the project was to produce a set of portfolios that would give practitioners a clear understanding of the requirements for key skills portfolios.

Portfolios for each of the key skills of application of number, communication and information technology were published earlier in 2004. There are now portfolios for each of the other key skills:

- improving own learning and performance, levels 1 to 3
- problem solving, levels 1 to 3
- working with others, levels 1 to 3.

The project group selected a range of learning and vocational contexts to show the application of skills across these nine portfolios. While a specific context may not be directly relevant to all sectors, the principles of approach, recording and assessment apply, and should prove useful to all.

Key skills chief moderators and external verifiers for the awarding bodies have met and scrutinised the portfolios. They agree that the portfolios meet the specifications for the key skills qualifications. QCA chaired and facilitated the meetings.

These portfolios went through an internal assessment by a centre and then an external verification/moderation process by the centre's awarding body. Each of them met the standard and received a pass. They should be viewed as such, not as perfect examples of work.

You will see that improvements could be made to the portfolios. For example, evidence could be more effectively or logically presented. However, room for improvement is to be expected: candidates develop skills over time, reflecting and progressing as they do so. Key skills are free-standing qualifications open to everyone at any age. This means that portfolios of evidence are created in a range of academic, occupational and vocational contexts.

Also included in the portfolios are:

- record sheets that make the feedback and assessment decisions clear
- commentaries that outline some of the issues and describe the context in which the candidates gathered the evidence.

Some of these portfolios have been created from more than one portfolio. Some have been reworked to avoid 'benefit of the doubt' situations. The record sheets have been rewritten to make decisions clearer to the reader. During the copying process, some loss of clarity may have occurred, especially in images that were originally in colour.

These example portfolios should be read with reference to the 2004 key skills standards and guidance, which provides advice and guidance on the assessment of key skills. It should also be noted that, while a portfolio may meet the standard for a specific key skill, it might not reflect the equivalent standard in another key skill.

QCA and the key skills chief moderators and external verifiers would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of centres and students in the production of these materials.

Commentary

The candidate produced the evidence as part of an apprenticeship in administration with problem solving as a useful, additional unit outside the framework.

The portfolio is well indexed and evidence is presented in a logical sequence.

The two activities to generate evidence are from a work-based activity and the candidate's day release interaction with a key skills learning group consisting of students from a variety of study subjects.

The portfolio meets the evidence requirements of problem solving at level 1.

The recording documentation encouraged the candidate to take some ownership of the portfolio and provided opportunities for him to evidence understanding of problem solving processes including diagnosis, planning and solution.

There is clear evidence of assessment throughout the portfolio with feedback.

Summative assessment evidence is clear, supported by witness testimonies, candidate narratives and answers to questions. The assessor has annotated the witness testimonies to confirm authenticity.

The review record is particularly useful, encouraging the candidate to reflect on the problem solving process and learning outcomes.

The portfolio suggests the communication skills of the candidate are at a higher level than level 1; this is evidence that, in common with many candidates, he has a "spiky" key skills profile. We are not assessing communication skills.

There is some retrospective evidence; examples are on pages 6 and 13. This is acceptable in this portfolio where the candidate did not have time to complete the recording documentation at the time but did complete it as soon as possible. This is likely to be the case in real work situations when problems are identified quickly and require immediate action.

The candidate refers to three options for solving the problem, but only two are required at level 1.

PS 1.1

Both problems are clearly identified on pages 5 and 12 using problem diagnosis sheets designed by the centre.

PS 1.2

There is clear evidence of following the plan provided by the implementation plans on pages 6 and 13. Once again these are useful documents designed by the centre using advice from the Awarding Body.

PS 1.3

The evidence of checking the solutions is in the form of candidate reviews confirmed by a letter and witness testimony.

The candidate reviews provide evidence that the candidate understands the process of problem solving and recognises that planning is essential even if time is limited.

PROBLEM SOLVING LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

You must: PS1.2 PS1.1 Confirm with an appropriate Confirm with an appropriate Check with an appropriate person that you understand the given problem and identify different ways of tackling it. person what you will do and follow your plan for solving person if the problem has been solved and how to improve your the problem. problem solving skills. Your evidence must show you can: 1.3.1 Check that you clearly understand Help decide how you will try Check if the problem has been the problem you have been given to solve the problem solved using the methods you have been given check how you will know that it plan what you need to do identify clearly what went well and less well in tackling the has been solved 1.2.3 follow your plan, working safely and using support given by others to help tackle the come up with different ways of tackling the problem. 1.3.3 check what you need to do to improve your problem solving problem.

LOCATION OF EVIDENCE

Page	List items of evidence and where they are located in the portfolio	F	PS1.	1	F	PS1.	2	F	PS1.:	8
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
2–4	Assessment records									
5	Problem diagnosis sheet	х	х	х	х					
6	Implementation plan – fashion show				х	х	х		х	
7	Candidate log sheet: Review							х	х	х
8	Letter to The Fashion Team								х	
9–11	Assessment records									
12	Problem diagnosis sheet	х	х	х	х					
13	Implementation plan – newsletter				х	х	х			
14	Candidate log sheet: Review							х	х	х
15	Witness statement								х	

Assessor Declaration: I confirm that the details above are correct and that the evidence submitted is the candidate's own work and the candidate meets all the requirements for certification of this key skill. Assessor Name: A. N. Assessor

Assessor Signature: A IV ASSESSED Date: 16 5 03

Candidate Name: A Condidate

Candidate Signature: A Condidate

Date: 16 5 03

ASSESSMENT RECORD PROBLEM SOLVING LEVEL 1

PS1.1 Confirm with an appropriate person that you understand the given problem and identify different ways of tackling it.

Subject and purpose:

Task 1: To solve the problem of a model unable to attend a fashion show. The model informed A. Candidate on the day of the show.

Supplementary evidence (if included):

Thank you letter from hospital confirming that the show was a success.

nderstood the problem that hey had been given? Did the candidate Heck how they would know hat the problem had been polved? Did the candidate (tick) Comments and examples He identified that the problem was solved if all the outfits were modelled and the show was a success. Did the candidate Ome up with different ways f tackling the problem? Yes No Comments and examples A. Candidate identified two solutions after confirming with the tutor that cancellation was not an option due to time. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5.					
nderstood the problem that hey had been given? Did the candidate (tick) Comments and examples He identified that the problem was solved if all the outfits were modelled and the show was a success. Did the candidate Did the candidate (tick) Comments and examples He identified that the problem was solved if all the outfits were modelled and the show was a success. Comments and examples A. Candidate identified two solutions after confirming with the tutor that cancellation was not an option due to time. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5.	Did the candidate	(tick)	Comments and examples	
heck how they would know nat the problem had been olved? Pes No He identified that the problem was solved if all the outfits were modelled and the show was a success. Did the candidate Ome up with different ways f tackling the problem? Yes No Comments and examples A. Candidate identified two solutions after confirming with the tutor that cancellation was not an option due to time. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5.	Check that they clearly understood the problem that they had been given?	Yes	No	problem with his tutor. This is	
Polyed? Yes No Was solved if all the outfits were modelled and the show was a success. Did the candidate Ome up with different ways f tackling the problem? Yes No Comments and examples A. Candidate identified two solutions after confirming with the tutor that cancellation was not an option due to time. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5.	Did the candidate	(tick)	Comments and examples	
ome up with different ways f tackling the problem? Yes No A. Candidate identified two solutions after confirming with the tutor that cancellation was not an option due to time. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5.	Check how they would know that the problem had been solved?	Yes	No	was solved if all the outfits were modelled and the show	
f tackling the problem? Yes No solutions after confirming with the tutor that cancellation was not an option due to time. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5.	Did the candidate	(tick)	Comments and examples	
with the tutor and agreed that they were appropriate. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5.	Come up with different ways of tackling the problem?	Yes	No	solutions after confirming with the tutor that cancellation was not an option due to time. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 5. A. Candidate discussed his options with the tutor and agreed that they were appropriate. Problem	
	Assessor Name: A.N. Asse	SSER	Candidate Na	ame: A Condidate	
ssessor Name: 4 N. Assesse Candidate Name: 4 Condudate	Assessor Signature: A N Assessor Candidate Signature: A Condidate				

Date: 46/5/03

Page 2

Date: 16.5-03

ASSESSMENT RECORD PROBLEM SOLVING LEVEL 1

ASSESSMENT RECORD PROBLEM SOLVING LEVEL 1

PS1.3 Check with an appropriate person if the problem has been solved and how to improve your problem solving skills. Supplementary evidence (if included): Subject and purpose: Task 1: To solve the problem of a model unable to attend a fashion show. The model informed A. Candidate on the day of the Did the candidate... (tick) **Comments and examples /** Check if the problem had A. Candidate reviewed his activities been solved by accurately against the outcomes. Problem using methods that they Diagnosis Sheet pages 5 and 7. were given? The show was a success and all outfits were modelled. Did the candidate... (tick) **Comments and examples V** Identify clearly what went A. Candidate answered the well and less well in tackling questions on page 7. He identified the problem? that, because other people involved cooperated, the show was a success. He also identified that communication could have been improved. Supplementary evidence confirming successful show. Witness Testimony page 8. Did the candidate... (tick) **Comments and examples** Check what they needed to A. Candidate identified that he do to improve their problem needs to keep everyone informed solving skills? about what is happening. Make sure there is good communication. Assessor Name: H N Assessor Candidate Name: A Conductote Assessor Signature: 4 N. Assess Candidate Signature: A Cardidate Date: 16 4 03 Date: 16|5|03 Page 4

You must:

- PS1.1 Confirm with an appropriate person that you understand the given problem and identify different ways of tackling it.
- PS1.2 Confirm with an appropriate person what you will do and follow your plan for solving the problem.

Your evidence must show you can:

- 1.1.1 Check that you clearly understand the problem you have been given; and
- 1.1.2 check how you will know that it has been solved; and
- 1.1.3 come up with different ways of tackling the problem; and
- **1.2.1** help decide how you will try to solve the problem.

PROBLEM SOLVING

CANDIDATE LOG SHEET NAME: A Concludate

PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS SHEET

Describe the problem:

A group of us had planned a fostion show I was are of the againsers. One of the modeus proved one to say she had flu to screen from the show.

Required outcome:

Name state show goes on and aw authors are snown latiouse they ware designed by other students and it would not be four to snow only some at them.

OPTIONS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Option 1.

Re-schedule other models losk them to model the other clothes

Option 2.

Get another model as near to the size and shape of the other.

Option 3.

considered conceiling the snow but this was not on

Option selected and reason.

option 2 Time auteody tight for other models we have some space models - have time to get a replacement

Option confirmed.

I discussed the problem with A (andidate and agreed with his decision. Problem would be solved if show went Signed: A luter as and was successful. Date: 24.04.03

Assessor: A N. A Second Candidate: A condudore

Date: 16, 5, 03 Date: 24 4 03

You must:

- PS1.2 Confirm with an appropriate person what you will do and follow your plan for solving the problem.
- PS1.3 Check with an appropriate person if the problem has been solved and how to improve your problem solving skills.

Your evidence must show you can:

- **1.2.1** Help decide how you will try to solve the problem; and
- **1.2.2** plan what you need to do; and
- 1.2.3 follow your plan, working safely and using support given by others to help tackle the problem; and
- 1.3.2 identify clearly what went well and less well in tackling the problem.

PROBLEM SOLVING

CANDIDATE LOG SHEET NAME: A Condidate

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – Fashion Show

Action point	Comments	Target date/time	Comments
Check other model -Same height. 512c	Judy, Errora and Usa are the Some height and Size	PISAP	USA Ogreso LO CO
Contact turat to amongs for Studions to get out at class	ware to see hirs moran, libris two	peop after finding Other model	I aid this ofter tolking to my tulor, hirs aduls She told me to check with hirs Moran
Talk to team and get their help	townscule to find all the Itam but aid find other models	Mid ollemoon	Found other model laut forgot to teu other organisers. They were unhappy ax first but 0.k
Amonge teneorsal	Everyone to meet at 4.4 spm	Late afternoon 5.00pm latese	Renearsal O.K.
Do anou	an time	4.80pm	gnow Seerved O.K.

Assessor: A.N. Assessor

Candidate: A Condidate

Date: 16,5,03

Date: 25.4.03

Witness: A Notar

Date: 25.4.03

You must:

PS1.3 Check with an appropriate person if the problem has been solved and how to improve your problem solving skills.

Your evidence must show you can:

- 1.3.1 Check if the problem has been solved using the methods you have been given; and
- **1.3.2** identify clearly what went well and less well in tackling the problem; and
- **1.3.3** check what you need to do to improve your problem solving skills.

Problem solving

Candidate log sheet

Candidate: A. Candidate

REVIEW

Has the problem been solved?	How do you know?
yes	The snow went off well use was great and there were no long powers on the conwark even though we had a share time to rehearse.
	four outlies were shown in the time we had for the show

How could you have improved your problem solving skills for the future?

I probably should have contailed the rest of the learn to cheak with them. They were a bit put out at First because they alank know what had happened - this was a train effort.

Next time maybe a phane can would be better I have reamed that talking time to think things through is worthwhite.

Assessor: A N Assessor

Candidate: A Condidate

Date: 16.5.03 Date: 25.4.03

You must:

PS1.3 Check with an appropriate person if the problem has been solved and how to improve your problem solving skills.

Your evidence must show you can:

1.3.2 Identify clearly what went well and less well in tackling the problem.

WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL 22 WEST STREET WESTCHESTER W1 1WW

The Fashion Team c/o The Principal Westchester FE College 44 East Street WESTCHESTER W1 2WW

28.4.03

Dear Fashion Show Organisers,

FASHION SHOW

Thank you for a brilliant evening on the 24th. The show was a great success and went very smoothly indeed. I know everyone appreciated the hard work you put into organising the event. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved.

We are delighted to know that the show raised £255.00 towards the new children's ward.

Once again, thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs B. Managel Haspital Managel

Put this letter into your portfolio as supplementary evidence for 1.3.

A.N. Assessor

16.5.03.

ASSESSMENT RECORD **PROBLEM SOLVING LEVEL 1**

Subject and purpose: Task 2: To post a newsletter out deadline. Insufficient stamps ava		Supplemen	tary evidence (if included):
Did the candidate Check that they clearly understood the problem that they had been given?	Yes	(tick)	A. Candidate was responsible for maintaining a stock of stamps. A newsletter had to be posted out before last post on Friday 9.5.03. – Insufficient stamps. This was discussed with his supervisor who agreed there was a problem. Page 12.
Did the candidate Check how they would know that the problem had been solved?	Yes	(tick)	Comments and examples Problem solved if the newsletter went out on time.
Did the candidate Come up with different ways of tackling the problem?	Yes	(tick)	Comments and examples The candidate discussed the problem and identified two ways to tackle it; he also considered obtaining stamps from somewherelse other than the Post Office. There was no easily identifiable alternative source. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 12. A. Candidate discussed the option with his supervisor. Problem Diagnosis Sheet page 12.
			Diagnosis Sheet page 12.
Assessor Name: AN ASSESSE Assessor Signature: AN ASSESSE Date: 16-5-05			ame: A Condictate gnature: A Condictate

ASSESSMENT RECORD PROBLEM SOLVING LEVEL 1

Subject and purpose:		Supplemen	ntary evidence (if included):
Task 2: To post a newsletter out t deadline. Insufficient stamps avai		Supplemen	nary evidence (ii included).
Did the candidate	(t	ick)	Comments and examples
Help decide how they would try to solve the problem?	Yes	No	Chose option 2 after discussion with supervisor. Problem Diagno. Sheet page 12.
Did the candidate	(t	ick)	Comments and examples
Plan what they would need to do?	Yes	No	Prepared Implementation Plan. Page 13.
Did the candidate	(t	ick)	Comments and examples
Follow their plan, working safely and using support	Yes	No	Used plan, supported by work colleague. Implementation Plan
given by others to help tackle the problem?			pages 13 and 14.
given by others to help tackle			
given by others to help tackle		Candidate N	

ASSESSMENT RECORD **PROBLEM SOLVING LEVEL 1**

Task 2: To post a newsletter out to deadline. Insufficient stamps avail			
Did the candidate Check if the problem had been solved by accurately using methods that they were given?	Yes	No	Comments and examples Solution checked by reviewing objective against Implementation Plan. Short narrative by A. Candidate identified problem solved. Witness testimony page 15.
Did the candidate Identify clearly what went well and less well in tackling the problem?	Yes (t	ick)	A. Candidate identified that being organised helped solve the problem but that improved planning would have made task easier. Review page 14.
Did the candidate Check what they needed to do to improve their problem solving skills?	Yes (t	ick)	A. Candidate realised that more time spent during planning can b beneficial. Has also recognised that panic can cause additional problems.
<u> </u>			Review page 14.
A NI Assessed	*	Condidate	ama A Charladair
Assessor Name: A N Assessor Candidate Name: A Condidate Assessor Signature: A N Assessor Candidate Signature: A Condidate Signature: A C			ame: H. Caragade
Assessor Signature: AN Assessor			gnature: A Condidate

You must:

- PS1.1 Confirm with an appropriate person that you understand the given problem and identify different ways of tackling it.
- PS1.2 Confirm with an appropriate person what you will do and follow your plan for solving the problem.

Your evidence must show you can:

- 1.1.1 Check that you clearly understand the problem you have been given; and
- 1.1.2 check how you will know that it has been solved; and
- 1.1.3 come up with different ways of tackling the problem; and
- **1.2.1** help decide how you will try to solve the problem.

PROBLEM SOLVING

CANDIDATE LOG SHEET: A Condidote

PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS SHEET

Describe the problem:

had to get a newsleder and by last past Friday. I Forget to get analyn stamps and any realized this at the last minute

Required outcome:

Get an of the newsletter posted by 4 30pm - 2.5.03

OPTIONS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Option 1.

We to walk to 90 For Slamps and come look in time to Finish the Job

Option 2.

to ask Joanne to go because the has a car to would be much quicker but she has other work to do

Option 3.

try and get stomps from somewhere neoner but we need acat.

Option selected and reason.

apuan 2. I needed to Finish pulting newsletters who envelopes, so it would be quicker.

Option confirmed.

I discussed the problem with my Supervisor. A Supervisor the was not preased recouse Johnne had other work to do but \$\pm\$ said \$\pm\$ would help her later we agreed this was the base option because we alkne think our neighbours would carry signed. A Supervisor

Assessor: A N Assessor

Candidate: A Condidate

Date: \$5.03 Date: 5.5.03

You must:

PS1.2 Confirm with an appropriate person what you will do and follow your plan for solving the problem.

Your evidence must show you can:

- 1.2.1 Help decide how you will try to solve the problem; and
- **1.2.2** plan what you need to do; and
- 1.2.3 follow your plan, working safely and using support given by others to help tackle the problem.

PROBLEM SOLVING

CANDIDATE LOG SHEET NAME: A Condudate

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN New Metter

Action Point	Comments	Target date/time	Comments
Janne to get money from pety Cosh for stomps and go to po		2.3apm/2.5.03	Checked with Supprivision 19. Supprivision
Ne to Finish putting laters into envelopes then do Joannes John	od na Finish Swiffing the envelopes	3.3apm	Joonne come look and helped, A. Superusor sold Joonne's Job could wouk.
Joanne and me to put Stamps on leders	Joanne heiped me and we suar monoged to Finish.	4 capm	I soud I would help Joanne on Mondays
onue to po	LOSE POS 4-30pm	4-25pm	Just made ut in time.

Assessor: A N Assessor Date: 16.5.03

Candidate: A Condidate
Date: 5 5 03

Witness: A Obest Date: (5.03

You must:

PS1.3 Check with an appropriate person if the problem has been solved and how to improve your problem solving skills.

Your evidence must show you can:

- 1.3.1 Check if the problem has been solved using the methods you have been given; and
- 1.3.2 identify clearly what went well and less well in tackling the problem; and
- **1.3.3** check what you need to do to improve your problem solving skills.

Problem solving

Candidate log sheet

Candidate: A Condidate

REVIEW

Has the problem been solved?	How do you know?
Yes	wewstetter sent out to everyone on the lisk on time

How could you have improved your method of approaching the problem? I asked Joanne if she would use her can and go to the po in a bit of a panic but I am responsible for the moul and it was my fault there were no stomps. She was dead nice it might have been better for me to have asked her to help me with the envelopes and stuffing them, and both of his go to the po to put somps on the envelopes or amonge for the po to Frank the envelopes.

I could have taken more time to think about things but I also discuss the problem with my supervision when you're in a rush you can panic and don't think at everthing.

Assessor: A.N. Assessor

Candidate: A Condidate

Date: 16.05 03.

Date: 5 05 03

You must:

PS1.3 Check with an appropriate person if the problem has been solved and how to improve your problem solving skills.

Your evidence must show you can:

1.3.2 Identify clearly what went well and less well in tackling the problem.

To Whom It May Concorn

I am A Candidate's supervisor. On Friday let he came to me and said he had just realized that he had not ordered sufficient stamps for an important remodetter mail out to customers. He is responsible for the mail.

I said it was a problem and what did he think we could do about it. We talked about a couple of ideas and agreed that it would be best to ask Joanne to go to the Post Office, about 10 nimites away by car.

He was a lit flustered but ment away and ashed Joanne if she would go to the Part Office. She ment of and A Candidate finished off addressing the envelopes and putting the reweletters in them. Joanne helped when she come back.

They took the letters to the Port Office just in time to catch the last part.

By this time it was the and of the day and we said we would discuss it on Manday, today.

A. Separisor

This supports A. Candidate's chosen option and plan. I confirm A. Supervisor is the candidate's Supervisor. A.N. ADOSA 16.05.03

Curricul	um and Standards
Audience	Key skills candidates, practitioners, assessors and moderators, external verifiers and others involved in the delivery of key skills
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Туре	Exemplification
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Contact	The Key Skills Team (020 7509 5611; keyskills@qca.org.uk)

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