

What are the differences between GOLA Underpinning Knowledge Tests and GOLA end tests?

	GOLA UPK Tests	Hair & Beauty GOLA ECU Tests
Flexibility	<p>Mobile testing is also available. Most GOLA End tests are traditionally run through the exams office within a FE college, which is the preferred policy by the centre. City & Guilds provide advice on how you can run the tests without the exams office to ensure you have the flexibility you need. The UPK tests have prompted centres to think about running the tests directly through the subject department, which reduces the admin in an exams office as well as reducing the marking time for assessors.</p> <p>A separate centre profile for the NVQ tests may be easier for centres to manage the scheduling of tests and booking of IT suites.</p>	<p><u>E4 – Mandatory Gola test.</u> There is a GOLA test for each mandatory written E4 question paper. Centres can use a combination of GOLA tests and written tests as they choose. E4 test are closed book so no notes or text books can be used. Candidates are not permitted to discuss the questions with each other, but can ask for assistance from the tutor/assessor/invidulator if any clarity is need with the wording of the question, not however on technical words.</p> <p><u>E3 – Non Mandatory Gola test.</u> For the non-mandatory E3a question paper and the E3b assignments, the questions are combined into one E3 GOLA test. Centres can use a variety of assessment methods, they may choose a combination. The E3 knowledge statements can be covered through practical observation if appropriate, oral questioning, assignments, worksheet, etc. If a candidate is undertaking a Gola E3 test this is completed as open book. Candidates are able to take notes, text books into the test, but are not allowed to discuss the questions with each other.</p> <p>These types of tests can be taken by individual students or multiple students dependent on the resources of a centre. They have been designed so they can be taken to a candidate who is working in a salon, an assessor/</p>

		tutor can upload the test onto a lap top and the candidate can complete the test in a staff room or alternatively a large centre may have the capacity to allow large numbers to complete the same test or a variety of tests at the same time.
Invigilation	Controlled conditions. External invigilator not required, internal assessor are allowed to invigilate onsite.	<p>Invigilation can be carried out by the assessor or tutor as they do for the paper based assessment. The invigilator can reword the question if a candidate is having difficulty with the wording, but not advise on technical words.</p> <p>The GOLA assessment does not need to be internally verified, however if other types of assessment are being used to achieve the full 100% such as oral questioning this process should be sampled.</p>
Testing environment	Testing environment should be appropriate, i.e. quiet, little disturbance to the candidate, suitable spacing etc. Test duration varies between 30 minutes and 2 hours depending on the candidate and time available.	The test environment can be in an IT suite, class room, salon or anywhere that a computer has been set up for GOLA. These test questions are random so any candidates sitting next to each other may have a different question covering the same knowledge statement. There is no need for dividers between each computer or indeed a spare computer. We have increased the bank of questions to in excess of 3,000
Results Determination	Score report doesn't generate certificate as they are used as evidence for your candidate's portfolio. The benefit of online testing is that this score report can be saved as a pdf, which can be saved into an e-portfolio. Alternatively it can be printed off for a paper portfolio. It is important to note that the score report looks different to the ones generated from GOLA end tests.	The candidate receives results immediately, and a printed sheet stating the knowledge statements they have successfully completed and a results sheet stating the knowledge sheets they are unsuccessful in and still require to produce. The candidate is encouraged to keep this in their portfolio and a second copy of both sheets for the tutor is advisable.

Pass rate	70% is the pass mark for some UPK tests and the remaining 30% can be assessed through other means. For example, this applies to Catering & Hospitality and Hair & Beauty. It will be 80% for the new plumbing UPK tests without the requirement to oral question for the extra 20%.	<p><u>E4 – Mandatory GOLA test.</u></p> <p>The pass mark for E4 GOLA tests is 100%, however if a candidate achieves 70% or more the rest can be questioned orally to complete the paper, or through observation evidence or written questioning or the candidate can be re entered for another E4 GOLA test. The candidate will need to take in to the test their printed score report to identify which questions need to be answered. The system does not have the ability to identify which questions were answered correctly on previous attempts. Once the first and second attempts have been married up the candidate will be able to see if 100% has been achieved. This is why it is important for the tutor or assessor to have copies of the printouts for each candidate to track achievements. If oral questioning is used to move from 70% to 100% the assessor can arrange a suitable time for the candidate to complete these outstanding questions. The assessor can simply write 'orally questioned' against the knowledge statements on the results sheet.</p> <p>If however a candidate does not achieve 70% or over on the first attempt they must wait TWO weeks before they can retake a test this is in accordance with the assessment strategy set by the standards setting body. The GOLA system can not identify this time scale so centres must be aware of this two week rule IF 70% is not achieved. If it has been achieved there is no time restriction on the subsequent tests.</p>
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Retakes	<p>The benefit of UPK tests are that they can be rescheduled as soon as you feel the candidate is ready to take the test again. There is no extra cost for retakes, although centres have found that through charging a nominal amount for retakes encourages the learner to be prepared for the test the second time round. Therefore, this reduces the amount of retakes overall.</p>	<p>If the candidate achieves under 70%, the candidate must retake the GOLA test. Using the two week rule as explained in the above notes. If a candidate feels they cannot for some reason complete the test using GOLA then the paper version test can be used.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the tests it is advisable to plan a schedule. For example one candidate completing their NVQ 2 qualification in hair or beauty may take up to 20 tests, this does not included ANY retakes so the assessment burden is extremely high and the need to access computers may be as many as 40+ times for each candidate.</p>
Pricing	<p>One cost includes all relevant tests and re-sits per candidate.</p>	<p>There are NO extra or additional costs involved, once the one off fee has been made.</p>
Unlocking period	<p>Up to one day before the scheduled time or four days later.</p>	<p>For hair and beauty tests these can be unlocked 1 hour before the scheduled time and will be accessible up to 4 days after.</p>
Availability of Paper Version	<p>It is possible to use paper tests instead of GOLA for some of the UPK tests. It is up to the centre</p>	<p>Paper questions packs have been available for the past 5 years. These are usually administered</p>

	<p>to choose the units that they would like to use the tests for. However, they must be bought as a package when you register the candidate.</p> <p>It is important to note that written tests will not be available for new candidates that register for the plumbing UPK tests.</p>	<p>by the hair and beauty teams. The heavy burden of marking has now made GOLLA a preferred option.</p>
Claiming certification	<p>Certification can only be claim once all parts of the qualification has been achieved.</p>	<p>Centres cannot claim certification on the complex numbers e.g 706 or 806 but only on 006</p>