

## **Added-Value Assessments**

### **Assignment**

- An assignment is a problem-solving exercise with clear guidelines and structure.
- It is particularly suited to the assessment of outcomes based on applying practical skills and related knowledge and understanding to a situation that involves task management. Assignments are more structured and less open-ended than projects.
- They differ from practical activities in that they do not have to conform to a prescribed procedure and they are not concerned exclusively with technical skills.

### **Case study**

- A case study consists of a description of an event, usually in the form of a piece of text, a picture or an electronic recording that concerns a realistic situation.
- This is then followed by a series of instructions which prompt the learner, as a detached observer of events, to analyse the situation, drawing conclusions and making decisions or supporting courses of action.
- Case studies are designed to provide opportunities for problem-solving and decision-making skills.

### **Practical activity**

- A practical activity is any activity that allows learners to demonstrate their practical skills directly.
- It usually involves producing, making or building something.
- The assessment may be based on the end-result of the activity (the product), the carrying-out of the activity (the process), or a combination of both.

### **Performance**

- Performance refers to a practical demonstration of learners' skills, eg in music or drama.
- A performance is particularly suitable for assessing creative arts such as music and drama and can also be used to assess physical or spoken activities.
- It allows learners to demonstrate their abilities.

### **Portfolio**

- A portfolio is a representative collection of a learner's work, usually assembled over the period of learning.
- It demonstrates or provides examples to prove that either a range of criteria has been met, or showcases their best work (sometimes referred to as 'folio').

### **Project**

- A project requires the learner to carry out an open-ended task, often involving investigative or research skills.
- It can involve a significant part of the work being carried out without close supervision, although the assessor may provide guidance and support.

### **Question paper/test of knowledge and understanding**

- Question papers/tests are used primarily to assess knowledge, understanding and skills.
- A question paper is used to assess whether the learner can retain and consolidate the knowledge and skills gained in individual Units.