

Understanding Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Assessments play an important role throughout your journey as a learner. As well as helping to measure how successfully you can apply knowledge and skills and demonstrate your understanding, they are also essential milestones for you as a learner.

You can always learn from assessments – whether they confirm progression and achievement or indicate you need to focus your attention on developing particular knowledge and abilities.

So, what can you do to make the most of the opportunities assessments present? This infographic offers some key pointers.

Learning outcomes and the assessment task

Learning outcomes: Short, focused statements that indicate what you will learn or be able to do as a result of studying a particular course or module.

Assessment task: How your learning from a particular course or module will be assessed.

How they connect: Your assessment should directly relate to the learning outcomes of the course or module. When you approach the assessment task, think about how it connects and how to best apply the knowledge and experience you have developed.

Understand what the task is asking you to do

Review the task a couple of times and think about:

1. What are you being asked to do?
2. What skills will you need to complete the task?
3. How will completion of the task support you to achieve the learning outcomes?

How to complete the assessment task

Always plan! Using your own words, create a plan for your assessment that details the task or problem statement, how you are going to address it, and why you have chosen to address it in this way. Then use this as a reference point throughout.

Plan your time to accommodate in-depth reading and research as needed, as well as production of the final assignment and a chance to review and update before submission.

How to make use of feedback

- Think honestly about how you approached the work, what worked well and what you might like to do differently next time. It can be helpful to create an action plan that will feed forward to future work.
- Remember to revisit your feedback before you start a new piece of work.

Please note that this document is a text-only version of an [infographic](#) published on the QAA website.

For more advice on understanding learning outcomes, assessment and feedback, explore our [Unpacking Assessments: Student Guide](#).