



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority



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Test and trial information sheet

If you are considering submitting a proposal for the first stage of the framework tests and trials you may find the following information useful.

Contents of the test and trial pack

Before beginning the process of completing your proposal pro forma you should check that you have the documents listed below. You will need to refer across all of them to inform the development of your proposal.

1) The test and trial prospectus (PDF)

The prospectus sets out the requirements for those organisations wishing to submit project proposals for test and trials from September 2006 – July 2008. It identifies the rationale and process for selecting projects, timing and priorities, and the nature and scope of the trials. The LSC requirements for publicly funded trials with providers in England sets out the priority areas that will need to be covered in trials over the period from 2006-2008 and these are attached at **Annex 1**.

2) The working specification (PDF)

The working specification describes the proposed features of a unit-based qualifications framework, underpinned by a credit accumulation and transfer system, for the purposes of tests and trialling from 2006 to 2008. It also provides information on the regulatory arrangements that will underpin the trials.

3) Tests and trials proposals pro forma (RTF document - Annex 2)

All proposals **must** be submitted using this standard pro forma. All organisations will have to agree to meet the requirements and responsibilities identified in the pro forma. The requirements in the pro forma will form the basis of a service level agreement between QCA and the organisation leading the project.

Submission of completed proposals and deadline

Organisations should submit completed pro formas to the email address frameworktestsandtrials@qca.org.uk by Monday 8 May 2006.

All necessary information to support your proposal should be contained within the pro forma itself. No additional or supplementary materials should be submitted with the pro forma.

Any queries about the process and the documentation should be emailed to the framework email address before you complete your project proposal. It will not be possible to respond to any queries received after Friday 28 April.

Awarding bodies that wish to submit a proposal, but do not meet the requirements for testing and trialling must email frameworktestsandtrials@qca.org.uk for advice on how to proceed. There will be a series of test and trial surgeries to help clarify any issues around the process and documentation in the week beginning Monday 24 April. Further information will be available shortly.

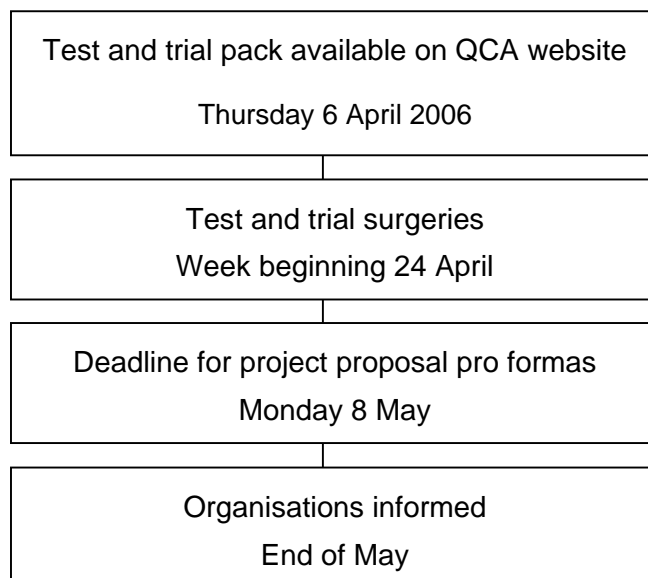
Additional opportunities for submitting proposals

It is expected that the number of projects and the scope of the trials will increase during the trial period. The first stage of the live trials (from September 2006 – July 2007) with learners, will involve a limited number of projects in a rolling programme of trials. These will be expanded during the second stage from August 2007 onwards.

For those proposals not included in the first stage of trials, there will be further opportunities (throughout the two year period) to submit or redevelop projects and contribute to the trialling.

Process for selection

The following flow chart summarises the process for selecting projects for the first stage of the tests and trials.



(version 1)