

VRQ Assessment

Background

The VRQ is an academic-type qualification delivered in a “guided learning” setting. It consists of 6 Units, with Units 1 to 5 being common across all of the facility types, whilst Unit 6 has eight versions (406 to 413). The relevant ‘6th Unit’ is chosen to match the specific requirements of the learner.

Unit 406: Physical treatment (e.g. for your typical skip operation)

Unit 407: Biological (e.g. composting, AD)

Unit 408: Thermal (e.g. autoclave)

Unit 409: Remediation of contaminated land

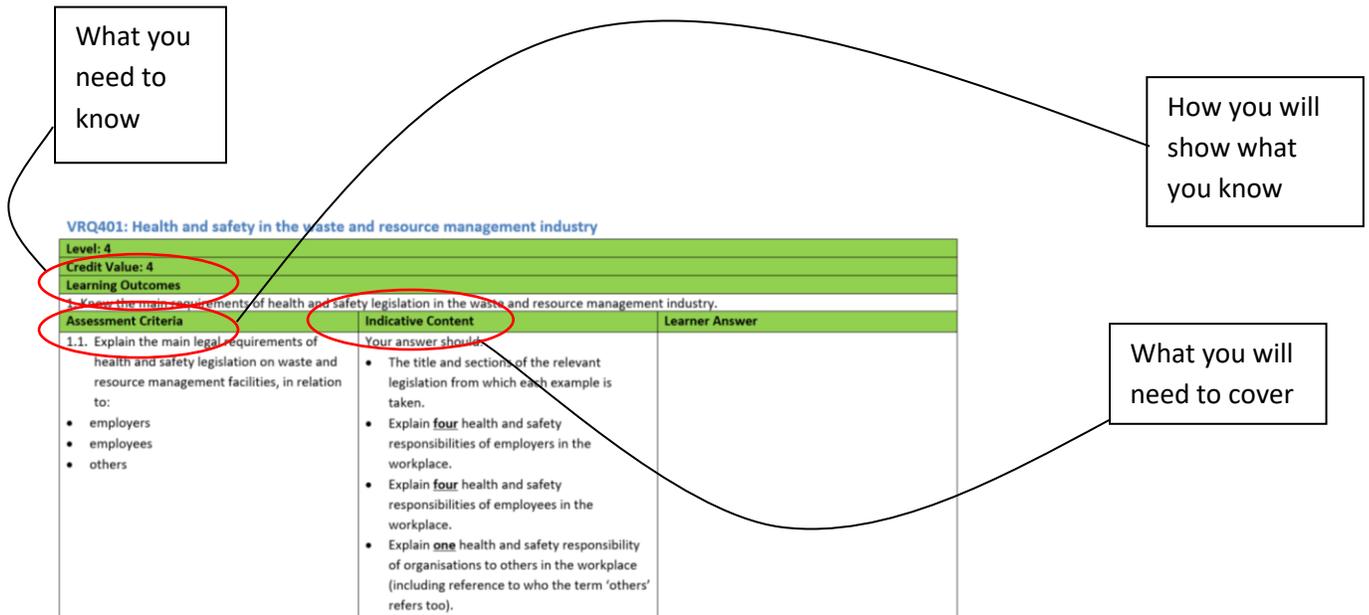
Unit 410: Landfill of inert waste

Unit 411: Mechanical Biological Treatment

Unit 412: End of Life Vehicles

Unit 413: Metal Recycling Facilities

Each Unit is made up of a number of Learning Outcomes, each of which must be addressed in order for you to pass the overall qualification.



The diagram illustrates the relationship between knowledge, demonstration, and coverage. Three callout boxes are connected to a table:

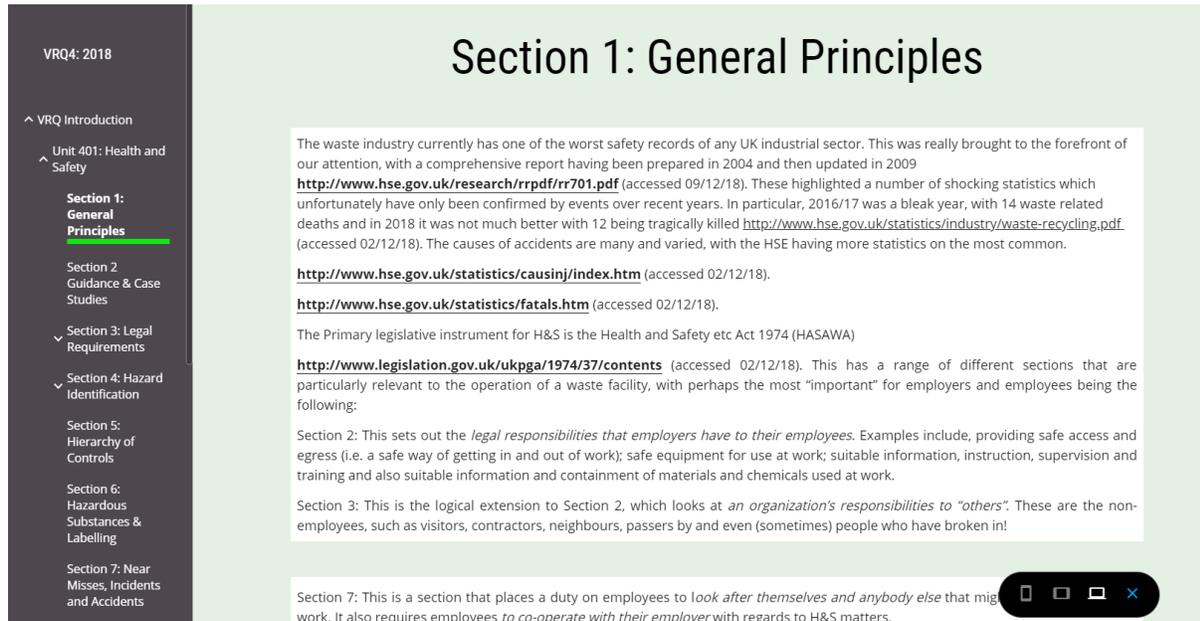
- What you need to know:** Points to the 'Assessment Criteria' column.
- How you will show what you know:** Points to the 'Indicative Content' column.
- What you will need to cover:** Points to the 'Learner Answer' column.

VRQ401: Health and safety in the waste and resource management industry		
Level: 4		
Credit Value: 4		
Learning Outcomes		
1. Know the main requirements of health and safety legislation in the waste and resource management industry.		
Assessment Criteria	Indicative Content	Learner Answer
1.1. Explain the main legal requirements of health and safety legislation on waste and resource management facilities, in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employers employees others 	Your answer should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The title and sections of the relevant legislation from which each example is taken. Explain four health and safety responsibilities of employers in the workplace. Explain four health and safety responsibilities of employees in the workplace. Explain one health and safety responsibility of organisations to others in the workplace (including reference to who the term 'others' refers too). 	

Unit Assessments

Each Unit is assessed by answering a series of questions. We will provide reference material to assist through an invitation only website, but you will also be expected to undertake some self-study to 'read around' the topics.

Sample Page



VRQ4: 2018

^ VRQ Introduction

^ Unit 401: Health and Safety

Section 1: General Principles

Section 2: Guidance & Case Studies

Section 3: Legal Requirements

Section 4: Hazard Identification

Section 5: Hierarchy of Controls

Section 6: Hazardous Substances & Labelling

Section 7: Near Misses, Incidents and Accidents

Section 1: General Principles

The waste industry currently has one of the worst safety records of any UK industrial sector. This was really brought to the forefront of our attention, with a comprehensive report having been prepared in 2004 and then updated in 2009 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr701.pdf> (accessed 09/12/18). These highlighted a number of shocking statistics which unfortunately have only been confirmed by events over recent years. In particular, 2016/17 was a bleak year, with 14 waste related deaths and in 2018 it was not much better with 12 being tragically killed <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/waste-recycling.pdf> (accessed 02/12/18). The causes of accidents are many and varied, with the HSE having more statistics on the most common.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/index.htm> (accessed 02/12/18).

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm> (accessed 02/12/18).

The Primary legislative instrument for H&S is the Health and Safety etc Act 1974 (HASAWA)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents> (accessed 02/12/18). This has a range of different sections that are particularly relevant to the operation of a waste facility, with perhaps the most "important" for employers and employees being the following:

Section 2: This sets out the *legal responsibilities that employers have to their employees*. Examples include, providing safe access and egress (i.e. a safe way of getting in and out of work); safe equipment for use at work; suitable information, instruction, supervision and training and also suitable information and containment of materials and chemicals used at work.

Section 3: This is the logical extension to Section 2, which looks at an *organization's responsibilities to "others"*. These are the non-employees, such as visitors, contractors, neighbours, passers by and even (sometimes) people who have broken in!

Section 7: This is a section that places a duty on employees to *look after themselves and anybody else that might be affected by their work*. It also requires employees to *co-operate with their employer* with regards to H&S matters.

Completion of the Questions

The work for each Unit will normally be completed in your own time and therefore it is difficult to predict how long each will take to complete, but as a guide it is suggested that you should expect to spend at least a day on each Unit, although this will clearly vary from learner to learner.

The questions will be provided as "word" documents and your answers should be typed into the relevant spaces. The learner name should be included in the "header" and then saved and sent to the Centre by email. Further information on this process will be provided by the Administration team at the Centre.

The work is done under 'open-book' conditions, which means that you can use all sources of information available to you for further learning. You will also need to follow specific instructions on referencing your work to ensure that there are no issues with cheating and plagiarism.

Draft Review

The first draft of your work will need to be sent to your tutor. They can then review and comment on your work, although they are not able to mark it for 'correctness'. You will be provided with instructions on how and when the draft needs to be submitted.

Paper Submission

Having made any changes based on the tutor review of your work, you are then able to submit the finished paper to the Centre for marking. There is a particular process to be followed for this to be correctly logged and allocated to a marker. Once again, following your registration you will be provided with instructions on this process.

Pass Mark

You need to be aware that there is not a traditional pass mark for the Unit Questions. They are basically assessed against the Assessment Criteria as either being “Sufficient” or “Not Yet Sufficient” i.e. an effective 100% pass mark! Therefore, you will have to read and consider the requirements very carefully, taking particular note of whether the question asks you to *explain*, *list*, *describe* etc. We will provide some hints and tips on how to prepare and structure your answers and obviously your tutor and marker will provide specific comments on the work you submit.

Operational Context

The VRQ is based around the requirements of running a waste facility within the WAMITAB technical competence scheme. Therefore, where it refers to treatment methods you need to ensure that you are considering medium risk activities that are covered by the WAMITAB scheme. Refer to the Risk Tiers table if you are not sure.

Submission Period

There is no effective submission period, although you will be expected to meet any targets you agree with your tutor and marker. However, if the qualification is not achieved within 12 months from the date of your registration with WAMITAB, you will be required to re-register. If this should happen, then the work completed to date will carry over and you will have a further 12 month period.