



Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Assessors Guide To Standards



By John Roberts

Administration

1. All candidates must be in possession of and hand in the Parental Consent forms completed and signed. Without this candidates cannot start the expedition
2. All Candidates must hand in their Record Books for inspection at the start of the expedition.

Assessors are to ensure that the completion of training and Practice Expeditions sections are signed and dated accordingly before the Assessed Expedition. Without this candidates cannot start the qualifying expedition.

3. Candidates are to have carried out sufficient remote supervised Practice expeditions until deemed competent to be put in for assessment.
4. Groups must have a minimum of 4 and maximum of 7 candidates at all times
5. Ensure all candidates have ID cards with the Supervisors, Assessors and Base contact numbers
6. Before departure check the groups understanding of first aid, lost and emergency procedures

Route planning

1. 1:25000 maps to be used (1:50,000 for planning purposes on longer expeditions)
2. Planned routes planning must be done to encompass the actual purpose.
3. No more than 10% of the route should be on roads. (Terrain / access dictates some flexibility must be allowed)
4. Bronze Expedition must have 6 hours of purposeful activity on each day; this does not include meal times
5. Silver Expeditions must have 7 hours of purposeful activity on each day; this does not include meal times
6. All days routes should be roughly equal in duration / distance.
7. Groups should not reuse parts of a previous day's route, including backwards, unless there is no alternative
8. Only legitimate public access land, footpath bridleways to be used (Green is good 1:25000 maps) groups must not use private tracks or roads

Map traces

1. (3 copies 1 for group 1 for Assessor 1 for Base camp emergencies preferably on acetates)
2. Minimum 2 x coordinates to orientate the trace on to the map
3. Map sheet Number to be marked on the trace
4. N direction point to be shown
5. Group Name on trace
6. Day and dates of the route
7. Legs / Checkpoints clearly marked with dot and circle around them
8. Checkpoints to have grid refs next to them
9. Route and direction of travel to be clearly marked with small arrows
10. Major roads marked
11. Other prominent features town's village's lakes may be marked

12. Trace should be legible easily read and clutter free
13. Colour may be used for clarification

Hiking / Route finding

1. Group members must stay close together (never more than 10m between individuals approx)
2. Where possible to stick to their original plans and routes, groups may deviate and change the route if the
Footpath access has changed, access is severely blocked or farmer's crops could be damaged or if the group is getting back on track after being temporarily lost.
3. Groups are not permitted to use public assistance
4. Groups are to be remotely supervised only
5. Groups are to be met by the assessor at least once during the day
6. Groups are to wear Hi Viz vests front and rear of the group when on public roads
7. Groups are to walk on the right side of the road, in single file, facing oncoming traffic
8. When crossing roads must be controlled, in a clear safe area.
9. Groups are not to take breaks on roads
10. Group members are to be physically strong enough and competent in their mode of travel
11. Country code and Highway Code are to be applied at all times
12. Groups are to be quiet sensible and mature respecting other walkers and land users

Equipment (As per D of E Award Kit list)

1. Ideally equipment contained in a minimum 55 – 65 litre rucksack
2. Where possible all equipment to be contained within the rucksack
3. Rucksacks should be lined with a polythene bag
4. 1-2 litres of water to be carried by each individual (Top ups may be given by supervisors / assessors on route)
5. Individuals rucksack should not exceed 25% of their own body weight
6. Ideally 1-2 tents per group
7. All group equipment equally distributed within the group
8. Equipment must be suitable for the conditions and terrain being walked
9. No jeans or woollen type tracksuit bottoms to be worn

Food / Cooking

1. Groups must produce a menu sheet for each meal for each day of the expedition
2. Food must be lightweight, e.g. dehydrated
3. All foods must be easily cooked, varied, within budget, sufficient and balanced
4. Ideally Fresh foods are to be avoided (May allow for breakfast meal on the first day before assessments commence)
5. No tins
6. No Glass jars or bottles
7. Gas Trangias are the preferred cooking method, Meths burners are permitted as a second best option. Petrol, benzene, kerosene or other pressure cookers such as Peak stoves are not permitted
8. Cookers are to be lit with matches or piezzo igniters
9. Cooking must take place outside and 6m away from any tented areas
10. Spare gas canisters, fuel must kept away from the cooking area
11. Candidates must know how to safely change or refill their stoves
12. Groups are not expected to cook at the lunch break however they may decide to make a hot drink
13. All group members are to carry emergency rations in a sealed bag (Checked at end)
14. Assessors are to see the group cooking at least once during the day (usually evening meal)

Camp craft

1. Groups upon initial arrival at the campsite should not be sitting around doing nothing
2. Groups should have tents erected within 30 mins upon arrival on site
3. Setting up camp should display concurrent activity from all group members, eg pitching tent, refilling water bottles, setting up the cooking area, even if only to make a hot drink.
4. Tents should not be erected in dips or hollows
5. Tents should not be erected under trees
6. Tents should not be erected where they are exposed to high winds
7. Tents must be at least 6m apart (this is current H & S Guidelines)
8. Doors should be facing away from the prevailing wind
9. Groups must act sensibly and maturely; Noise must be kept to a minimum
10. Washing up must be carried out directly after each meal
11. Nothing is to be left outside of the tent overnight – except Trangia fuel
12. Prior to departure from the campsite the group must carry out a litter sweep, no rice or pasta to be left behind
13. Group is to carry all its rubbish and dispose of it correctly upon return

Expedition Debrief

1. This is part of the expedition assessment process and should take 15 – 20 mins
2. Carried out immediately after the expedition at the finish
3. Carried out as a whole group, the unit supervisor should be invited to attend
4. Items of equipment may be checked for cleanliness,
5. Emergency rations and phones checked that they have not been accessed or used
6. 2 way discussion between each candidate
7. Allow candidates to express what they have learnt, achieved struggled with or enjoyed
8. Identify both group and individual areas for further development
9. Identify both group and individual strengths and things that went well
10. Confirm if they have passed or being deferred
11. Discuss a time scale of when the purpose / project is to be completed and to whom it will be checked by.

Record book completion

1. Only to be completed if the group has passed
2. Complete all relevant boxes date area purpose, mode of travel, operating authority number, assessor details.
3. Aim to report on as many areas of the expedition possible e.g. navigation, camp craft, teamwork, etc
4. Make the report substantial not just, "did well" "no problems identified" or "good effort"
5. The report must be factual, critical, and supportive and a true reflection of achievement.
6. Identify each individual's areas for further development
7. Comment on each individual's strengths
8. Always finish on a high statement
9. Congratulate them or give a look forward recommendation
10. Make sure the report is signed and dated

Finally

Return the record books to the candidates or supervisor along with the Parental permission forms.