

NEBOSH NC1 Open Book Examinations

NEBOSH have designed their online open book examinations to assess the same learning outcomes and assessment criteria as the traditional invigilated paper-based examination.

Open book assessments provide learners with the opportunity to be assessed on their knowledge and how they apply it, while still maintaining work and family commitments. For example, the NEBOSH Construction Certificate NC1 unit exam provides learners with a 48-hour period to break the examination into smaller chunks. You are expected to properly plan, draft, amend and submit your online paper across this 48-hour period.



As part of the open book examination, you are able to use your notes, textbooks and the internet to research during the exam. This does not necessarily make the online exam any easier. For example, NEBOSH suggest that the online NC1 exam should take you around 8+ hours to complete.

An example question that NEBOSH have provided for the NC1 paper is:

“Based on the scenario only, comment on the health and safety culture on site”

If learners answer by simply reproducing text from course notes, this will not be enough to pass. Learners will need to demonstrate how they can apply the knowledge, by providing answers to the scenario given and, in some cases, specific evidence will be required to support answers.

NEBOSH recommend that learners organise the following prior to the commencement of your exam:

- A desk or table that gives you space to refer to reading materials and prepare your answers.
- A comfortable chair.
- Good lighting.
- Comfortable temperature.
- A clock so you can monitor your time and meet the submission deadline (the deadline will be UK local time so if you are completing the examination outside of the UK you will need to make sure you consider any time zone differences).
- A supply of refreshments and snacks to maintain your energy levels.

Upon completion of a NEBOSH open book exam, learners are expected to complete a closing interview to confirm that the paper that has been submitted is their own work. Closing interviews are a mandatory requirement for the assessment, and failure to show up to your closing interview could mean your paper is not accepted or marked.

It will take place via a video link and will be conducted by an interviewer nominated by your learning partner. The interviewer is usually a NEBOSH-qualified tutor, and will have read your answer document before the exam. They will then ask you questions based on your answers, such as why you came to the conclusions you did, or what element of your answer you think is the most important. Your closing interview will be arranged directly with ACT.

If you would like any further information regarding open book examinations please feel free to contact our team:

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