

# CPCS TECHNICAL & PRACTICAL TEST GUIDE

## Understanding CPCS Testing and What to Expect on Test Day

This guide explains how CPCS testing works, what happens during the assessments and what testers are looking for on test day.



### WHAT IS CPCS TESTING?

CPCS testing assesses whether you have the knowledge, understanding and practical competence required to carry out your role safely and effectively.

Most categories require both a Technical Test and a Practical Test.

### TECHNICAL TEST

- ✓ Knowledge and understanding assessment
- ✓ Questions from the approved CPCS question bank
- ✓ Questions are generated on the morning of the test
- ✓ You must understand the entire syllabus

### A61 APPOINTED PERSON EXCEPTION

- ✓ Written examination format
- ✓ Questions generated on the morning of the test
- ✓ All approved question bank questions may be included
- ✓ Question order will vary from revision materials

### PRACTICAL TEST

- ✓ Demonstration of practical competence
- ✓ Safe operation of equipment
- ✓ Tasks based on real work activities
- ✓ Assessed by an approved CPCS Tester

## THE CPCS TESTING JOURNEY



### WHAT TESTERS ARE LOOKING FOR

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Competence
- ✓ Observation
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Compliance

Safety is always the number one priority.

### CAN THE TESTER HELP ME?

#### TECHNICAL TEST

The tester will explain the process and answer questions about the test instructions only. They cannot help with the answers.

#### PRACTICAL TEST

The tester will explain the tasks and answer questions about the test only. They cannot coach, guide or assist during the assessment. You must demonstrate your own competence.

### COMMON REASONS CANDIDATES FAIL

#### TECHNICAL TEST

- ✗ Poor preparation
- ✗ Misreading questions
- ✗ Weak understanding of legislation
- ✗ Not knowing the full syllabus

#### PRACTICAL TEST

- ✗ Poor observations
- ✗ Unsafe operation
- ✗ Not following procedures
- ✗ Poor communication
- ✗ Lack of planning
- ✗ Rushing tasks

### TEST DAY TIPS

- ✓ Get a good night's sleep
- ✓ Arrive in good time
- ✓ Bring required ID
- ✓ Wear appropriate PPE
- ✓ Listen carefully
- ✓ Read questions thoroughly
- ✓ Do not rush
- ✓ Think safety first
- ✓ Ask for clarification where permitted
- ✓ Trust your training

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ?** Are all candidates asked the same questions?  
No. Most categories receive a selection of questions generated from the CPCS question bank.
- ?** Is the A61 Appointed Person Technical Test different?  
Yes. The A61 category follows a different format and may include all approved question bank questions.
- ?** Are CPCS tests timed?  
Yes. Assessments are conducted within durations specified by CPCS standards and category requirements.
- ?** Can the tester help me during the test?  
Testers can explain instructions but cannot coach candidates through the assessment.
- ?** Is safety more important than speed?  
Yes. CPCS testing prioritises safe working practices and competence over speed.

### CONCLUSION

CPCS testing is designed to confirm that you have the knowledge, understanding and practical competence required for your role. Arrive prepared, work safely and demonstrate your ability with confidence.