Qualification Specification

ProQual Level 5 Award in Reduction & Mitigation of Pollution Incidents in the Water Industry

ProQual Level 5 Award in Reduction & Mitigation of Pollution Incidents in the Water Industry

This qualification is part of ProQual's broad offer of qualifications in the Water Industry Sector.

To find out more about other qualifications in this, or any other sector, or for our latest fees; check our Fees Schedule via the QR code below:

Scan Here

Contents

Introduction

The ProQual Level 5 Award in Reduction and Mitigation of Pollution Incidents provides a nationally recognised qualification for those currently working within or progressing into roles within the water and wastewater sector. It is particularly suited to individuals with responsibility for wastewater compliance, risk management, operational resilience, and the reduction and mitigation of pollution incidents.

This includes roles such as wastewater managers, field managers, asset managers, and other professionals involved in supporting compliance and environmental performance within the water industry.

The aims of this qualification are to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of wastewater pollution incidents, including causes and impacts.
- Strengthen understanding of regulatory compliance requirements within the water and wastewater sector.
- Support the identification and assessment of pollution risk and operational vulnerability.
- Develop learners' ability to reduce and mitigate pollution incidents through effective planning and controls.
- Enable learners to evaluate response actions, including investigation, reporting and corrective measures.
- Support improved environmental performance and continuous improvement within wastewater operations.

The awarding body for this qualification is ProQual AB. This qualification has been approved for delivery in England. The regulatory body for this qualification is Ofqual. This qualification has been accredited onto the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) and has been published in Ofqual's Register of Qualifications.

Qualification Profile

Qualification Title:	ProQual Level 5 Award in Reduction and Mitigation of Pollution Incidents in the Water Industry
Qualification Number:	610/7134/1
Level:	5
Total Qualification Time (TQT):	90 hours 9 credits
Guided Learning Hours (GLH):	30 hours
Assessment:	Pass/Fail
	Internally assessed and verified by centre staff
	External quality assured by ProQual Verifiers
Qualification Start Date:	02/03/2026
Qualification Review Date:	02/03/2029

Learner Profile

This qualification is aimed at those currently working within or progressing into roles within the water and wastewater sector. It is particularly suited to individuals with responsibility for wastewater compliance, risk management, operational resilience, and the reduction and mitigation of pollution incidents.

This includes roles such as wastewater managers, field managers, asset managers, and other professionals involved in supporting compliance and environmental performance within the water industry.

There are no formal academic entry requirements for this qualification. Centres should carry out their own initial assessment of a candidate's initial knowledge and skills.

Candidates must be aged at least 16 years old on the day that they are registered for this qualification. Centres are reminded that no assessment activity may take place until a candidate has been registered.

Qualification Structure

This qualification consists of **one** mandatory unit. Candidates must fully complete the mandatory unit to achieve this qualification.

Unit Number	Unit Title	Level	TQT	GLH
Mandatory Units – Candidates must complete **all** units in this group.				
M/651/9742	Reduction and Mitigation of Pollution Incidents in the Water Industry	5	90	30

Centre Requirements

Centres must be approved to deliver this qualification. If your centre is not approved to deliver this qualification, please complete and submit the **ProQual Additional Qualification Approval Form.**

Materials produced by centres to support candidates should:

- Enable them to track their achievements as they progress through the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
- Provide information on where ProQual's policies and procedures can be viewed.
- Provide a means of enabling Internal and External Quality Assurance staff to authenticate evidence.

Certification

Candidates who achieve the requirements for this qualification will be awarded:

- A certificate listing all units achieved, and
- A certificate giving the full qualification title:

ProQual Level 5 Award in Reduction and Mitigation of Pollution Incidents in the Water Industry

Claiming certificates

Centres may claim certificates for candidates who have been registered with ProQual and who have successfully achieved the qualification. All certificates will be issued to the centre for successful candidates.

Unit certificates

If a candidate does not achieve all of the units required for a qualification, the centre may claim a unit certificate for the candidate which will list all of the units achieved.

Replacement certificates

If a replacement certificate is required a request must be made to ProQual in writing. Replacement certificates are labelled as such and are only provided when the claim has been authenticated. Refer to the Fee Schedule for details of charges for replacement.

Assessment Requirements

Each candidate is required to produce a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates their achievement of all of the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Evidence can include:

- Assignments/projects/reports.
- Professional discussion.
- Candidate product.
- Worksheets.
- Record of oral and written questioning.
- Recognition of Prior Learning.

Candidates must demonstrate the level of competence described in the unit. Assessment is the process of measuring a candidate's skill, knowledge and understanding against the standards set in the qualification.

Centre staff assessing this qualification must be **occupationally competent** and qualified to make assessment decisions. Assessors who are suitably qualified may hold a qualification such as, but not limited to:

- ProQual Level 3 Certificate in Teaching, Training and Assessment.
- ProQual Level 3 Award in Education and Training.
- ProQual Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment. *(Suitable for assessment taking place in a working environment only.)*
- ProQual Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocational Achievement. *(Suitable for assessment taking place in a simulated training environment only.)*

Candidate portfolios must be internally verified by centre staff who are **occupationally knowledgeable** and qualified to make quality assurance decisions. Internal verifiers who are suitably qualified may hold a qualification such as:

- ProQual Level 4 Award in the Internal QA of Assessment Processes and Practice.
- ProQual Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal QA of Assessment Processes and Practice.

Occupationally competent means capable of carrying out the full requirements contained within a unit. **Occupationally knowledgeable** means possessing relevant knowledge and understanding.

Enquiries, Appeals and Adjustments

Adjustments to standard assessment arrangements are made on the individual needs of candidates. ProQual's Reasonable Adjustments Policy and Special Consideration Policy sets out the steps to follow when implementing reasonable adjustments and special considerations and the service that ProQual provides for some of these arrangements.

Centres should contact ProQual for further information or queries about the contents of the policy.

All enquiries relating to assessment or other decisions should be dealt with by centres, with reference to ProQual's Enquiries and Appeals Procedures.

Units – Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

<table>
<tr><td>Title:</td><td colspan="3">Reduction and Mitigation of Pollution Incidents in the Water Industry</td><td>Level:</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unit Number:</td><td>M/651/9742</td><td>TQT:</td><td>90</td><td>GLH:</td><td>30</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unit Purpose and Aims</td><td colspan="5">This unit develops learners' ability to critically analyse wastewater pollution incidents, including their causes, impacts and regulatory implications.

It enables learners to evaluate pollution risks and operational vulnerabilities, apply mitigation and control strategies, and critically review response actions to support regulatory compliance, environmental protection and continuous improvement within wastewater operations.

This unit is linked to the following frameworks and standards:
• Institute of Asset Management (IAM) Competency Framework Part 1.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Learning Outcomes
The learner will be able to:</th><th colspan="2">Assessment Criteria
The learner can:</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">1</td><td rowspan="3">Analyse the regulatory and legislative framework governing wastewater pollution control.</td><td>1.1</td><td>Analyse the regulatory framework governing wastewater networks, treatment processes, and environmental discharges.</td></tr>
<tr><td>1.2</td><td>Evaluate licensing and permitting requirements and their implications for operational decision-making.</td></tr>
<tr><td>1.3</td><td>Appraise applicable quality standards and compliance thresholds within wastewater operations.</td></tr>
</table>

1	*Continued*	1.4	Analyse regulatory quality, compliance, and financial reporting requirements and their organisational impact.
		1.5	Evaluate the role of corporate governance in assuring regulatory compliance and environmental accountability.
2	Evaluate asset management strategy development within the water industry.	2.1	Evaluate the regulatory, environmental, and economic implications of over- and under-performance against regulatory outcomes.
		2.2	Analyse how enforcement powers and statutory reporting obligations influence asset investment prioritisation.
3	Analyse wastewater infrastructure design in relation to pollution risk.	3.1	Analyse the design principles of combined and separate sewerage systems and their pollution risk profiles.
		3.2	Evaluate public expectations of sewerage system function and the implications for regulatory compliance.
		3.3	Analyse the legal, ethical, and environmental responsibilities associated with sewer operation and permitting.
4	Critically analyse wastewater pollution sources and organisational capability.	4.1	Critically analyse the primary sources and pathways of wastewater pollution.
		4.2	Evaluate different categories and characteristics of wastewater pollution.
		4.3	Critically evaluate organisational capability to identify, measure, and reduce wastewater pollution risk.
5	Analyse the impact and classification of wastewater pollution events.	5.1	Analyse pollution sources associated with wastewater treatment processes.
		5.2	Evaluate the environmental, social, and regulatory impacts of different pollution types.
		5.3	Analyse methods used to categorise wastewater pollution events.

5	*Continued*	5.4	Evaluate approaches used to minimise pollution impact.
6	Evaluate risk and resilience principles within wastewater management.	6.1	Analyse the principles, objectives, and characteristics of risk and resilience management.
		6.2	Evaluate regulatory expectations relating to organisational risk and resilience.
		6.3	Analyse emergency planning and business continuity approaches within wastewater operations.
		6.4	Critically evaluate data collection and analysis techniques used to inform risk and resilience decision-making.
7	Analyse wastewater pollution incidents and their causation.	7.1	Analyse the causes and characteristics of wastewater pollution incidents.
		7.2	Evaluate different pollution event types, including sudden impact and rising tide incidents.
		7.3	Analyse how incident type influences scale, duration, and environmental impact.
8	Evaluate wastewater pollution reduction and mitigation strategies.	8.1	Evaluate the benefits of pollution risk reduction compared with the environmental and financial costs of incident response.
		8.2	Analyse different pollution reduction and mitigation strategies and their relative effectiveness.
		8.3	Critically evaluate the factors influencing the selection and effectiveness of wastewater pollution reduction strategies.

Guidance for Assessors

Indicative Content

This guidance defines the minimum scope and range expected for each Learning Outcome (LO) and Assessment Criterion (AC), supporting consistent assessment decisions across centres.

Learning Outcome 1: Analyse the regulatory and legislative framework governing wastewater pollution control.

1.1 Analyse the regulatory framework governing wastewater networks, treatment processes, and environmental discharges.

Minimum scope includes:

- How regulation applies to networks, treatment processes and environmental discharges,
- Regulatory oversight and compliance assurance mechanisms,
- Operational implications for wastewater compliance and pollution control.

1.2 Evaluate licensing and permitting requirements and their implications for operational decision-making.

Minimum scope includes:

- Purpose and application of permitting/licensing controls,
- Typical permit conditions and operational constraints,
- Implications for maintenance, storm operations and incident escalation.

1.3 Appraise applicable quality standards and compliance thresholds within wastewater operations.

Minimum scope includes:

- Relevant quality standards and compliance thresholds,
- Trigger points and operational response requirements,
- Significance of standards/thresholds for decision-making and assurance.

1.4 Analyse regulatory quality, compliance, and financial reporting requirements and their organisational impact.

Minimum scope includes:

- Compliance and performance reporting requirements,
- Pollution incident reporting and categorisation expectations,
- Organisational assurance and financial/regulatory reporting implications.

1.5 Evaluate the role of corporate governance in assuring regulatory compliance and environmental accountability.

Minimum scope includes:

- Governance responsibilities for compliance oversight,
- Assurance mechanisms (e.g. Audits, risk management, escalation),
- Accountability structures supporting environmental performance.

Learning Outcome 2: Evaluate asset management strategy development within the water industry.

2.1 Evaluate the regulatory, environmental, and economic implications of over- and under-performance against regulatory outcomes.

Minimum scope includes:

- Compliance and enforcement implications of under-performance,
- Cost and opportunity implications of over-performance,
- Environmental impact considerations and investment trade-offs.

2.2 Analyse how enforcement powers and statutory reporting obligations influence asset investment prioritisation.

Minimum scope includes:

- Enforcement powers and escalation mechanisms,
- Influence of statutory reporting on visibility and prioritisation,
- Risk-based investment justification for compliance and resilience.

Learning Outcome 3: Analyse wastewater infrastructure design in relation to pollution risk.

3.1 Analyse the design principles of combined and separate sewerage systems and their pollution risk profiles.

Minimum scope includes:

- Intended function and design characteristics of combined and separate systems,
- Typical pollution risk drivers and failure points,
- Comparative risk profiles (likelihood, severity, consequence.

3.2 Evaluate public expectations of sewerage system function and the implications for regulatory compliance.

Minimum scope includes:

- Public/customer expectations of system performance and transparency,
- Impact on regulatory scrutiny and compliance priorities,
- Organisational implications for reporting and investment decisions.

3.3 Analyse the legal, ethical, and environmental responsibilities associated with sewer operation and permitting.

Minimum scope includes:

- Legal duties relating to permitting, operation and reporting,
- Ethical responsibilities and duty of care considerations,
- Environmental responsibilities and protection of receiving waters.

Learning Outcome 4: Critically analyse wastewater pollution sources and organisational capability.

4.1 Critically analyse the primary sources and pathways of wastewater pollution.

Minimum scope includes:

- Primary sources of pollution within wastewater networks and treatment,
- Pathways to environmental harm and escalation factors,
- Contributing operational and asset-related causes.

4.2 Evaluate different categories and characteristics of wastewater pollution.

Minimum scope includes:

- Pollution categories and typical characteristics,
- Factors affecting severity and impact potential,
- Implications for monitoring, prioritisation and response.

4.3 Critically evaluate organisational capability to identify, measure, and reduce wastewater pollution risk.

Minimum scope includes:

- Capability indicators (competence, monitoring, response, governance),
- Data quality and availability considerations,
- Constraints impacting risk reduction effectiveness.

Learning Outcome 5: Analyse the impact and classification of wastewater pollution events.

5.1 Analyse pollution sources associated with wastewater treatment processes.

Minimum scope includes:

- Treatment-related failure points and pollution sources,
- Operational and asset control measures,
- Factors affecting likelihood and consequence.

5.2 Evaluate the environmental, social, and regulatory impacts of different pollution types.

Minimum scope includes:

- Environmental, social and regulatory consequences,
- Severity drivers (duration, volume, sensitivity of receiving environment),
- Implications for organisational response and reporting.

5.3 Analyse methods used to categorise wastewater pollution events.

Minimum scope includes:

- Categorisation principles (severity, impact, duration, source),
- Reporting and escalation implications,
- Role of categorisation in prioritising response and learning.

5.4 Evaluate approaches used to minimise pollution impact.

Minimum scope includes:

- Immediate containment/control measures,
- Response coordination and communication requirements,
- Post-incident corrective and preventative actions.

Learning Outcome 6: Evaluate risk and resilience principles within wastewater management.

6.1 Analyse the principles, objectives, and characteristics of risk and resilience management.

Minimum scope includes:

- Risk concepts (likelihood, consequence, controls),
- Resilience concepts (preparedness, recovery, adaptation),
- Characteristics of effective organisational implementation.

6.2 Evaluate regulatory expectations relating to organisational risk and resilience

Minimum scope includes:

- Regulatory expectations for proactive risk management and assurance,
- Resilience planning and governance requirements,
- Consequences of inadequate control or assurance.

6.3 Analyse emergency planning and business continuity approaches within wastewater operations.

Minimum scope includes:

- Emergency planning arrangements and escalation,
- Business continuity considerations for critical wastewater functions,
- Dependencies affecting response and recovery capability.

6.4 Critically evaluate data collection and analysis techniques used to inform risk and resilience decision-making.

Minimum scope includes:

- Relevant data sources and intelligence inputs,
- Analysis techniques supporting prioritisation and assurance,
- Limitations affecting accuracy and confidence in decision-making.

Learning Outcome 7: Analyse wastewater pollution incidents and their causation.

7.1 Analyse the causes and characteristics of wastewater pollution incidents.

Minimum scope includes:

- Common causes across network and treatment operations,
- Incident characteristics (detectability, duration, recurrence),
- Factors influencing severity and escalation.

7.2 Evaluate different pollution event types, including sudden impact and rising tide incidents.

Minimum scope includes:

- Features and risk characteristics of sudden impact events,
- Features and risk characteristics of rising tide events,
- Comparative response and detection considerations.

7.3 Analyse how incident type influences scale, duration, and environmental impact.

Minimum scope includes:

- Factors influencing scale and spread of harm,
- How duration and detectability affect consequence,
- Sensitivity and recovery considerations for receiving environments.

Learning Outcome 8: Evaluate wastewater pollution reduction and mitigation strategies.

8.1 Evaluate the benefits of pollution risk reduction compared with the environmental and financial costs of incident response.

Minimum scope includes:

- Benefits of prevention for compliance and environmental performance,
- Financial/resource costs of response, remediation and investigation,
- Short- and long-term organisational impact.

8.2 Analyse different pollution reduction and mitigation strategies and their relative effectiveness.

Minimum scope includes:

- Prevention-focused reduction strategies,
- Mitigation strategies to limit impact,
- Comparative effectiveness based on feasibility, cost and impact reduction potential.

8.3 Critically evaluate the factors influencing the selection and effectiveness of wastewater pollution reduction strategies.

Minimum scope includes:

- Regulatory, operational, financial and organisational selection factors,
- Constraints affecting implementation and effectiveness,
- Interaction of risk profile, capability and stakeholder expectations.

Minimum range expectation

Where criteria refer to approaches, methods or strategies, learners should normally include 2–3 relevant examples, covering both prevention and mitigation, and consider regulatory, environmental and organisational impacts.

Additional Assessment Information

This award is **knowledge based.** This means that evidence is expected to take the form of candidate's written work and/or records of appropriate professional discussions.

Centres may use the appropriate ProQual Candidate Workbook to organise candidate evidence or may use their own portfolio templates.

Appendix One – Command Verb Definitions

The table below explains what is expected from each **command verb** used in an assessment objective. Not all verbs are used in this specification

Apply	Use existing knowledge or skills in a new or different context.
Appraise	Assess and judge the quality, value or effectiveness of something, using relevant evidence or criteria, and reach a justified conclusion.
Analyse	Break a larger subject into smaller parts, examine them in detail and show how these parts are related to each other. This may be supported by reference to current research or theories.
Classify	Organise information according to specific criteria.
Compare	Examine subjects in detail, giving the similarities and differences.
Critically Compare	As with compare but extended to include pros and cons of the subject. There may or may not be a conclusion or recommendation as appropriate.
Describe	Provide detailed, factual information about a subject.
Discuss	Give a detailed account of a subject, including a range of contrasting views and opinions.
Evaluate	Review and judge the strengths, weaknesses, effectiveness or significance of something, using evidence, and reach a reasoned conclusion
Explain	As with describe but extended to include causation and reasoning.
Identify	Select or ascertain appropriate information and details from a broader range of information or data.
Interpret	Use information or data to clarify or explain something.
Produce	Make or create something.
State	Give short, factual information about something.
Specify	State a fact or requirement clearly and in precise detail.

ProQual Awarding Body
ProQual House
Unit 1, Innovation Drive
Newport, Brough
HU15 2GX

Tel: 01430 423 822
enquiries@proqualab.com
www.proqualab.com

© ProQual AB