

## Counselling L4, L5, L6

Updated on 01 April 2021

The following qualifications have been identified as being in **Category A** in the VTQ Contingency Regulatory Framework (VCRF). This means that the qualification is used to establish professional competence and is not eligible for teacher assessed grades.

There are adaptations that can be applied to the assessments taking place in the 2020-21 academic year. This means that the specific areas mentioned below can be applied but the rest of the qualification must be completed and evidenced in full.

Qualifications which have been designated as being in category A have been reviewed by the team at AIM and where appropriate, professional body guidance sought to confirm that the adaptations would be accepted.

### The following qualifications include adapted assessment.

AIM Qualifications Level 4 Diploma in Counselling Practice (live)	603/3987/1
AIM Qualifications Level 5 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Practice (live)	603/3988/3
AIM Qualifications Level 6 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Practice Informed by Research (live)	603/3989/5
AIM Qualifications Level 4 Diploma in Counselling Practice (expiring)	601/3288/7
AIM Qualifications Level 5 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Practice (expiring)	601/3301/6
AIM Qualifications Level 6 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Practice Informed by Research (expiring)	601/3302/8

### Summary of adaptations

The adaptations mean that certain Level 4 content in the Level 4 qualifications that was assessed by externally set and externally marked written examinations is to be assessed via externally set and externally marked controlled tasks.

Submission deadline dates for the externally marked coursework in the Level 4 (SSP), Level 5 (Research Proposal and SSP) and Level 6 (Dissertation) qualifications (withdrawn and live) have been set.

NEW: Centres must schedule learners for the externally marked coursework following usual scheduling process.

All other assessments in these qualifications remain unchanged.

## Level 4 Diploma in Counselling Practice (live) 603/3987/1

**Level 3:** information on how the L3 assessment within this qualification may be assessed by Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) can be [here](#).

Type of assessment	<p><b>Externally set, internally and externally verified controlled task.</b></p> <p>The assessment consists of questions that cover a broad range of knowledge and understanding of the three main approaches to counselling and the theorists that underpin most counselling practice. It will enable learners to embark on evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of using various approaches to counselling.</p>
Availability (booking)	<p><b>Window:</b> June 2021 1st June – 29th June. Centres must ensure learners undertake the assessment within this window.</p> <p>Centres must schedule their learners for this assessment by 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 following usual AIM process.</p> <p>Results issued to centres on 12th August 2021.</p>
Controls	<p>The task is devised by AIM and will be released to centres five working days prior to the relevant window (dates above). Papers will be sent to centres directly using the information provided when scheduling the assessment.</p> <p>The assessment must take place under controlled conditions, as set out in the following <a href="#">document</a>. Remote assessments are permitted.</p> <p>AIM must be informed of the planned assessment date.</p> <p>The assessment must be posted and/or emailed back to AIM within 48 hours of the assessment being completed.</p> <p>The assessment is marked by AIM and results issued to centres.</p>
Duration	2 hours
Number of marks	50 marks
Grading	Pass/Merit/Distinction
Component covered	Counselling Theory L3 (K/617/4240)
Sample assessment	Available to download from the <a href="#">AIM Portal</a>

## Level 4 Diploma in Counselling Practice (expiring) 601/3288/7

The following assessment adaptation fully replaces the written examination assessment for the qualification above:

Type of assessment	<p><b>Externally set and externally marked controlled task.</b></p> <p>The assignment consists of questions that assesses the learner’s understanding of the key concepts of a chosen core theoretical model and the strengths and limitations of this chosen model.</p>
Availability (booking)	<p><b>Window:</b> June 2021 1st June – 29th June. Centres must ensure learners undertake the assessment within this window.</p> <p>Centres must schedule their learners for this assessment by 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 following usual AIM process.</p> <p>Results issued to centres on 12th August 2021.</p>
Controls	<p>The task is devised by AIM and will be released to centres five working days prior to the relevant window (dates above). Papers will be sent to centres directly using the information provided when scheduling the assessment.</p> <p>The assessment must take place under controlled conditions, as set out in the following <a href="#">document</a>.</p> <p>AIM must be informed of the planned assessment date.</p> <p>The assessment must be posted and/or emailed back to AIM within 48 hours of the assessment being completed.</p> <p>The assessment is marked by AIM and results issued to centres.</p>
Duration	2 hours
Number of marks	60 marks
Grading	Pass/Fail
Component covered	Counselling: Embarking on Practice L4 (Y/506/3060)
Sample assessment	Available on the <a href="#">AIM website</a>

## Guidance on practice hours

The log of counselling practice form has been updated and is available for you to download from the Portal. This form is to record the required 100 hours supervised practice within the Level 4 Diploma in Counselling Practice and Level 5 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling qualifications.

### What's changed

Due to Covid, most learners are unable to get the 100 required hours through in-the-room practice (1), with some having to use other methods, for example video or telephone.

We've been working with other Awarding Organisations, BACP and NCS looking at additional ways of assessing that these learners are capable of in the room practice.

The 'log of counselling practice' form has been updated to include an additional section for recording the arrangements that have been made and completed to ensure learners are competent to work 'in-the-room'. This section must be completed for any learners where the opportunity to evidence in-the-room competence has been limited.

Examples of our expectations can be found in the provider meeting slides below. Your interim EV visits are opportunities to present any partially completed logs for review by EV so that they can be recorded and any gaps can be identified.

### Submission deadline dates introduced

We have introduced submission deadlines for completed forms to be sent to [enquiries@aim-group.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@aim-group.org.uk) for external verification. This is to ensure our approach is standardised across centres, and to also be able to provide feedback around our expectations. Therefore, centres can no longer claim for the logs on the eRAC.

The submission dates can be found on External Assessment Schedule page. We will be adding dates for later in the year once we have received further guidance from the professional bodies.

We also ask that you transfer all partially completed logs onto the new forms and submit these to [enquiries@aim-group.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@aim-group.org.uk).

Centres should also refer to guidance offered by professional bodies (i.e. [BACP](#) and [NCS](#)) regarding remote practice hours.

(1) in-the-room: Where the client and the learner are both physically in the room together. Not face to face on video call.

## Submission deadline dates for the Study of Supervised Practice, Research Proposal and Dissertation

<p>Qualifications</p>	<p>AIM Qualifications Level 4 Diploma in Counselling Practice (withdrawn 2019) 601/3288/7</p> <p>AIM Qualifications Level 5 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling (withdrawn 2019) 601/3301/6</p> <p>AIM Qualifications Level 6 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling (Informed by Research) (withdrawn 2019) 601/3302/8</p> <p>AIM Qualifications Level 4 Diploma in Counselling Practice (live) 603/3987/1</p> <p>AIM Qualifications Level 5 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling (live) 603/3988/3</p> <p>AIM Qualifications Level 6 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling (Informed by Research) (live) 603/3989/5</p>
<p>Availability (booking)</p>	<p><b>Submission date:</b> 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Submitted following usual AIM process.</p> <p>Centres must schedule their learners for this assessment by 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 following usual scheduling process.</p> <p>Results issued to centres 12th August 2021.</p>