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THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD

A Guide for Sectional Assessors

What is a Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

Anyone between the ages of 14 and 24 can take part in a Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).

A DofE programme has three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to either a **Bronze**, **Silver** or **Gold** Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four sections at **Bronze** and **Silver** level and five at **Gold**:

Volunteering: undertaking service to individuals or the community.

Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness

Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests.

Expedition: planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.

At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth **Residential** section, which involves staying and working away from home undertaking a shared activity.

How does a young person achieve their Award?

A DofE programme is **personalised** and **individual**. Young people agree the outcomes they will achieve over the duration of their programme.

Young people will achieve a Duke of Edinburgh's Award if they show persistence, commitment and personal development. DofE does not require a portfolio or exam to evidence this; every section can be signed off as completed once an Assessor is satisfied that the young person has committed to their activity and shown personal progress.


How long does a DofE programme take to complete?

BRONZE

Volunteering 3 months	<i>PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</i>
Physical 3 months	
Skills 3 months	
Expedition 2 days 1 night	



Bronze takes a minimum of 6 months to complete



Each section

1
HOUR

average per week

When can DofE activities take place?

Activities can be undertaken:

- In a young person's own time
- Partly as one of a range of options in supported/core time
- As an after school programme

Volunteering section

Volunteering is simple. It's about choosing to give time to do something useful without getting paid.

Aim

To inspire young people to make a difference within their communities or to an individual's life and develop compassion by giving service to others.

Categories

- Helping people
- Community action and raising awareness
- Coaching, teaching and leadership
- Working with the environment or animals
- Helping a charity or community organisation

Examples

- School librarian
- Raising money for charity
- Helping to run an after school club
- Running a bullying campaign around school
- Helping at an animal shelter

Physical section

Anything that requires a sustained level of physical energy and involves doing an activity can count – as long as you show interest and improvement over time.

Aim

To inspire young people to achieve greater physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through participation and improvement in physical activity.

Categories

- Team sports
- Individual sports
- Water sports
- Racquet sports
- Dance
- Fitness

Examples

- Playing football for a local team
- Dance class such as Zumba
- Tennis
- Going to the gym
- Swimming

Skills section

Something old, something new – it doesn't matter.

Aim

To inspire young people to develop practical and social skills and personal interests

Categories

- Creative arts
- Performance arts
- Science and technology
- Care of animals
- Music
- Life skills
- Learning and collecting
- Media and communication
- Natural world
- Games

Examples

- Money management
- After school drama group
- School choir
- Independent travel
- Cooking

Process to achieving an Award

These activities should be undertaken during a young person's free time. Activities may take place at the school/centre or elsewhere but all activities must be agreed in advance by a Leader. Young people must be able to identify an adult to assess them. This flowchart gives an overview of the steps involved for a young person to complete their DofE.



Who can be an Assessor


- An Assessor must be an adult who has an understanding of the activity that the young person is doing.
- They do not need to be present each time the young person does the activity.
- A family member or friend cannot be an Assessor.


What is an Assessor's Report

The Assessor's Report must:

- Be written by the assessor
- Confirm how long the young person did the activity and that they did it for at least an hour a week.
- Confirm how the young person improved and if they met their personal goal
- Be signed and dated
- Include contact information (phone or email address)

Example of Assessor's Reports





**ASSESSOR'S REPORT
SKILLS**

Participant: JOE BLOGGS

eDofE ID No.: 123456

Level: Gold

Activity: PLAYING THE PIANO

Date started: 03/09/13 Completed: 09/04/14

Goals set by participant: TO ACHIEVE GRADE 2 AND
PLAY SOME GRADE 3 PIECES. PLAY IN SCHOOL CONCERT

Assessor's comments:

Please write in as much as possible, saving about timing, teamwork if applicable and achievements. What you enter will categorise the achievement of the young person and will form part of their permanent record on their eDofE programme.

I can confirm that Joe has been playing piano for the past 6 months. He did very well, passing his Grade 2 piano exam with merit. He also performed a solo at the school concert. Joe should be very pleased with his progress and should be taking his Grade 3 by Christmas this year. Well Done!

Signature: A. Potter

Assessor's first name: Anne Last name: Potter

Assessor's position/qualification: Piano Teacher ABRASM


Assessor's phone number: 01992 012345

Assessor's email: anne.potter@music.com

Participants should scan or photograph this page and upload to eDofE as evidence.

Assessor's report
✕

I can confirm that Joe Bloggs has been attending Football Training after school since September 2013. He has developed his skills and tried out different positions. His teamwork has also improved and his contribution has helped win 3 out of 5 school matches. | Tom Jones - tomjones@football.com -




Close

An Assessor's Report submitted through the website is sent directly to the Leader on eDofE www.DofE.org/assessor
You will need:
 Participant's ID number
 Level
 Section

An Assessor's Report from the Welcome pack, uploaded by the participant or Leader


Assessor Report
✕

Unfortunately Pete's music teacher/assessor has left the school before Peter was able to obtain his Assessor Report. I can confirm that Peter did attend regular music lessons for a period of 3 months. Peter enjoyed learning the piano and plans to carry this onto the next level of his award. John Smith, DoFE Leader, Corston Academy, j.smith@corstonacademy.co.uk



Close


An Assessor's Report submitted by the Leader through eDofE



GOOD CAUSE


Charity Shop, 123 High Street, Town, City, AB1 2CD
0123 456789
manager-town@shop.com

Wednesday 9th March 2014



To whom it may concern,

I can confirm that Joe Bloggs has been volunteering at Charity Shop between 5th October 2013 and 5th March 2014. Joe is a very friendly person and has had a big impact. He works well with the other volunteers and helps sort out new donations and arrange the shop. We wish Joe all the best for the future and hope he continues to volunteer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

 Jane Smith
 Manager

A signed letter from the Assessor, uploaded by the participant or Leader.

Benefits for young people

Provides a challenge

Great on your CV

Shows perseverance & commitment

Leadership & teamwork skills

Builds confidence

Fun!

New talents & abilities

Provides new experiences

Notes

