

Adventure Unlimited

Single Pitch Award Assessment Course

Introduction

The Single Pitch Award (SPA) assessment course is designed to assess the suitability of those people wishing to work with groups on single pitch crags throughout the UK. The assessment that you are about to undertake is designed to give a thorough testing of your suitability as an SPA instructor.

The following are a few notes from the MLTE regarding the scheme:

“The scheme is for those who are in a position of responsibility during single pitch rock climbing activities”

“It is primarily concerned with good practice, leading to the safe and quiet enjoyment of the activities”

When arriving for assessment make sure that you are fully kitted out with the group equipment and skills which you would need as a qualified instructor. Remember that we are assessing your suitability as an instructor not a trainee!

Top tip: Learn the syllabus!

Pre-requirements

You must have attended a training course or have gained an exemption from training.

Have led a minimum of 40 climbs, outdoors, on leader placed protection.

Have the ability to lead to Severe standard on a variety of different rock types.

Have assisted with the supervision of at least 20 sessions at a variety of locations, where a session is a half day or evening.

Syllabus

The MLTE have recognised the following areas as the responsibility of the SPA group leader. They will be tested during your SPA assessment so it is important to have a good understanding of them.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE

- 1Equipment
- 2Anchors
- 3Belaying
- 4Abseiling
- 5Personal climbing skills
- 6Background knowledge

THE CLIMBING ENVIRONMENT

- 7Access
- 8Conservation
- 9Etiquette

SUPERVISION

- 10Organisation
- 11Group management
- 12Supervision of a session.

Programme

The course consists of two days of practical and theoretical assessments covering all aspects of the SPA syllabus. We strongly recommend that you use your copy of the SPA handbook to help you prepare for the assessment.

Day 1 Peak District

TIME 9.30 am

MEETING PLACE Padley Farm B+B
Dungworth Green
Sheffield
S6 6HE

REQUIREMENTS Be prepared for a day on the crags. Suitable clothing and footwear should be worn. Please supply your own food, guide books for the main crags in the Eastern Peak, personal climbing equipment (ropes will be supplied by Adventure Unlimited), and group equipment. Personal transport will be used throughout the assessment.

CONTENT Meet with assessors, out to crag where personal climbing skills will be assessed, assessment of other areas of the SPA syllabus, briefing for group day on Day 2.

Day 2 Peak District

TIME 9.30 am.

MEETING PLACE Confirmed on Day 1

REQUIREMENTS Be prepared for a day on the crags with a *group*. Suitable clothing and footwear should be worn. As for Day 1 please supply your own food, guide books, equipment (ropes will be supplied). Bring group climbing equipment.

CONTENT Group skills, management, and problem solving. assessment of SPA skills with a 'live' group, results, final de brief.

Any course cancellations due to lack of participants will be made no later than 10 days prior to the course start date. If this situation does occur then an alternative date will be given or a full refund made.

For MLTE courses the board stipulates a minimum of 4 candidates have to attend the course for it to run.