

## **RAD TRAINING LTD. – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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**Is gas engineering still a viable career if gas is being phased out in the UK?**

Yes. The ban on domestic gas boilers in 2025 only applies to new-build properties. Existing properties will still be able to have replacement boilers until 2035 when the sale of gas boilers is stopped altogether (assuming government policy goes to plan). For many years after this date, existing boilers will still need yearly servicing and repair. Furthermore, gas is still very much a big part of the commercial and industrial sectors.

**Do you run evening courses or weekends?**

No. All of our courses run on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. We are a small centre and we do not employ additional staff for weekends or out-of-hours training. This helps keep our course costs low.

**What are your pass rates?**

For a candidate who has undertaken training at our centre, the assessment pass rate is around 95 %, rising to 98 % when second attempts are taken into account.

**Why is your gas foundation course cheaper than others?**

We do not source work placements and so do not have to pay mentors or supervisors for portfolio building. Instead, novice candidates source their own supervisor who is often a friend or relative in the gas industry. We have found this to be much more successful than placing candidates with strangers.

**Are your exams online or paper-based?**

All our exams are paper-based. We have found this to be more flexible than computer-based or online assessment.

**What is ACS?**

Accredited Certification Scheme, the scheme for gas qualifications in the UK.

### **What can I do if I can't find a work placement supervisor?**

Finding a qualified person willing to supervise a trainee is difficult.

Some of our candidates have had success by using the 'Find a Gas Engineer' facility on the Gas Safe Register website. You can search for engineers by location and by the type of work (domestic or commercial) that they do.

Be upfront about the requirements (80 supervised gas jobs). Offer an exchange of services – your labour (lifting boilers, cookers, taking up floorboards etc.) in return for their knowledge and experience in gas work.

You should not expect to be paid for this work because your supervisor will have to slow down their normal working speed to accommodate you.

### **If I want to be a commercial gas engineer, do I have to start with domestic?**

No. Unlike some training centres, RAD Training offers a direct route into commercial or industrial gas work. The commercial foundation course is called GGFO CI (Guild of Gas Fitting Operatives – Commercial). More details can be found on the **Industrial** page of our website.

### **Do I have to wait 6 months before I can add appliances?**

No. When you first do your ACS core assessment, you can also do assessments for any appliances for which you have sufficient experience in your portfolio. This means you can become qualified to work on those appliances at the same time you qualify in core gas safety. Minimum requirement is 3 installs and 3 full services of the appliance.

If you wish to add appliances which have not been sufficiently covered in your portfolio, you will have to wait until you have been Gas Safe Registered for 6 months. During that time you should gather evidence of work you have done on the appliance under the supervision of a qualified fitter.

## **What percentage do I have to get to pass?**

You must achieve 100 % to pass any gas safety assessment. However, with most exams you effectively get three attempts to achieve this:

1. Multiple choice questions
2. Multiple choice for any questions you got wrong in attempt 1.
3. Full written answers for any questions you got wrong in attempt 2.

If your answer is still wrong after attempt 3, you will get what is called a **referral**. This means you must return to that question after the rest of the assessment has been completed. This gives you a chance to study the topic.

*Note: for first-time ACS assessments you need to score at least 80 % on attempt 2. For reassessments you need at least 80 % on attempt 1.*

## **What happens if I completely fail my assessment?**

You will be given feedback on where you went wrong and guidance on what you need to study. You will be given additional training materials and exercises to work through. We can communicate with mentors to advise them of any practical areas to focus on.

When you are ready, you can re-take the assessment free of charge.

## **Are the exams open book or closed book?**

For first time assessments there is one closed book exam (no reference materials allowed). The rest of the exams are open book (reference material may be used).

For reassessments, all exams are open book.

## **Is funding available for courses?**

We cannot arrange funding but we do accept funding from various sources. For example, we are registered as a training provider with the Department of Work and Pensions who arrange funding for the Jobcentre.

We have also trained and assessed many candidates who have obtained funding after redundancy or leaving the Armed Forces.

### **How good do my English and maths have to be?**

You must be able to read and understand manufacturers' instructions, British Standards and Regulations. You will need basic calculator skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and decimals.

There is not a great deal of writing in the course. Most exams are either multiple choice or calculations.

### **Why are course durations approximate?**

There are no time limits on exams, so different people take different times to finish. If a person takes 3 minutes per question on a 40-question exam, it will take 2 hours to complete. If a different person takes 2 minutes per question, it will take one hour twenty minutes. Across several exams this can make a big difference.

### **What further training and assessment routes will be available after I'm qualified?**

After 6 months of being Gas Safe registered, and after relevant supervised experience and training, you can add new ACS elements to your existing qualifications including:

- Additional appliances
- Additional domains of work, e.g. industrial, catering, LPG, meter installation

### **What books and training materials are available?**

Extensive printed notes are provided on all topics during training. Candidates should also obtain copies of:

- Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998
- Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure (IGEM/G/11)

Both are available free online.

We strongly recommend candidates purchase a set of gas safety textbooks such as the NICEIC On-Site Guides.

During exams, all relevant standards will be made available to candidates.

## What doesn't the GGFO foundation course cover?

The GGFO primarily focuses on gas work safety and identifying gas safety defects in existing installations. It does not cover:

- Plumbing
- Electrical work (other than safe isolation)
- Fault finding (of non-gas components)
- Work upstream of the emergency control valve (ECV)

## Why isn't fault finding covered in the GGFO foundation course?

GGFO training covers simple operational testing of gas components such as regulators, flame supervision devices, etc. However, fault finding on electrical components is more advanced technical work which requires broader experience and knowledge in how the various components work together. Before moving on to fault finding you need to learn basic gas safety procedures, and this is what the GGFO is designed for.

After becoming qualified and Gas Safe registered you can attend boiler manufacturers' courses that cover fault finding and the use of electrical test equipment. These are often free or reasonably priced in order to build brand loyalty.

## Why does the portfolio need so many jobs?

[ACS Entry Requirements Guidance Note 8](#) specifies a minimum number of hours for learning times for new entrants to the gas industry. Training centres divide this total time differently between classroom and workplace. In our view, more time spent in the workplace means less time in the classroom, which brings the course cost down.

## How can I tell if a training course is a scam?

The list of centres approved to run Managed Learning Programmes for entry into the gas industry can be found here: <https://www.euskills.co.uk/training-provider-directory/>

If the training centre is not on this list, beware. There are a number of bogus training providers who will demand up-front payment but not deliver training.

## Why do I need training if I've done ACS before?

Training for ACS reassessments is not compulsory. However, you should be prepared for any changes to standards and methods since your last assessment. Also, consider parts of the assessment that you may not do very often.

Below is a list of tasks you will be expected to undertake in the domestic natural gas reassessment:

- Determine correct pipe sizes using charts in BS 6891:2015
- Test standing pressure and meter working pressure
- Test appliance operating pressure (and make adjustments if necessary)
- Test appliance gas rate / heat input (without using a phone app)
- Identify, explain and test appliance user controls and safety controls
- Perform combustion analysis on flueless, open flue and condensing appliances
- Perform a flue integrity (air intake) test on a condensing boiler
- Identify a positive case pressure boiler and perform a case seal test
- Calculate installation volume (IV) and purge volume (PV) of a domestic system
- Perform tightness tests to IGEM/UP/IB:
  - on a low-pressure mains system
  - on a medium-pressure mains system without a meter inlet valve (MIV)
- Purge small and large domestic installations to IGEM/UP/IB
- Calculate ventilation requirements of gas appliances
- Categorise faults correctly under the Unsafe Situations Procedure (IGEM/G/11)
- Perform a visual inspection and flue flow test on a chimney
- Measure and check the catchment space of a chimney
- Perform a spillage test on an open flue appliance

*Note: the above list is not exhaustive.*

## What does RAD stand for?

It's the initials of the people who set up RAD Training's original parent company in Kent: Richard, Alan and Dennis.