

May 2009

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Qualification **Functional Skills**
Level
Number **3648**

This news sheet contains the following information:

- ESOL Skills for Life (3692) to be extended until 2012
- Electronic mark scheme
- GCSE Hurdle

This edition of News follows the previous edition sent in **March 2009**.

ESOL Skills for Life (3692) to be extended until 2012

Following a review of all publicly funded ESOL qualifications, QCA has advised that our ESOL Skills for Life qualifications (3692) will be extended until 2012. We are very aware that the current last registration dates for 3692 are June 2009 so will be working closely with QCA and Ofqual to ensure the formal accreditation extension is completed as quickly as possible so that the new end-dates can be displayed on NDAQ, the Learning Aims Database and our own Walled Garden. In the meantime, it is safe to assume that these qualifications will definitely continue to be available (and funded!) beyond this year.

The QCA review of ESOL qualifications has been considering their long-term future in the light of World Class Skills and the development of Functional Skills. As a result we're looking to involve far more ESOL learner cohorts in the 'Adult Strand' of the Functional Skills pilot from this September. If you are interested in piloting Functional Skills English with any of your ESOL learners please drop us a line to functionalskills@cityandguilds.com.

Electronic mark scheme

Electronic mark schemes are now live for English and Maths Entry 3, level 1 and level 2 live assessments. We have introduced these mark schemes in order to help us provide evaluation information for the functional skills pilot. These mark schemes will also mean less paperwork for our you, and the ability to easily compare achievement across learners.

The mark schemes are included in the zip file for the live assessments which can be accessed on www.cityandguilds.com/functionalskills.

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NEWS



GCSE Hurdle

On 2 April, the Rt Hon Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, announced that the proposed functional skills hurdle within GCSE English, Mathematics and ICT for 2010 will be removed. This means that the requirement to achieve a functional skill at level 2 to access grades A* to C has been removed in GCSE English, Maths and ICT.

Functional skills will still be an integral part of 14-19 learning as these skills are essential in supporting the employability skills that all young people require.

We are working with our centres to ensure that our functional skills assessments are suitable for young people in order to support robust teaching and learning in functional English, maths and ICT.

For more information about the City & Guilds functional skills model go to www.cityandguilds.com/functionalskills.