

Alternative arrangements for Essential Skills Wales qualifications in 2021

This document sets out the AMG's approach to alternative arrangements from March 1st 2021 until August 31st 2021 for the following qualifications:

- Essential Application of Number Skills (Levels 1-3)
- Essential Communication Levels Skills (Levels 1-3)
- Essential Digital Literacy Skills (Levels E1- L3)
- Essential Employability Skills (Levels E3-L3)
- ESW in Communication (Levels E1-E3)
- ESW in Application of Number (Levels E1-E3)

These arrangements will allow greater flexibility for centres to support as many learners as possible but are not to be considered as a replacement for teaching and learning.

Live assessments with their adaptations will continue to be available throughout this period. Centres can choose between delivering assessments with adaptations or using alternative arrangements (provided learners meet the criteria outlined below).

Alternative Assessment Learner Eligibility Criteria:

- Those who have completed teaching and learning and are considered to be functioning at the required level
- Those due to complete their ESW qualifications before 31st August 2021

Qualification	Current Adaptation	Future Adaptation/Arrangement Options from March 1 st 2021
Essential Application of Number Skills (EAoNS) Essential Communication Skills (ECommS) Levels 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the confirmatory test (externally assessed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners who are able to complete the current adapted assessment should continue to do so (remote invigilation can be used where possible). <p>IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay the assessment until it can be safely conducted, provided this does not cause a negative impact on learners' progression. <p>OR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a delay is not possible and the learner is unable to take a live test, the centre can move to a Centre Determined Grade (CDG)¹ using any of the following evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of a practice controlled task, carried out without supervision (internally assessed and quality assured) • Successful completion of a practice confirmatory test carried out without supervision (internally assessed and quality assured)

Qualification	Current Adaptation	Future Adaptation/Arrangement Options from March 1 st 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner work which clearly demonstrates competency in a broad range of the skills, as laid out in the Design Principles • For ECommS this should include evidence in reading, writing, speaking and listening. • For EAoNS this should include calculations and the interpretation and presentation of data.
Essential Digital Literacy Skills (EDLS) Levels 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsupervised Task and structured discussion which can take place remotely without formal supervision • The structured discussion must be recorded • Limited tasks available to use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners who are able to complete the current adapted assessment should continue to do so. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A witness testimony (internally quality assured) can be used in place of the recording of the structured discussion. <p>IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE: Delay the assessment until it can be safely conducted, provided this does not cause a negative impact on learners' progression</p> <p>OR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a delay is not possible, the centre can move to a CDG¹ using the following evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner work which clearly demonstrates competency in a broad range of the skills, as laid out in the design principles. This should include digital collaboration, creativity, productivity, responsibility and information literacy.
Essential Employability Skills (EES) Levels 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adaptation to task • Structured discussion which can take place remotely with recording provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners who are able to complete the current assessment should continue to do so (the number of tasks available for use will be limited). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A witness testimony (internally quality assured) can be used in place of the recording of the structured discussion. <p>IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE: Delay the assessment until it can be safely conducted, provided this does not cause a negative impact on learners' progression</p> <p>OR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a delay is not possible, the centre can move to a CDG¹ using the following evidence:

Qualification	Current Adaptation	Future Adaptation/Arrangement Options from March 1 st 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learner work which clearly demonstrates competency in a broad range of the skills, as laid out in the Design Principles. This should include critical thinking and problem solving, planning and organisation, creativity, innovation and personal effectiveness.
Entry Level Essential Digital Literacy Skills (EDLS) and Essential Employability Skills (EES)	No adaptations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners who are able to complete the assessment in the usual way should continue to do so (the number of tasks available for use will be limited). A witness testimony (internally quality assured) can be used in place of the recording of the structured discussion. <p>IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a task remotely which can be carried out without supervision. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A witness testimony (internally quality assured) can be used in place of the recording of the structured discussion. <p>OR: Delay the assessment until it can be safely conducted, provided this does not cause a negative impact on learners' progression</p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a delay is not possible, the centre can move to a CDG¹ using the following evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learner work which clearly demonstrates competency in a broad range of the skills, as laid out in the design principles.
Entry Level ESW in Application of Number and Entry Level ESW in Communication	No adaptations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners who are able to complete the assessment in the usual way should continue to do so. <p>IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE: Delay the assessment until it can be safely conducted, provided this does not cause a negative impact on learners' progression</p> <p>OR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where delay is not possible, a task can be carried out remotely without supervision.

Qualification	Current Adaptation	Future Adaptation/Arrangement Options from March 1 st 2021
		<p>OR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where remote assessment is not possible, the centre can move to a CDG¹ using the following evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner work which clearly demonstrates competency in a broad range of the skills, as laid out in the Practitioners' Guidance. For communication this should include evidence in reading, writing, speaking and listening. For number this should include calculations and the interpretation and presentation of data.

¹Centre Determined Grades (CDG)

- Centres should inform their awarding body if they intend to use Centre Determined Grades.
- Centres must have an internal quality assurance process in place which is in line with their standard practice.
- Centre Determined Grades must be supported by evidence that shows that the learner has demonstrated they have the necessary essential skills at the relevant qualification level. Framework grids and a Record of Assessment for Centre Determined Grades are provided to support centres with tracking the process.
- Evidence or records normally provided for EQA monitoring visits should be retained for sampling/possible sampling by awarding bodies as part of the quality assurance monitoring.