

Digital Skills Newsletter

Assessment mitigation 2020-2021

Again we urge all to make sure that they have the latest Adaptation documents that can be found using this link.: <http://bit.ly/CGMitigation20-21>

The consultation for alternatives to what we can let you do, ended on 29 January. We are now waiting on the Government to tell us if they will change the current rules or whether further adaptations or mitigation can be put in place.

City & Guilds already has a team in place to cover the possible scenarios and our own wishes to offering you alternative assessment methods to progress your learners and enable them to complete their programme.

Scope of learners

The adaptations are ONLY available to learners undertaking their assessment in the UK or the Republic of Ireland, scheduled to complete their qualification or assessments during the 2020/21 academic year. These adaptations **do not apply** to International or End-point Assessment products.

Applying Adaptations

If you need to use the adaptation then you need to inform us that you are going to do so, when you get to the Adaption webpage you will be able to locate the form.

The document you should be download and keep to hand are (for period of: September 2020 – Summer 2021):

- Qualification and Assessment Guidance
- 2020 – 2021 Adaptations Digital and IT
- Adaptations for Technical Qualifications (if appropriate)

FLASH UPDATE 11

In this Issue

Assessment Mitigation – 2020-2021

- Update

Microsoft Teams reminder

In other news

Revised Standards

Digital Marketer – call to arms!

Reminders

Updates and webinars

Note from David and Ken

Important guidance

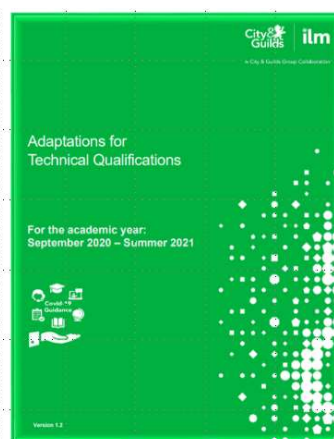
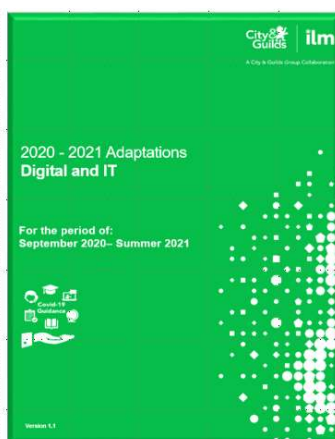
Updated 26 October – Qualification Adaptation Guidance

Special Consideration Guidance

Centre intention form – to apply adaptation

Please complete the 2020/21 Centre Adaptation Intention form if you are intending to apply adaptation to assessments.

[Complete the form](#)



26 January 2021

Please check the Covid-19 pages daily, as we will be updating them as we get information:

[Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19)

Make sure you and colleagues (whatever sector the work in) are signed up to the email updates, this is how we and City & Guilds central operations send messages that you need:

[Email Updates | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/email-updates)

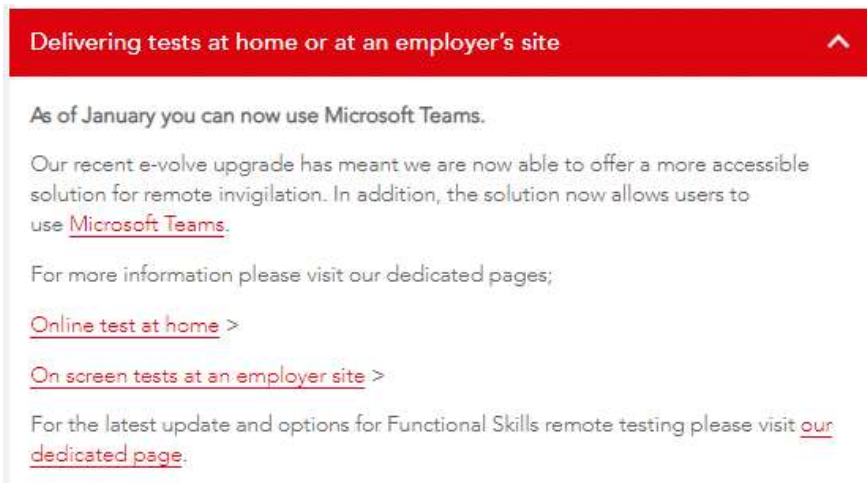
Any issues, please send you enquiries to adaptation.quality@cityandguilds.com

Reminder about Microsoft Teams – use for Remote Invigilation

Many centres have asked why they could not use Microsoft Teams to do remote invigilation, until recently we would have consider it not as robust as Webex or Gotomeetings and lacking the functionality required with 2 devices. All has changed!!

For centres who do not have Webex or Gotomeeting licences City & Guilds will now accept Teams as a viable alternative. Information you need to use it can be found here:

[Adaptations - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/adaptations-covid-19)



The screenshot shows an email notification with a red header bar that reads "Delivering tests at home or at an employer's site". The main body of the email contains the following text:

As of January you can now use Microsoft Teams.

Our recent e-volve upgrade has meant we are now able to offer a more accessible solution for remote invigilation. In addition, the solution now allows users to use [Microsoft Teams](#).

For more information please visit our dedicated pages;

[Online test at home >](#)

[On screen tests at an employer site >](#)

For the latest update and options for Functional Skills remote testing please visit [our dedicated page](#).

PLEASE NOTE: This is for all qualifications other than Functional Skills as this time.

Other news

External press

FE Week ran a piece on Teacher Assessed Grades for FS

<https://feweeek.co.uk/2021/01/22/ofqual-delays-decision-on-teacher-assessed-grades-for-functional-skills/>

Practice Tests and Open Assess

Issues accessing practice. An option to undertake these is available using the SurpassViewer application.

OpenAssess - a new version of OpenAssess will be available in mid-March, following suitable checks are passed.

Focus alert for FS centres - [City & Guilds Important Alert for Functional Skills \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

Updates to qual pages;

FS 4748 [Functional Skills qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

FS 3748 [LEGACY - Functional Skills qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

ESOL [ESOL Skills for Life | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

Essential Skills Wales [Essential Skills Wales qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)#](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

New contact arrangements for Quality Teams

New contact arrangements are in place with all centres being assigned to one of the 4 quality teams - numbered from 1 to 4.

Details are published on the website here [Quality teams | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

Exam support - update

Further to Gavin Williamson's letter to Ofqual, and proposals that February and March dated assessments were no longer viable and may not go ahead, some of our qualifications may be impacted.

The following areas will see exams **go ahead**;

February: Medical Terminology

2396-402 Electrical Installation

March: 3415-399 L3 Logistics (Road Haulage)

5519-220, 330 and 5528-265 L2 and L3 Medical Terminology

It is **not mandatory** for these examinations to take place, but we are keen to continue to offer examination opportunities to any candidates who may be ready for assessment, particularly where achieving these qualifications impacts their progression and employment prospects.

Where examinations do take place, it is important to note that they should only take place where:

- they can be delivered safely by centres and in line with public health information and guidance
- candidates feel that they have had sufficient teaching and learning and feel well prepared to take the exam
- candidates feel comfortable and safe taking the examination and are not putting themselves or others at risk.

The big news was the publication of the Post 16 FE White Paper, now renamed as the Skills for Jobs White Paper. Early indications of content, that it reads like a cup of cold insipid herbal tea rather than a hot chocolate with Gin and Amaretto. There were a few other announcements to be aware of.

1. FE White Paper, or Skills For Jobs White paper:
[Skills for jobs: lifelong learning for opportunity and growth - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/skills-for-jobs-lifelong-learning-for-opportunity-and-growth)
2. Opening of the RoATP
3. Support for Colleges to access Digital Tech
[Hundreds of thousands more laptops to support disadvantaged pupils learn at home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hundreds-of-thousands-more-laptops-to-support-disadvantaged-pupils-learn-at-home)
[Get help with technology - GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/get-help-with-technology)
4. Apprenticeship Workforce Development Programme
[Professional Development Platform Public Homepage - ETF Professional Development Platform \(etfoundation.co.uk\)](https://www.etfoundation.co.uk/professional-development-platform-public-homepage)
[Apprenticeship Workforce Development - The ETF \(et-foundation.co.uk\)](https://www.etfoundation.co.uk/apprenticeship-workforce-development)
5. Apprenticeship Service Webinars
[Apprenticeship Service | GoToStage.com](https://www.gotostage.com/apprenticeship-service)

Revised Standards development

Currently the following revised Standards are under way:

- Infrastructure Communications Technician, which will replace the Infrastructure Technician and Unified Communications Technician. It will have 3 pathways.
- Software Developer
- Network Engineer
- Data Analyst, which is going for quality check of the Project outlines developed for the new Assessment Plan

While the new Standards are schedule to be released around the end of February, we will be looking to open these products for Registration around the end of April to beginning of May. At this time, we should have outline handbooks and project requirements in place, with EPA first booking being open by September 2020 though we know that we will not see any EPA activity until early 2022.

IfATE will not publish the new products for registration until 56 days after the Employer Groups have received the letter confirming the funding value. Unfortunately not all the above have yet had their funding confirmed, the exception is Network Engineer, which received funding on January 14 and we would expect this to be open for you by the end of March.

Digital Marketer – call to arms

The Marketing Assistant and Digital Marketer Employer Groups have been brought together. We need employers on this Trailblazer Group if you and they wish to see the Digital Marketer continue either as a Standard or with a definitive Pathway and the title of the Marketing Assistant be changed to reflect that incorporation.

EMAIL US with any employers willing to be on this board for a meeting on 4 March.

To enable you to offer a better Software Developer Traineeship for 16-19 or 19+ AEB, we are getting the generic language units put into the 7540-12/-13 and 4520-02/-03 qualifications. We will also include a unit on Planning a development and one on Data manipulation.

Reminders

EPA Pro

City & Guilds apprenticeship management programme designed for use with End Point Assessment Standards. For more information and update on migration: <http://bit.ly/CGEPAPro>

Traineeships and AEB in Digital and IT Sector

For those working in the digital curriculum area this presents two opportunities: delivery of digital and IT Traineeships or AEB 19 + funded programmes, and delivery of digital skills for other sector teams.

For more information and update on Traineeships: <https://bit.ly/CGTraineeships2020-2021>

Updates and webinars – and more

Are you still a bit unsure as to how some of the things around Apprenticeship Standards work or just want a reminder of some of the things we have discussed at events and on webinars? Then, please visit our Updates and Webinars page.

<http://bit.ly/CGDigitalUpdate>

Please check out the information held there as this may answer many of the questions you have.

Next webinars

26 January 2021 (09.30 – 10.30): <https://bit.ly/CGDigital26Jan>

16 February 2021 (09.30 – 10.30) <https://bit.ly/CGDigital16Feb>

9 March 2021 (09.30 – 10.30) <https://bit.ly/CGDigital9March>

If you have any specific topics you would like discussed at these events, please forward your suggestions to:

Ken Gaines ken.gaines@cityandguilds.com

OR

David Wackett david.wackett@cityandguilds.com

Note from David and Ken

We always urge you to Stay Alert and Stay Safe. Please make sure you check the Covid-19 webpage.

www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19