

#FunSkills2019



Functional Skills Reform monthly updates

Webinar 01: Introduction - 23 August 2018

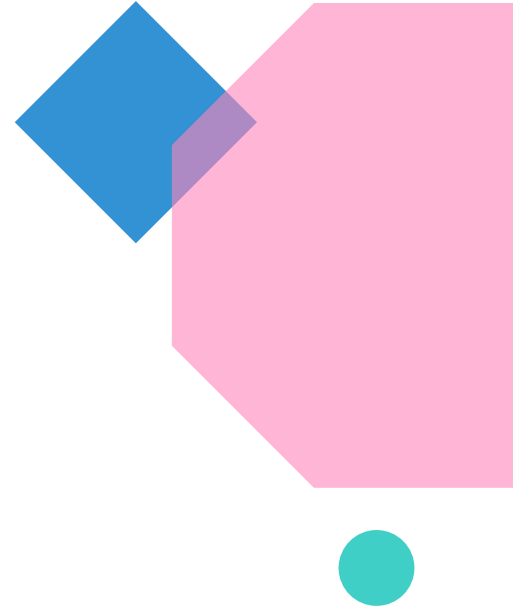
Amanda Kelly and Paul Sceeny



This month...

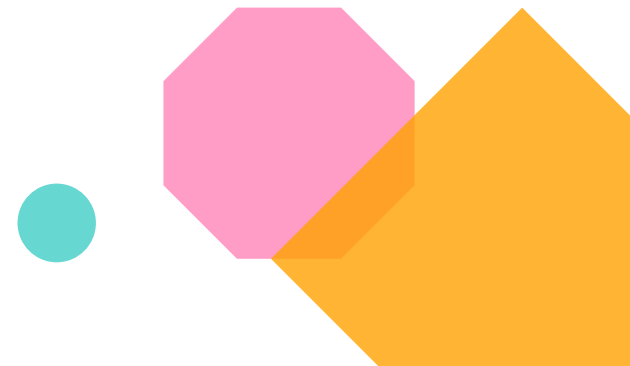
- Background to Functional Skills Reform.
- What does this mean for providers, practitioners, learners?
- What does this mean for City & Guilds?
- How can we all start to prepare?

- Timelines.
- Questions
 - Please post your questions during the webinar. We won't necessarily be able to answer them live, but will use them to form some initial FAQs which we will share on the [Functional Skills updates](#) page soon after the webinar.
- What next?



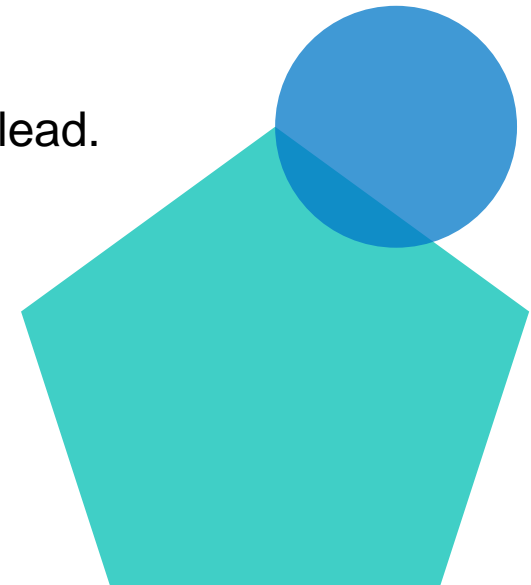
Setting the scene...

- Biggest change to Functional Skills qualifications for 10 years.
- Biggest change to adult literacy and numeracy curriculum in England for 20 years.
- Secures future of Functional Skills (when at times Government has been unclear about its role and status).
- New subject content and tighter regulatory conditions.
- Ofqual keen to ensure greater consistency between awarding organisations.
- No fundamental changes to qualification structure or assessment model.
- Nevertheless, some big content changes and operational differences.
- Some shifting of emphasis – underpinning knowledge as well as application.
- Will continue to co-exist with GCSE.
- Lots of good practice to build upon!



A brief history

- **2007-10** Functional Skills piloted.
- **September 2010** Current qualifications launched.
- **September 2011** Wolf Report – leads to 16-18 study programmes and renewed focus on GCSE.
- **September 2012** Key Skills and Adult Numeracy/Literacy withdrawn: we launch 3847/3844.
- **January 2015** Ofqual's Functional Skills Thematic Review published.
- **March 2015** Education & Training Foundation publishes 'Making Maths and English Work for All'.
- **Sep/Oct 2015** Major changes to our Level 1 and Level 2 external assessments.
- **October 2015** DfE establishes Functional Skills reform programme - asks ETF to lead.
- **2015-17** Consultations with employers, providers and practitioners.
- **March 2018** DfE publishes revised Functional Skills subject content.
- **June 2018** Ofqual publishes new Regulatory Conditions and Guidance.
- **September 2019** First teaching of reformed Functional Skills qualifications.



Development timelines

- **Currently** Developing specifications and assessment strategy for revised qualifications; gaining Ofqual approval.
- **31 August 2019** Last registration for current (3748-01 and 3748-02) qualifications.
- **September 2019** Revised FS English and FS Mathematics qualifications available for first teaching.
- **31 August 2020** Last certification for current (3748-01 and 3748-02) qualifications.



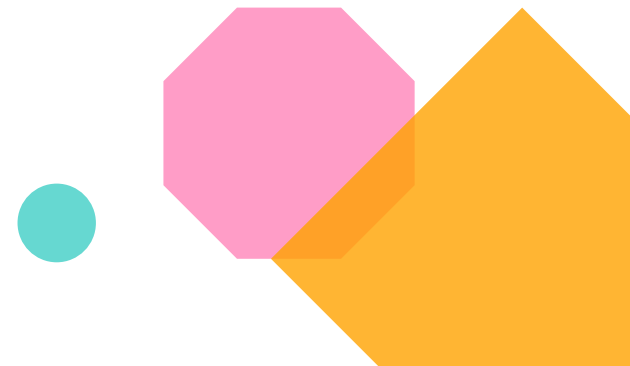
What does this mean?

For City & Guilds

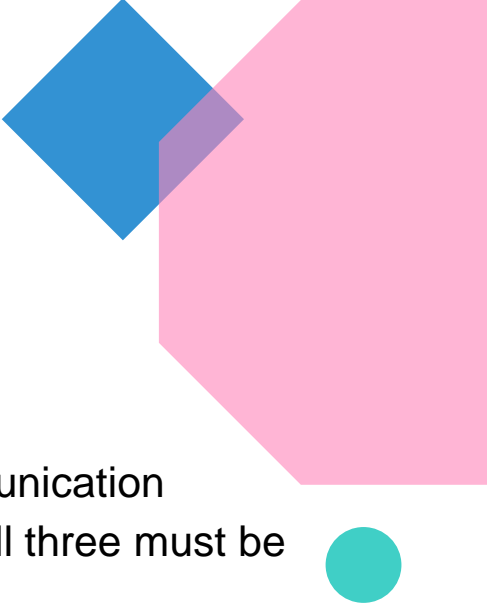
- New subject content from which we'll develop our qualification specifications and assessments.
- New regulatory rules, conditions and guidance to work within.
- Crucial we understand impact of changes on **your** delivery/operational models, staff and learners
- The need to ensure we get right balance between rigour and accessibility
- Need to plan and provide the right level of support
- Need to keep you informed and updated
- Opportunity to update our digital support offer.

For centres

- New documents to work from
- Content changes to incorporate into teaching, learning and assessment preparation
 - link with Core Curriculum broken
 - differing level expectations
 - relationship with GCSE
- Operational changes
 - eg length and nature of assessments.



What's **not** changing?

- Entry level still internally assessed.
 - Level 1-2 still externally assessed
 - apart from Speaking, Listening and Communication.
 - Assessments still available on-demand
 - we still plan to offer on-screen and paper delivery.
 - Qualifications still complemented by range of digital learning resources
 - we're already planning updates to e-Functional Skills, as well as reviewing our wider digital learning resources offer.
 - ICT **not** affected – although digital skills being reviewed separately by DfE.
- English still comprises
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Speaking, Listening and Communication
 - each assessed discretely, but all three must be achieved.
 - Mathematics still comprises
 - Number
 - Measure, Shape and Space
 - Data Handling
 - all three assessed together.
 - Subject content at each level subsumes the level(s) below.
- 

What's changing?

- Distinct purposes for Entry level vs levels 1 and 2
 - Entry level – “sound grasp of the underpinning skills and basics”
 - Levels 1-2 – “apply these skills effectively to a range of purposes in the workplace and in other real life situations”.
- More explicit assessment of ‘underpinning’ skills – not just incidentally through problem-solving tasks.
 - no spelling/grammar checkers or dictionaries allowed within English Writing
 - word lists at Entry level
 - assessment at all levels with and without a calculator for maths.
- Closer alignment with school curriculum (eg teaching of phonics), some convergence with GCSE.
- Divergence from Adult Numeracy/Literacy Core Curriculum
 - some changes to expectations at each level.

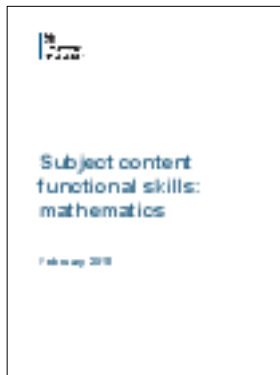
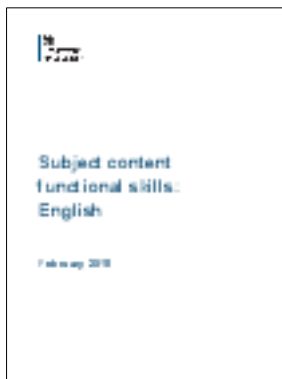


Understanding the new documents

These documents are available from [gov.uk/education/functional-skills](https://www.gov.uk/education/functional-skills)

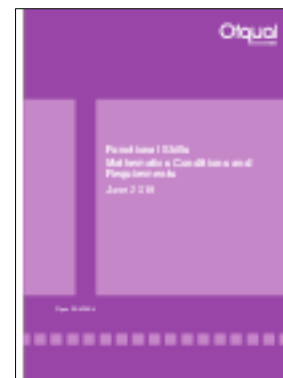
Subject Content

- published by **DfE**
- sets out the purpose, learning aims and outcomes learners need to achieve
- **essential** reading for tutors.



Conditions and Requirements

- published by **Ofqual**
- sets out regulatory rules and requirements awarding organisations must meet if they intend to offer reformed Functional Skills qualifications.



Statutory Guidance

- published by **Ofqual**
- helps awarding organisations understand how to comply with Conditions and Requirements.



How can we all start to prepare?

City & Guilds

- Share the timelines
- Regular updates on progress with our assessment and offer development
- Continually seek feedback and views
- Launch events and briefings.
- Multiple ways of keeping in touch.

And we're open to suggestions...

Centres

- Read the subject content and familiarise yourselves with detail of what's changing
- Share with colleagues - not just the M&E team
- Think about what you'll need to do differently as a result of the changes
- Ensure your SLT know about the reform and understand the implications
- Let us know if there's anything else you need from us to support you
- Let us know what we could do to improve our offer.

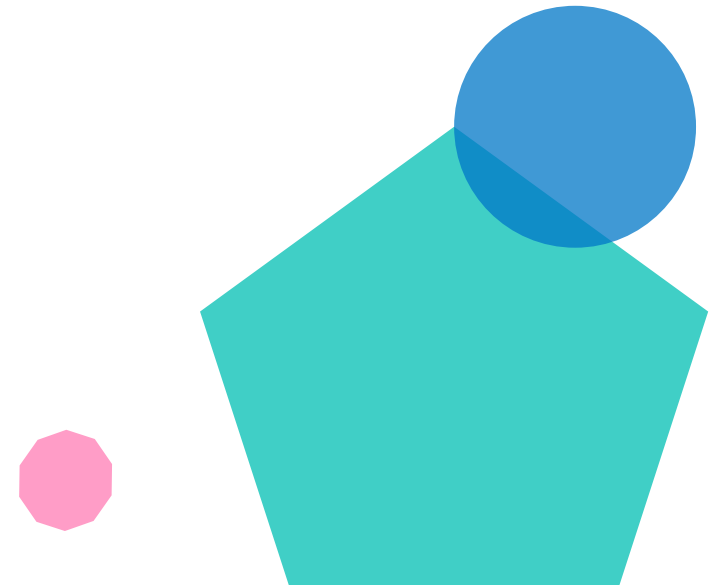


What next?

- Webinars **every month** – if you're signed up you should get an email reminder
 - each webinar will have a theme/focus, as well as providing a general update
 - a recording will be available shortly after each webinar.
- Email alerts
 - make sure you're [signed up](#)
 - encourage others to [sign up](#)
- [Functional Skills updates page](#)

Coming soon:

- FAQs
- Maths and English blog
- Networks
- Launch events
- CPD events



Thank you

For more information about the Functional Skills reform programme, please visit

cityandguilds.com/mathsandenglish

Then follow links to [Functional Skills updates](#).

There's a dedicated email address:

fsreform@cityandguilds.com

Use **#FunSkills2019** to join the social media conversation:

- our Industry Manager [@MathsEnglish CG](#)
- our Technical Advisor [@PaulSceeny CG](#).

