

Skills for Work & Life

Introducing our new suite of
ESOL Skills for Life Qualifications (5692)

June 2026

Housekeeping



The session is being recorded.

The slides and the recording will be available on our [Resource Hub webpage](#) shortly.



Everyone is on mute.



Add your questions into the question function on the control panel.

Will we endeavor to answer all questions at the end of the presentation.




If the session cuts off, use the original webinar link to rejoin.

Welcome to the session

- Meet the Team & Introductions
- Introduction to our ESOL Skill for Work & Life qualifications
- Registrations and fees
- Changes to the ESOL suite
- Key documents and website
- Next steps
- Q&A


Skills for Work & Life Team



Katherine Reid 
Technical Advisor

Maths and English specialist with a background of FE and offender learning.



Alicja Twarowska 
Technical Advisor

ESOL, FS and Employability specialist in FE and community settings.



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Product & Sector Manager

Maths, English, ICT/Digital, Employability and Access 2 HE specialist in FE and ITPs.

Our team is dedicated to supporting your English, maths and digital Functional Skills, Employability and ESOL teaching and assessment journey with City & Guilds qualifications.

We provide support, guidance and a collaborative community to enhance your teaching and assessment practice.

New ESOL Qualifications (5692)

We are launching a new suite ESOL Skills for Life qualifications, which will be available for registration from 1 December 2026.

The qualification page has just gone live, and over the next months, we will be adding key documents to it alongside sample assessment materials and finally the live assessment materials when the qualifications open.

[ESOL Skills for Life \(5692\) | City & Guilds](#)

ESOL Skills for Life (5692)

INFORMATION

DOCUMENTS

Last Updated: 26 May 2026

Coming soon: December 2026

ESOL Skills for Life qualifications support speakers of other languages based within the UK to develop their English language skills for work, further learning or everyday life.

Working with our customers and ESOL specialists we have created this revised suite of ESOL Skills for Life qualifications which replaces the previous suite (4692).

It includes 'single-mode' Awards in Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening, as well as a 'full-mode' Certificate that combines all three.

Suitable for learners aged 16 upwards, our ESOL qualifications can be delivered as part of 16-18 study programmes or as standalone courses for adults looking to develop their English language skills to improve employment opportunities. These qualifications are fully funded from the Adult Skills Fund for learners who are unemployed or earn below the Low Wage threshold.

People's reasons for needing to improve their English often vary, and these qualifications are designed to be flexible. There are separate small qualifications in Speaking & Listening, Reading and Writing, as well as a larger qualification that includes all three.

You'll usually be asked to complete a short test at the start of your course that's known as an initial assessment. This will help to decide which ESOL qualification is right for you.

Available to deliver in the following:

- England

Background to the changes to our ESOL Skills for Life qualifications

Following the publication of the Curriculum and Assessment Review report from the Department for Education, ESOL qualifications are expected to be reviewed alongside other adult maths and English qualifications, although no timeline has been confirmed.

In the meantime, based on feedback from customers, focus groups, and Ofqual's review of ESOL qualifications, we have decided to update our offer, improving the assessments, to better meet provider and learner needs. As a result of the changes, we are planning to launch a new suite of ESOL Skills for Life (5692).

These qualifications, like the currently 4692 suite, will be available from Entry 1 up to Level 2, as single awards (Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening) and full certificate.

- The qualifications have been added to the Ofqual register and new qualification numbers assigned.
- The request for funding in England has been submitted to DfE; confirmation is expected at the end of June/early July.

Qualification Numbers

Registration at Entry Levels

5692-01: Single Mode Awards

QN	Qualification title
610/7322/2	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) (Entry 1)
610/7323/4	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) (Entry 1)
610/7324/6	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 1)
610/7325/8	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) (Entry 2)
610/7326/X	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) (Entry 2)
610/7327/1	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 2)
610/7328/3	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) (Entry 3)
610/7329/5	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) (Entry 3)
610/7330/1	City & Guilds Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)

5692-03: Full sized Certificate

QN	Qualification title
610/7317/9	City & Guilds Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 1)
610/7318/0	City & Guilds Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 2)
610/7319/2	City & Guilds Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 3)

Registration at Level 1 and 2

5692-02: Single Mode Awards (Level 1 and Level 2)

QN	Qualification title
610/7331/3	City & Guilds Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)
610/7332/5	City & Guilds Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing)
610/7333/7	City & Guilds Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening)
610/7334/9	City & Guilds Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)
610/7335/0	City & Guilds Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing)
610/7336/2	City & Guilds Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening)

5692-04: Full sized Certificate (Level 1 and Level 2)

QN	Qualification title
610/7320/9	City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life
610/7321/0	City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life

Fees

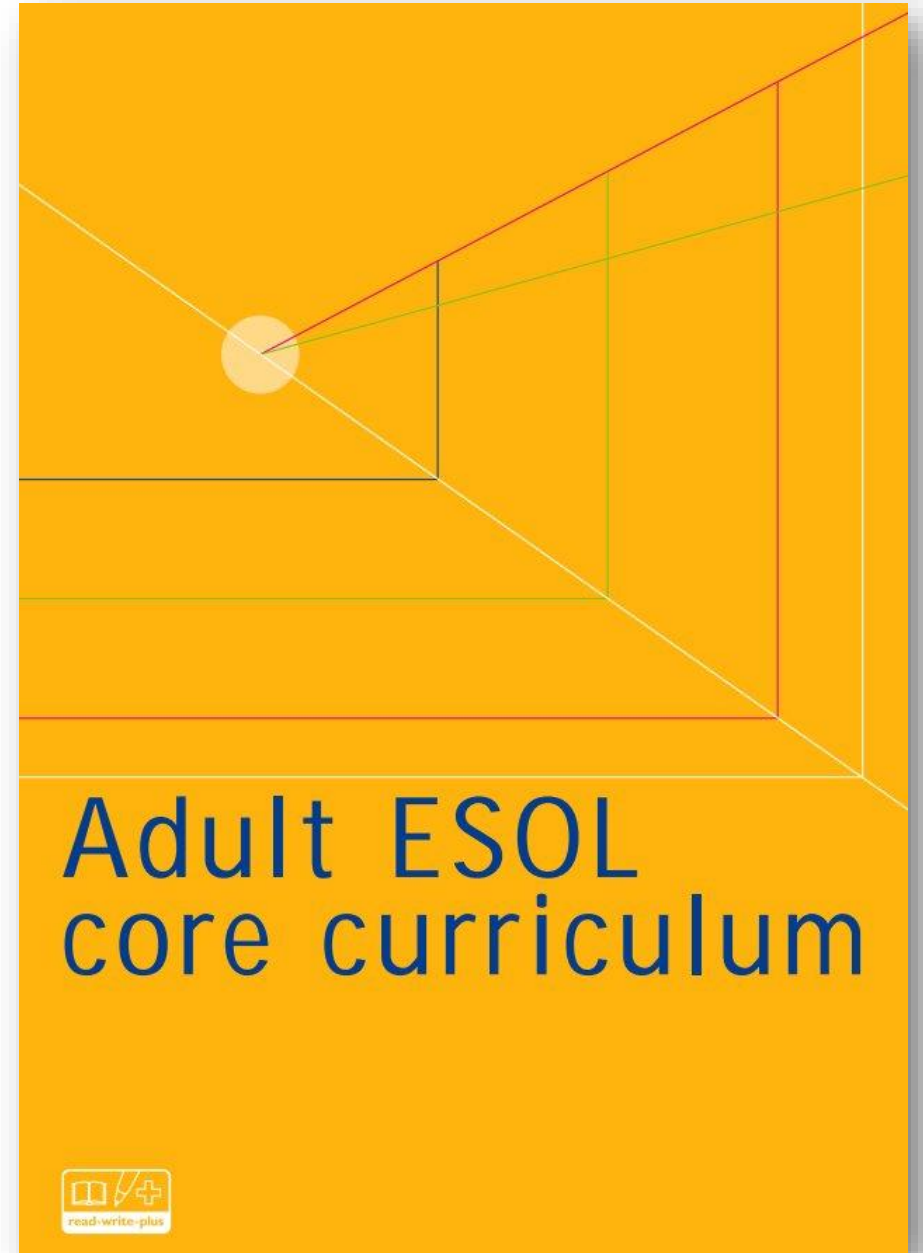
Route	Component	Fee
Single Mode Awards 5692-01 and 5692-02	Speaking & Listening (all levels)	£30.50
	Writing (all levels)	£30.50
	Reading (entry levels)	£30.50
	Reading (level 1 and level 2)	£30.50
Full Mode Certificate 5692-03 and 5692-04	Registration – includes Speaking & Listening, Writing and Reading at entry level/one Reading test at level 1 or level 2	£74.00
	Resit fee for Reading at level 1 or level 2	£29.20



We will not be creating a 'Top up' pathway in this new suite of qualifications.

Scope of changes

There are no changes to the specifications or teaching content; the update applies to assessments only.



Assessment design

Use of overarching topics for papers

Assessments will not use a single topic across the whole paper. Instead, each assessment will include questions set in a range of contexts, allowing learners to demonstrate skills across a broader vocabulary.

Assessments will be labelled by subject, level, and set (for example, *Writing – Level 1 – Set A*). This gives centres flexibility to select any set as learners progress.

To support delivery and quality assurance, assessments will be reorganised on the website by subject and level, and centres will continue to track assessment versions using a standard template provided.

ESOL Skills for Life (5692) Entry 3 Sample Assignment



Sample 1

Candidate's Paper
Reading to obtain information

Candidate's name: _____

City & Guilds enrolment number: _____

Date of registration: _____

Date assessment started: _____

Date assessment completed: _____

Summary of achievement:

Reading _____

5692 Qualification Page

- Following this webinar, one sample assessment for each subject and level will be added to the 5692-qualification page.
- When the qualification opens for learner registrations, there will be:
 - a further three sample assessments for each skill or subject, at each level added.
 - Four live assessments for each subject and level

ESOL Skills for Life Entry 1

Reading

- 5692 Reading Entry 1 – Set A
- 5692 Reading Entry 1 – Set B
- 5692 Reading Entry 1 – Set C
- 5692 Reading Entry 1 – Set D

Writing

- 5692 Writing Entry 1 – Set A
- 5692 Writing Entry 1 – Set B
- 5692 Writing Entry 1 – Set C
- 5692 Writing Entry 1 – Set D

Speaking & Listening

- 5692 Speaking & Listening Entry 1 – Set A
- 5692 Speaking & Listening Entry 1 – Set B
- 5692 Speaking & Listening Entry 1 – Set C
- 5692 Speaking & Listening Entry 1 – Set D

Assessment sets and resits

Any assessment set can be selected at each level, including the same version as learners progress.

For resits, activities are standalone and can be retaken individually using a different set.

This applies to all assessments apart from Level 1 and 2 Reading.



Signatures

Learners are no longer required to sign the assessor's pack.

ESOL Skills for Life (5692) Entry 3 Sample Assignment



Sample 1

Candidate's Paper

Writing to convey information

Candidate's name: _____

City & Guilds enrolment number: _____

Date of registration: _____

Date assessment started: _____

Date assessment completed: _____

Summary of achievement:

Writing _____

Changes to the mark scheme

Starred Questions

In the current ESOL qualifications, assessments include compulsory “starred” or “asterisked” questions which learners have to achieve in order to pass the qualification, regardless of their overall score.

As part of the review and redevelopment, this marking approach has been removed.

Learners will now achieve the qualification by meeting **the pass mark for each activity**, rather than being dependent on specific mandatory questions.

Assessment Criteria	Curriculum Reference	Marking Guide	Marks
Activity 4			
1.1	Rs/E1.1a	1. Hand hygiene / hand washing	1
1.2	Rs/E1.1b	2. Any two of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (It helps stop) disease • (It helps stop) illness • (Sickness) costs (a lot of) money Any one of the above	2
1.3	Rt/E1.1a		(1)
2.1	Rt/E1.1b	3. 1) (clean) towel 2) hand dryer	1
2.3	Rt/E1.2a		1
	Rw/E1.1a	4. (up to) 3 hours	1
	Rw/E1.2a		1
	Rw/E1.3b	5. A notice	1
		Total marks for Activity 4	
		5 out of 7 possible marks required for success Tick if Activity 4 successfully achieved	<input type="checkbox"/>

Minor mark adjustments

Writing and Speaking & Listening

Minor (1-2 mark) adjustments to mark weightings given to certain assessment criteria across activities.

Minor (1 mark) adjustments to pass marks for some activities.



Speaking & Listening

Each activity has a pass mark that must be met.

To pass overall, candidates must also achieve **at least one mark** against each the following **language features** in **either Activity 2 or 3/4** – grammatical accuracy, pronunciation, range, and fluency & discourse.

Discussion activity at entry 3 and above:

‘Comprehension’ has been removed as a language feature as it is being assessed as part of the preceding indicative content (e.g. ‘*Candidate follows the gist of the discussion*’).

Assessment Criteria	Curriculum Reference	Marking Guide	Marks
Activity 3			
		Candidate follows the gist and keeps up with the discussion. (May request clarification or repetition). Candidate follows the gist and keeps up with discussion most of the time / with limited prompts from the interlocutor.	2 (1)
1.3	Lr/E3.1a	Candidate follows the main points and makes appropriate contributions	2
2.1	Lr/E3.3b	Candidate follows some main points and makes some appropriate contributions	(1)
2.2	Lr/E3.5a		
3.1	Lr/E3.5b		
3.2	Lr/E3.7a	Candidate asks at least two open questions	2
3.3	Lr/E3.7c	Candidate asks at least one open question	(1)
3.4	Sc/E3.2a		
	Sc/E3.4b	Candidate responds appropriately to a range of open questions	2
	Sd/E3.1b	Candidate responds appropriately to some open questions	(1)
	Sd/E3.1c		
		Candidate expresses clearly statements of fact, short accounts or descriptions	1
		Candidate uses appropriate body language and facial expressions	1
Language features – if candidate has not met the minimum criteria for the statements below, a zero (0) mark must be awarded against the specific criteria			
Grammatical accuracy	Sc/E3.3a	Statements are grammatically well formed with no significant errors at Entry 3.	2
	Sc/E3.3b	Some grammatical errors occur but these do not impede communication.	(1)
	Sc/E3.3c	Questions are grammatically well formed with no significant errors at Entry 3.	2
	Sc/E3.3d	Some grammatical errors occur but these do not impede communication.	(1)
	Sc/E3.4a		
Pronunciation	Sc/E3.1a	Pronounces common words with correct word stress and intonation.	2
	Sc/E3.1b	Pronounces most common words with correct word stress and intonation.	(1)
	Sd/E3.1a	Candidate articulates sounds of English correctly using appropriate clarity, speed and phrasing. Uses appropriate stress and intonation patterns for the formation of questions and/or statements.	2
		Candidate articulates most sounds of English correctly using appropriate clarity, speed and phrasing. Uses appropriate stress and intonation patterns for the formation of questions and/or statements most of the time.	(1)
Range	Sd/E3.1d	Candidate uses a wide range of vocabulary and expressions in discussion at Entry 3.	2
	Sc/E3.4d	Candidate uses a limited but sufficient range of vocabulary and expressions in discussion at Entry 3.	(1)
Fluency/discourse	Sd/E3.2a	Candidate interacts in a relaxed and natural way respecting the turn-taking rights of others. Expands on responses and initiates aspects of the discussion.	2
	Lr/E3.4a Lr/E3.6a Lr/E3.7c	Candidate interacts in a relaxed and natural way most of the time with few pauses or hesitations respecting the turn-taking rights of others. Expands on responses and initiates aspects of the discussion some of the time.	(1)
Total marks for activity 3			
15 out of 22 possible marks required for success.			
Tick if activity 3 successfully achieved			<input type="checkbox"/>

Reading at Level 1 and 2

Reading Assessments at Levels 1 and 2

Level 1 and Level 2 Reading will continue to be externally assessed and will remain available in both onscreen format (via e-volve) and paper-based delivery. This flexibility allows centres to choose the method that best supports their learners' needs. The overall duration of the assessment will remain unchanged at one hour.

The number of source documents candidates must read has been reduced to three, making the assessment more focused and accessible.

As a result, the total number of questions has been reduced, with initial modelling proposing a revised total mark of 32 for both Level 1 and Level 2.

ESOL Skills for Life (5692) Level 1 Sample Test



Sample 1

Candidate's Paper
Reading to obtain information

Candidate Name (First, Middle, Last)

Candidate enrolment number

DOB (DDMMYYYY)

Candidate signature

Assessment date

Centre number

General information

- The duration of this paper is **1 hour**.
- Answer **all 32** questions.
- The maximum number of marks is **32**

General instructions

- Read each question carefully.
- Paper dictionaries (bilingual or monolingual) are allowed.

Open Assess

Online sample tests for learners preparing for Reading at Level 1 and 2.


Learner responses are saved to enable tutor feedback.

The tests replicate the live test environment.

[Open Assess - Apply for an account](#)

[Open Assess user guide](#)

Follow this link to [request a demonstration or training session with a Digital Solutions Team](#)



The screenshot shows the login interface for City & Guilds Open Assess. At the top left is the City & Guilds logo, featuring a red lion rampant. To the right of the logo, the text "Open Assess" is displayed in a large, bold, black font. Below the logo and title, there are two input fields: "User Name:" followed by a text box, and "Password:" followed by a text box. Below the password field is a blue rectangular button with the word "Login" in white text. At the bottom of the form, there is a link that says "Can't access your account?" in blue text.

Reading Assessment - performance feedback

For paper-based tests, we continue to explore ways to share candidate raw scores to support re-sits. We will provide updates as this enhancement develops.



Key Documents

Key Documents

The documents below will be available on the new

[ESOL \(5692\) website](#) from September 2026

- Qualification Handbook
- Assessment Guidance documents for both Entry + Level 1 & 2
- FAQs
- Transition guide from 4692 to 5692 (with key dates)

At launch, there will be **four live assessments per subject and level**, alongside **four sample papers** to support learner preparation. Additional live assessments will be released over time, with retired papers made available for practice while national reform decisions are pending.

ESOL Skills for Life (5692)

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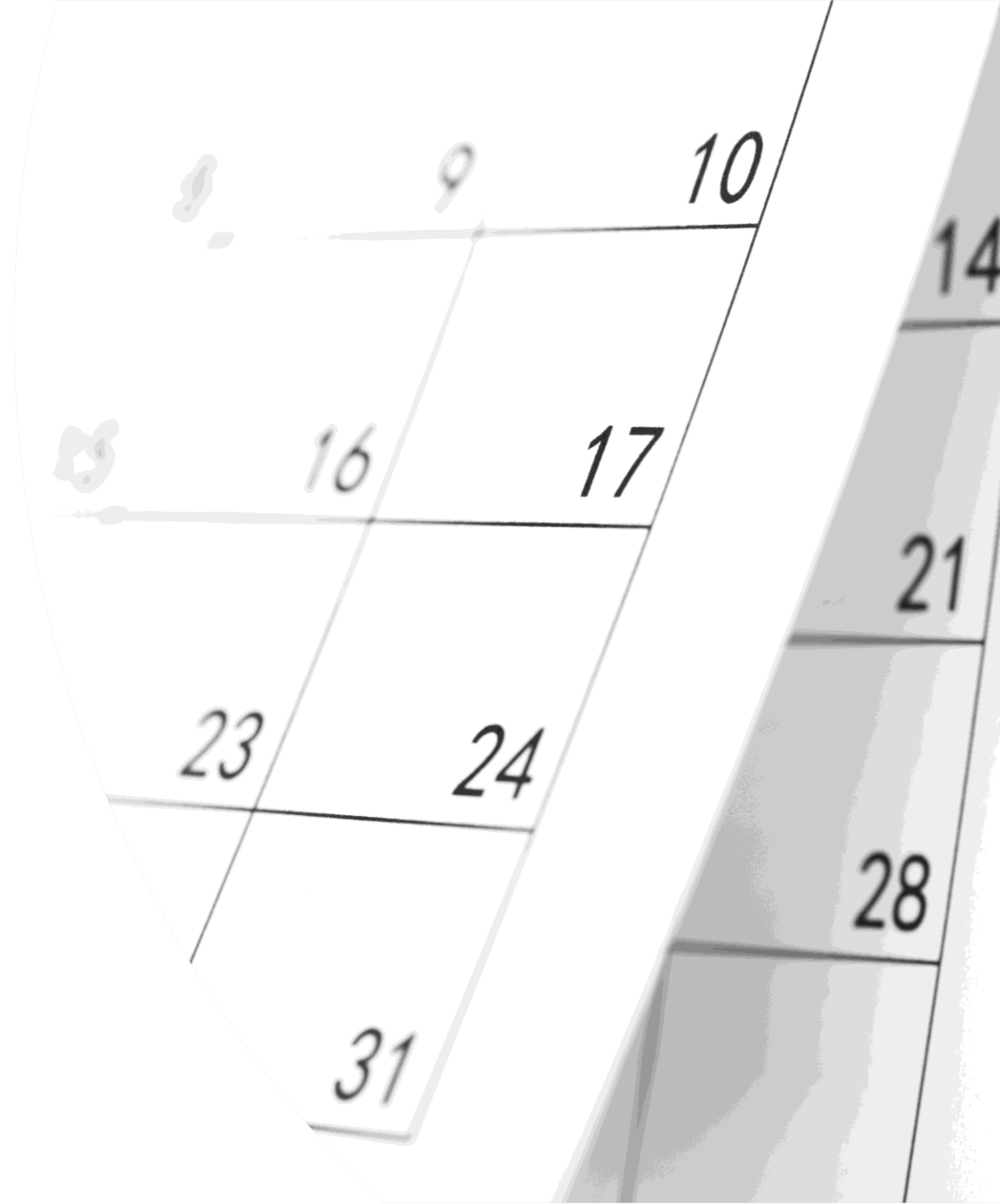
Next steps

Key dates

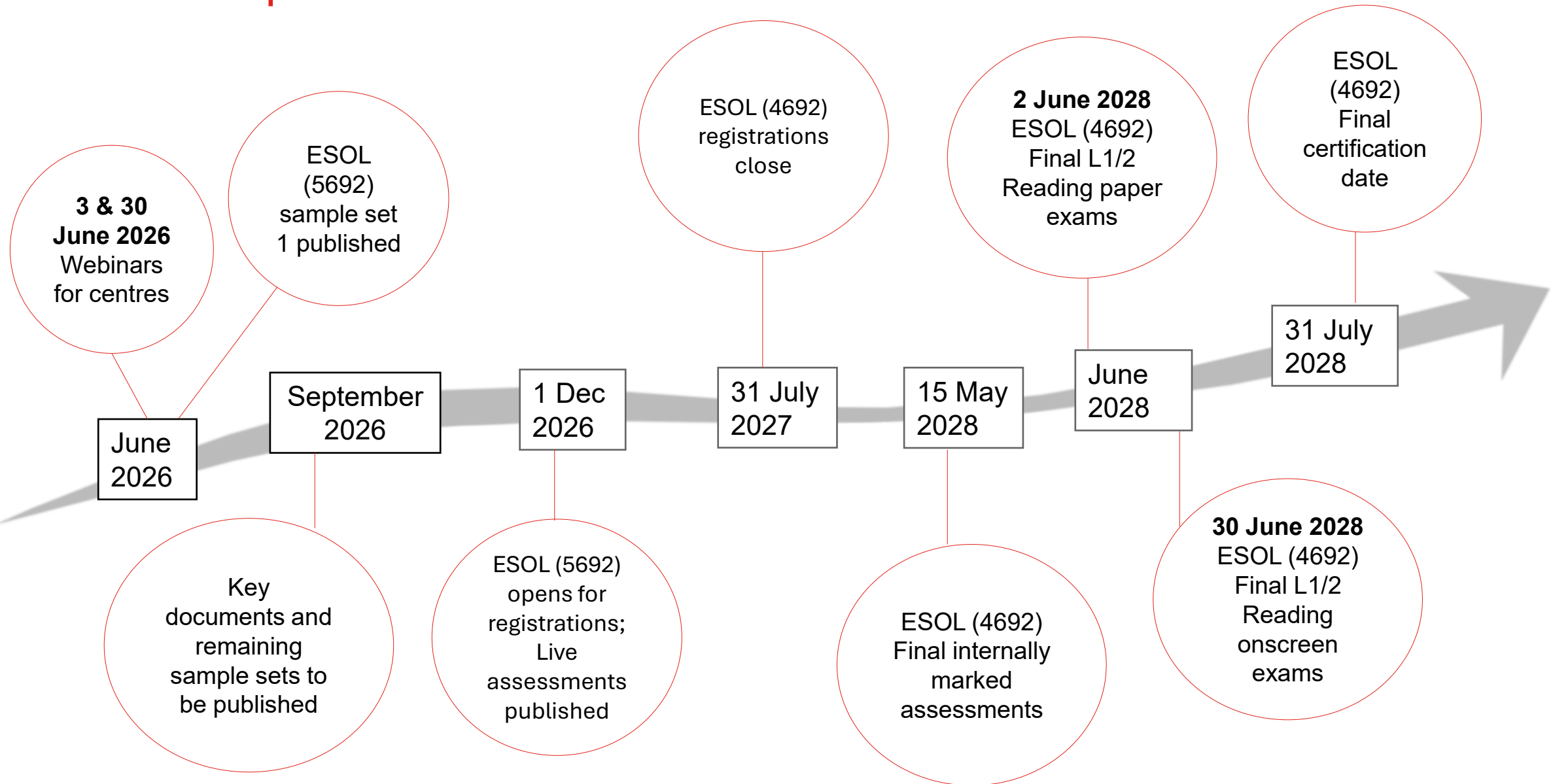
The new suite of qualifications will open for registration on **1 December 2026**. There will be a period of dual running to support customers with making the transition to the new suite.

The current ESOL Skills for Life qualifications (4692) will close for registrations on **31 July 2027**.

The final certification date for 4692 will be **31 July 2028**.



Transition plans



Centre Approval

Existing customers will need to apply for qualification approval. There will be a fast-track process so no centre charges will be applied.

This approval will be for registrations only; direct claim status will only be granted following a successful EQA report.

Fast track form will be available from 5692 qual page shortly (email alert).



Application for fast track qualification approval

Fast track approval is a streamlined approval process for existing centres. Typically, it is used when

- a qualification is replaced or updated.
- approval for an N/SVQ would automatically entitle the centre to offer the corresponding VRQ.

The qualification(s) listed below indicate those you may currently offer that would now entitle you to fast track approval for the new qualification(s) overleaf.

If you are unsure of your centre's status regarding your eligibility for fast track approval, please contact the Quality Team. Once completed, please send this form to quality@cityandguilds.com

Centre name Centre number

Address

Postcode

Name of contact

E-mail address Telephone number

Please tick the boxes of the qualifications below you **currently offer** which will be replaced

Qualification number	Level	Title	Tick
4 6 9 2 / 0 1	E1-L2	ESOL Skills for Life single-mode qualifications	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 6 9 2 / 0 2	E1-L2	ESOL Skills for Life full-mode qualifications	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 6 9 2 / 9 2	E1-L2	ESOL Skills for Life full-mode qualifications (top up)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What next?

Repeat of this webinar

30 June 2026 15:00 – 16:00 [Registration Link](#)

Live Q&A

9 September 2029 16:00-16:30

21 September 2026 12:00-12:30

Additional webinars and Q&A sessions with updates TBA.

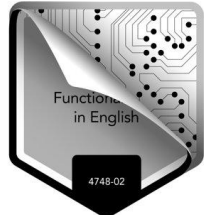
For bespoke support sessions contact us at

pre-employment@cityandguilds.com.



Digital Credentials

Support your learners to easily share skills and achievements online with digital badges!



- CV for life
- An easy and verifiable way to celebrate achievements
- Remove the need for printing and mailing paper certificates

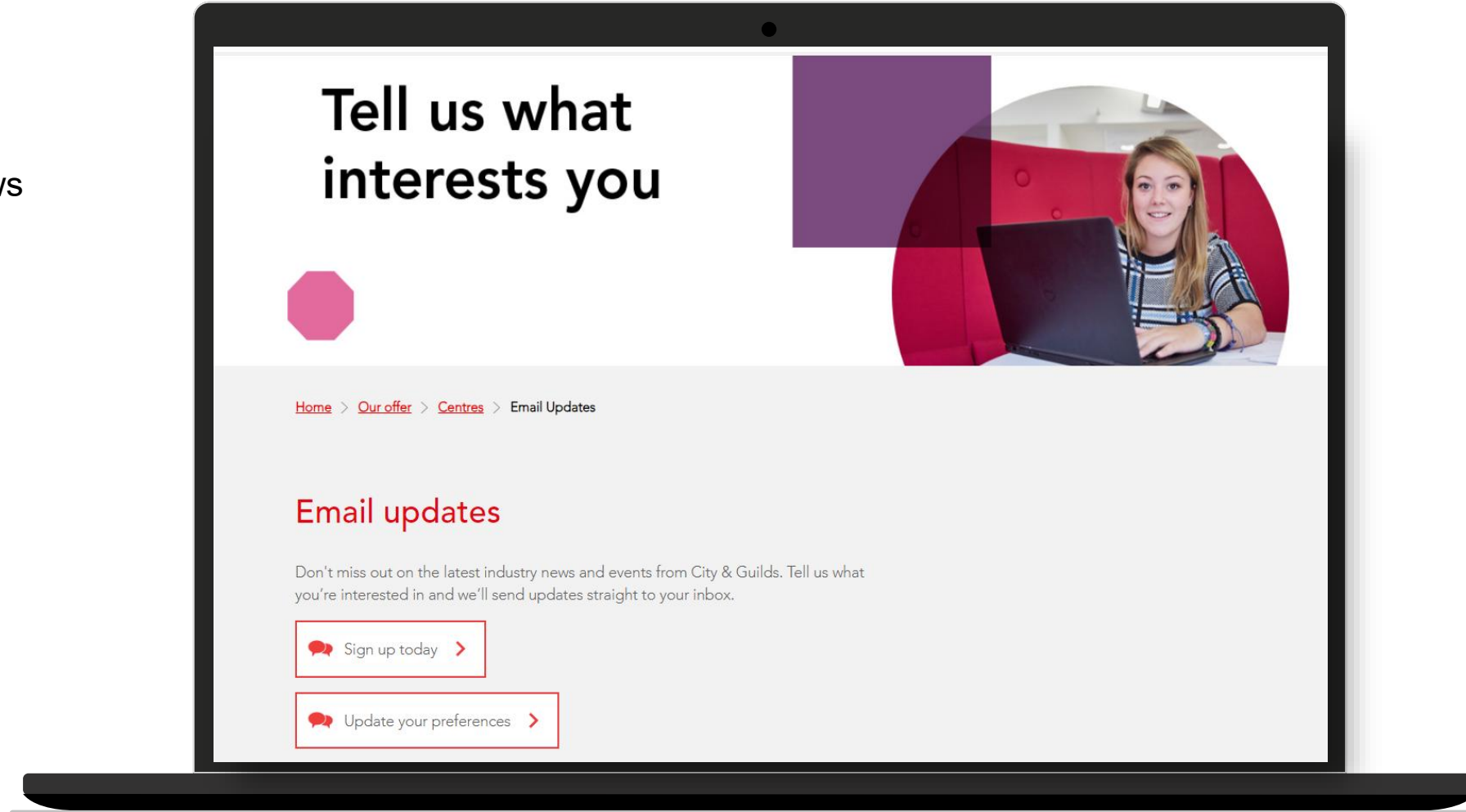
[Individuals - Digital Credentials | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)



Email updates

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[Email Updates | City & Guilds](#)



Questions & Answers

You can send any feedback and questions you may have to pre-employment@cityandguilds.com



Thank you!

For any queries you can contact a member of the team:

customersupport@cityandguils.com

About City & Guilds

City & Guilds is the global skills partner, empowering people, organisations and economies to develop the skills they need for growth. With almost 150 years of trusted expertise, we support people into work, help them develop on the job and move into the next job.

We work with Governments, employers, training providers, colleges and industry stakeholders to design and deliver high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to meaningful career progression. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility and success. Our solutions span critical sectors including construction, engineering, transport, energy and electrical, serving over 1 million learners annually.

Through our comprehensive portfolio of brands and trusted global network, we set industry-wide standards for technical, behavioural and commercial skills to improve performance and productivity. We believe you can achieve your potential - and we're here to help make it happen.

Contact us

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