

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
- Assessment design
- 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.



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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 is now live, with sample assessments and Qualification Handbooks for Entry Level and Levels 1&2 available.

Further samples and live assessments will be added when the qualifications officially launch.

[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 funding in England has been confirmed by DfE. We are awaiting funding confirmation and the dates in Wales and Northern Ireland.

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

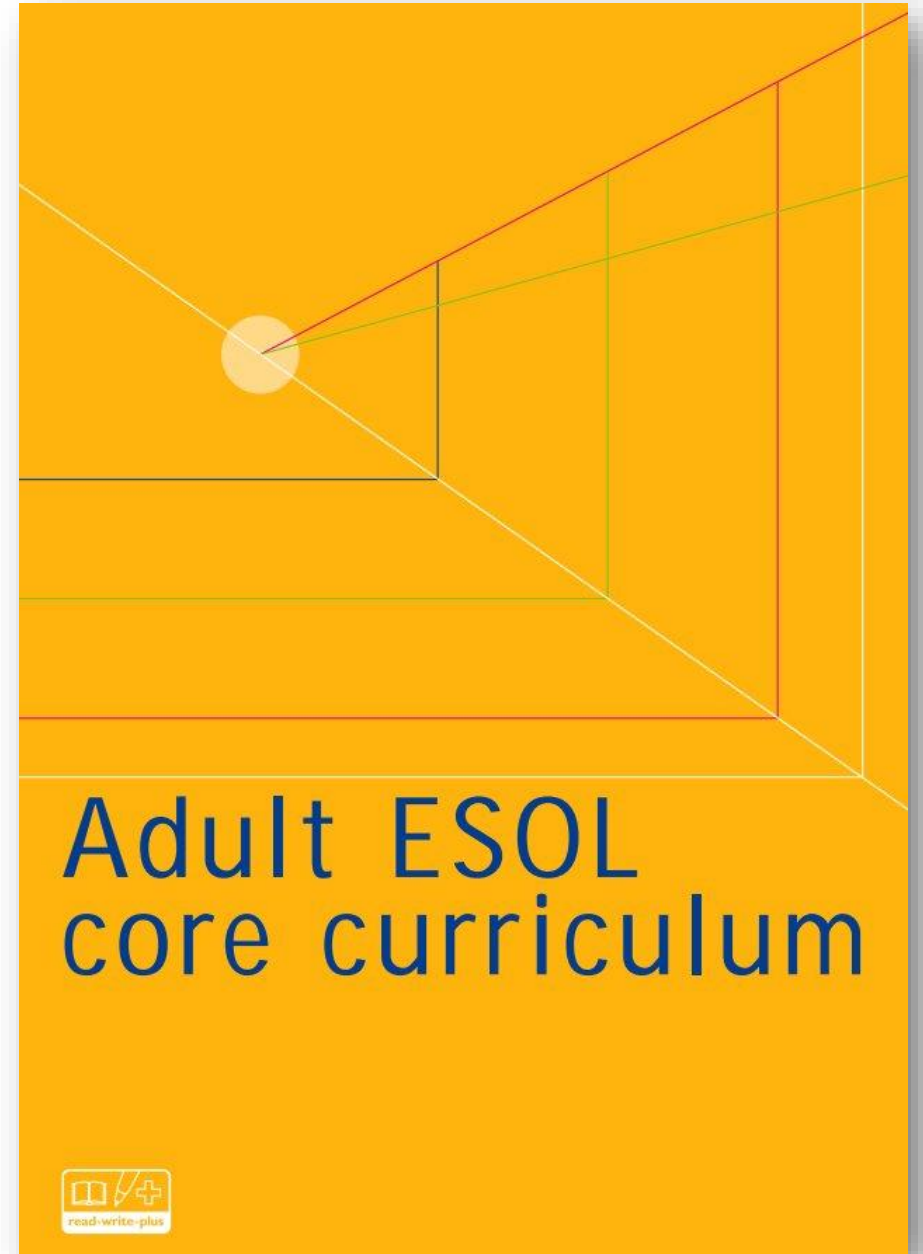
Route	Component	Fee
Single Mode Awards 5692-01 and 5692-02	Speaking & Listening (all levels)	£30.50
	Writing (all levels)	£30.50
	Reading (entry levels)	£30.50
	Reading (level 1 and level 2)	£30.50
Full Mode Certificate 5692-03 and 5692-04	Registration – includes Speaking & Listening, Writing and Reading 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:

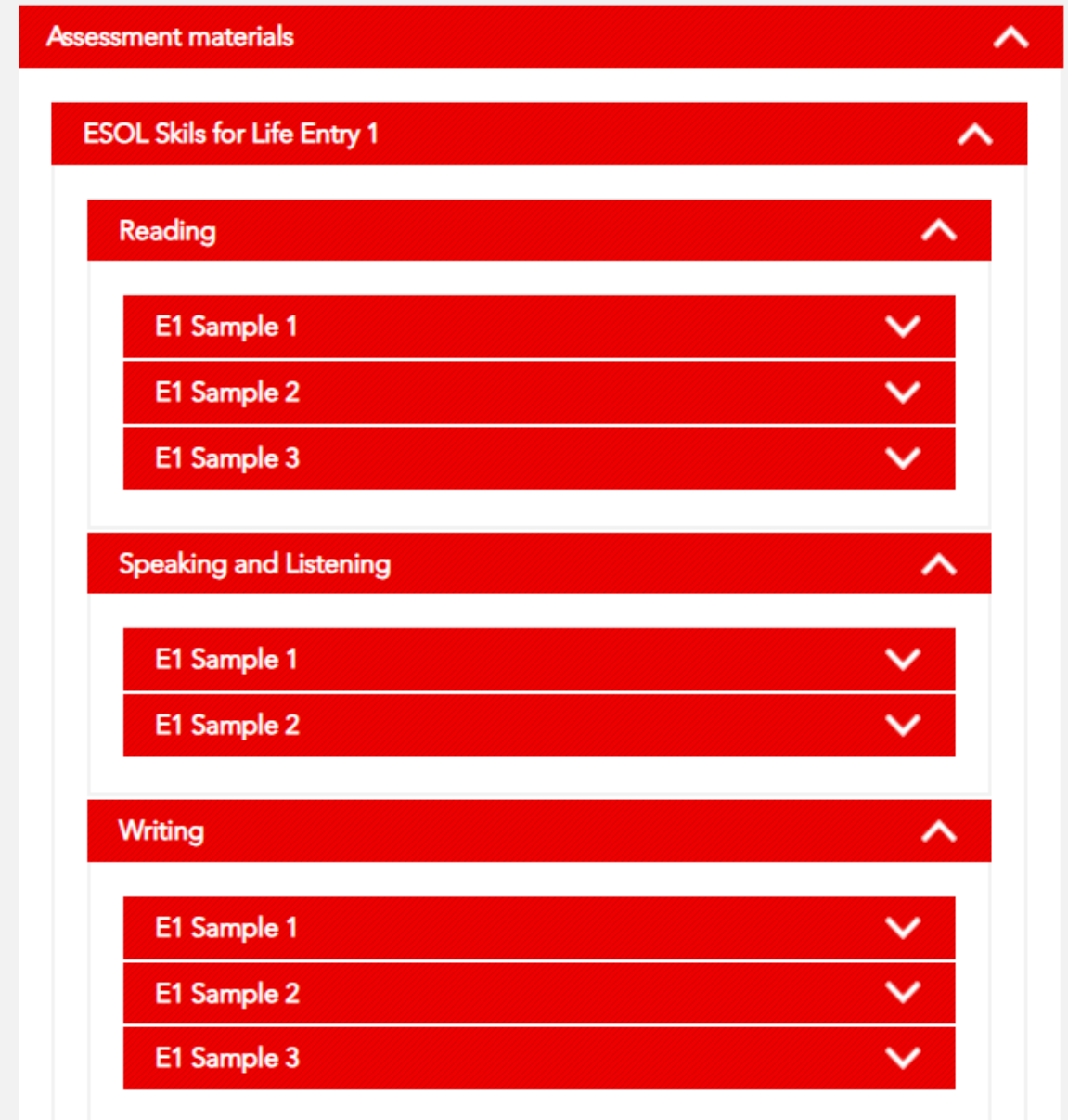
Reading _____

5692 Qualification Page

Up to three sample assessment for each subject and level have already been added to the 5692-qualification page.

When the qualification opens for learner registrations, there will be:

- a further set of sample assessments for each skill at each level added.
- Four live assessments for each subject and level.



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.



[illegible]

We are introducing an assessment tracker to help centres record which sets learners have completed and avoid reuse during resits.

A template spreadsheet will be provided to guide what information should be recorded.

Use of the template is optional—centres may continue using their own systems, as long as the same information is captured.

Maintaining accurate records will also support your EQA in preparing for annual monitoring visits.

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:	2
1.3	Rt/E1.1a	• (It helps stop) disease • (It helps stop) illness • (Sickness) costs (a lot of) money	(1)
2.1	Rt/E1.1b	Any one of the above	
2.3	Rt/E1.2a	3. 1) (clean) towel	1
	Rw/E1.1a	2) hand dryer	1
	Rw/E1.2a	4. (up to) 3 hours	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			☐

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			
1.3 2.1 2.2 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4	Lr/E3.1a Lr/E3.3b Lr/E3.5a Lr/E3.5b Lr/E3.7a Lr/E3.7c Sc/E3.2a Sc/E3.4b Sd/E3.1b Sd/E3.1c	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)
		Candidate follows the main points and makes appropriate contributions	2
		Candidate follows some main points and makes some appropriate contributions	(1)
		Candidate asks at least two open questions	2
		Candidate asks at least one open question	(1)
		Candidate responds appropriately to a range of open questions	2
		Candidate responds appropriately to some open questions	(1)
		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 Sc/E3.4a	Some grammatical errors occur but these do not impede communication.	(1)
Pronunciation	Sc/E3.1a Sc/E3.1b Sd/E3.1a	Pronounces common words with correct word stress and intonation.	2
		Pronounces most common words with correct word stress and intonation.	(1)
		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 Sc/E3.4d	Candidate uses a wide range of vocabulary and expressions in discussion at Entry 3.	2
		Candidate uses a limited but sufficient range of vocabulary and expressions in discussion at Entry 3.	(1)
Fluency/ discourse	Sd/E3.2a Lr/E3.4a Lr/E3.6a Lr/E3.7c	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
		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			☐

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 image shows a login interface for City & Guilds Open Assess. It features the City & Guilds logo (a red lion rampant) and the text "Open Assess". Below the logo, there are two input fields: "User Name:" and "Password:". A blue "Login" button is positioned below the password field. At the bottom, there is a link that says "Can't access your account?".

City & Guilds Open Assess

User Name:

Password:

Login

[Can't access your account?](#)

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 Qualification Handbooks and the majority of sample assessments are now available on the [ESOL \(5692\) website](#).

The following resources are planned for release closer to launch (anticipated by the end of October 2026):

- Assessment Guidance documents for Entry, Level 1 and Level 2
- FAQs
- Transition Guide (4692 to 5692), including key dates

At launch, there will be in total **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)

INFORMATION

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Coming soon: December 2026

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- England

Next steps

Key dates

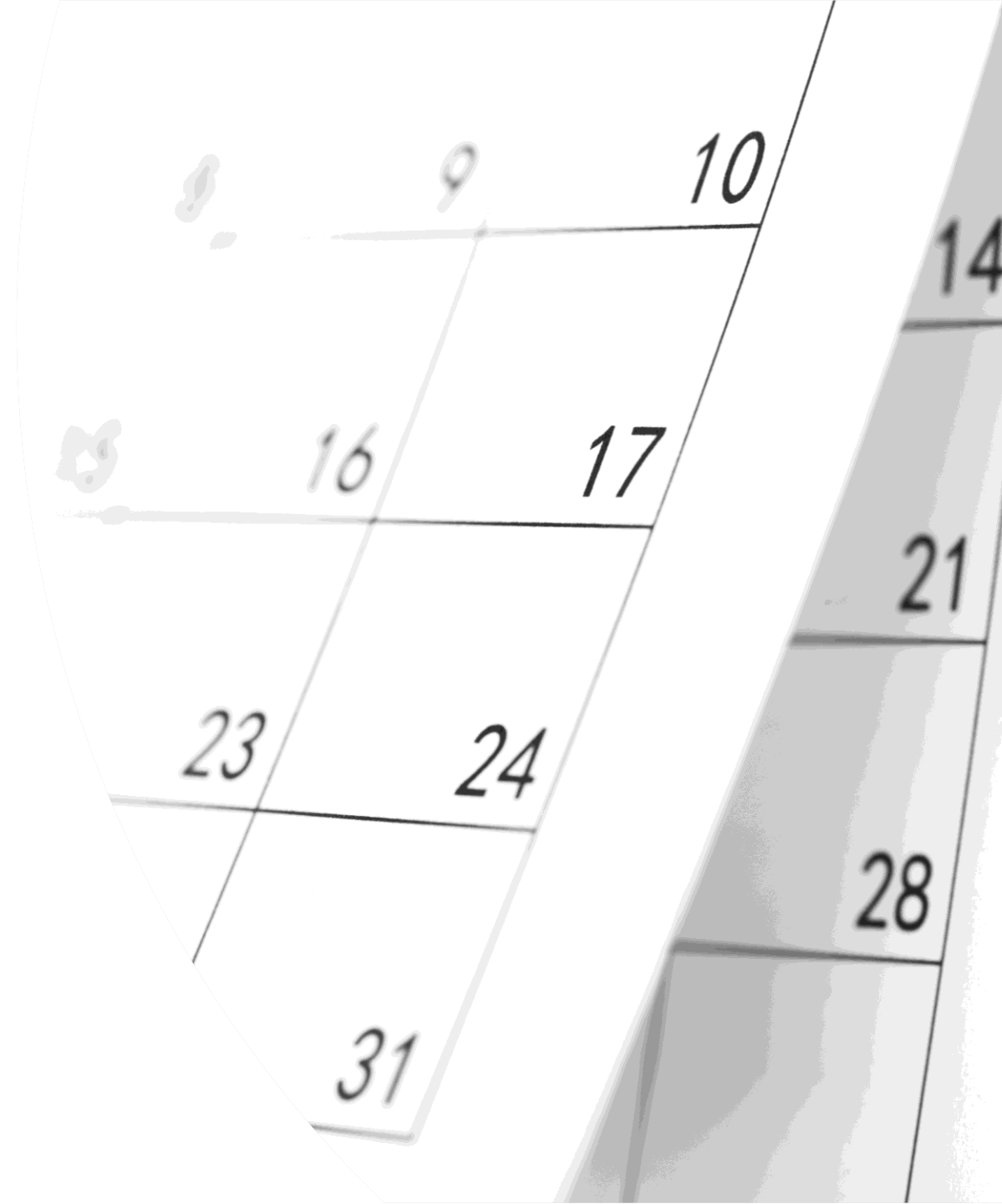
1 December 2026: Registrations open for the new ESOL (5692), with funding commencing in England.

1 February 2027: Last date for new funded starts on the current qualifications (4692) (in England)

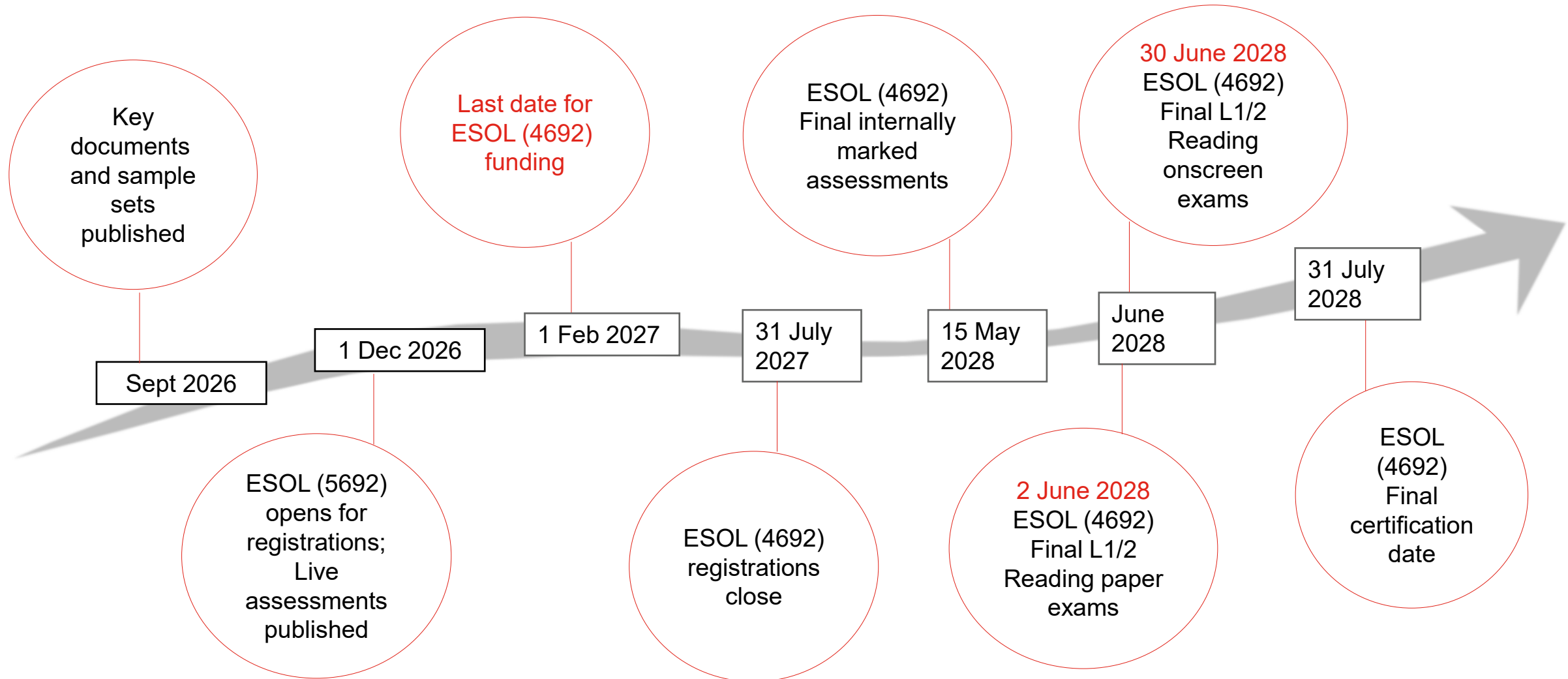
31 July 2027: Registration closes for the current qualifications (4692)

31 July 2028: End of the certification period for the current qualifications (4692)

We are awaiting funding confirmation and the dates in Wales and Northern Ireland.



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	☐
4	6	9	2	/	0	2	E1-L2	ESOL Skills for Life full-mode qualifications	☐
4	6	9	2	/	9	2	E1-L2	ESOL Skills for Life full-mode qualifications (top up)	☐
				/					☐
				/					☐

What next?

Getting Ready for 5692 (with Q&A)

This is an interactive session, designed to help centres prepare for the introduction of the new ESOL Skills for Life (5692) qualification. Together, we'll explore the key changes between the qualifications, and consider what centres can do to ensure a smooth transition.

Friday 13 November 10:00 -11:30

Friday 4 December 14:00-15:30

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

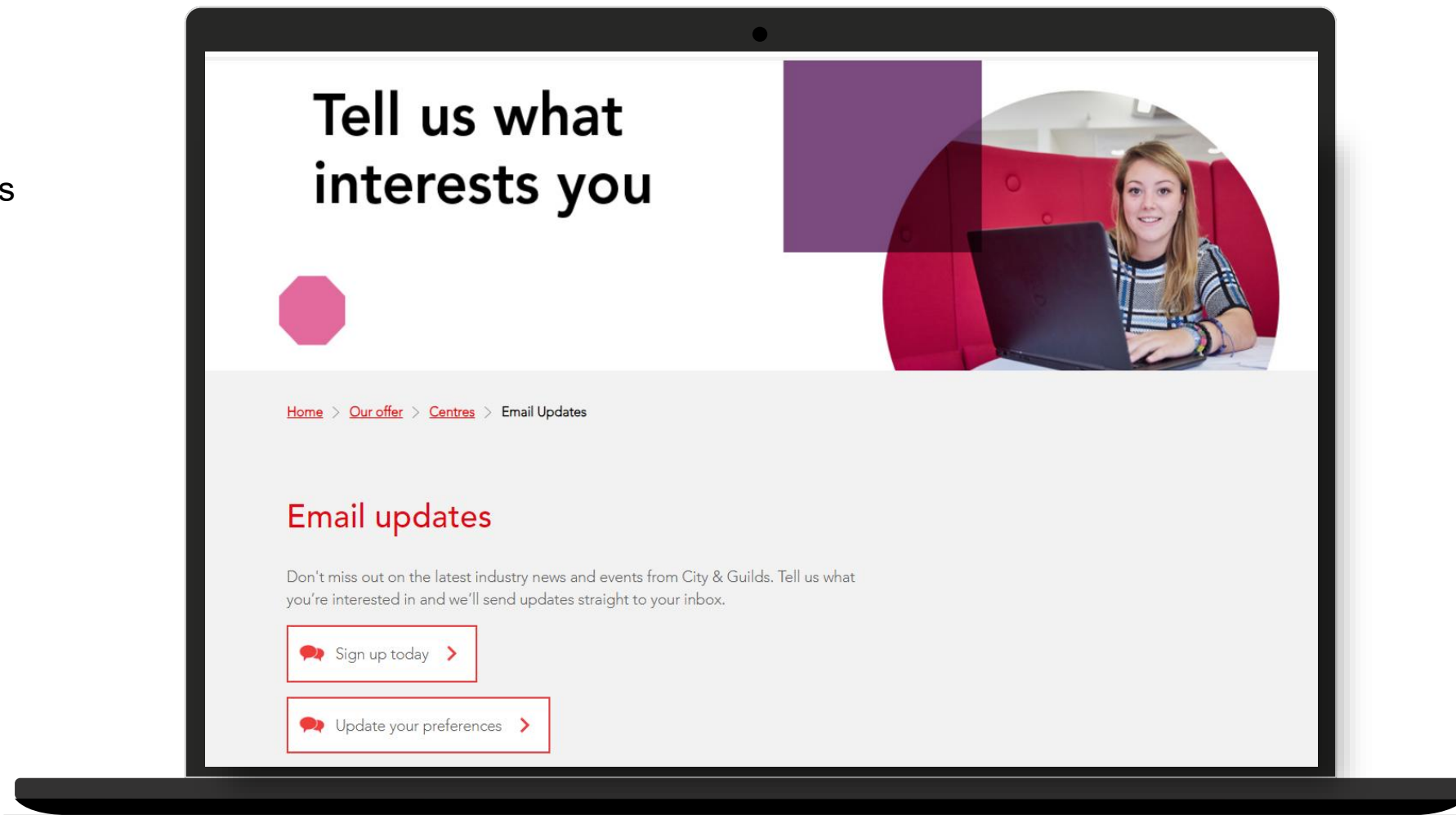
[Individuals - Digital Credentials | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://cityandguilds.com)



Email updates

Don't miss out on the latest news and events from City & Guilds!

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.

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