

ISSUE 06 – SEPTEMBER 2014

#CGMathsEnglish

The monthly update from City & Guilds on **anything** to do with mathematics, numeracy, application of number, English, literacy, communication, ESOL, ICT/digital skills...

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ESOL Skills for Life: new qualifications

Relevant to: *ESOL Skills for Life (3692 and 4692) (England, Northern Ireland and Wales)*

Purpose: *qualification developments/updates*

We're delighted to confirm that our new Framework-based ESOL Skills for Life qualifications (4692) are **now available**, having received Ofqual accreditation over the summer. Because there are relatively few *content* differences between the new qualifications and their predecessors (3692), all active 3692 centres have been given **automatic** (registration-only) approval for the 4692 suite.

If you intend to start delivering 4692, please note that the automatic approval arrangements only allow you to submit candidate registrations (and entries for the Reading tests at levels 1-2). Direct Claims Status (approval to claim certification) will only be available after positive External Quality Assurance (EQA) monitoring. Please get in touch with your managing City & Guilds Quality team if you require an EQA visit in the near future.

We're expecting the Skills Funding Agency to publish funding rates for these qualifications before the end of this month (when they do, they will appear on the **Simplified Funding Rates Catalogue**). They have **already** confirmed all of these qualifications will be fundable for adult learners in England from September 2014.

The new qualification numbers and titles are confirmed as follows:

Awards – single-mode qualifications

Title and level	City & Guilds	Accreditation
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 1)	4692-01	601/4188/8
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 2)	4692-01	601/4191/8
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	4692-01	601/4194/3

Certificates – full-mode qualifications

Title and level	City & Guilds	Accreditation
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 1)	4692-02	601/4075/6
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 2)	4692-02	601/4077/X
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 3)	4692-02	601/4078/1
Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-02	601/4079/3
Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-02	601/4076/8

The new handbook, sample and live assessments are available from the **4692 qualification webpage**. So far this includes:

- sample assignment (for Speaking & Listening and Writing at levels 1-2, and all three modes at Entry level) – Me and My Community
- sample Reading test at levels 1-2 – in two formats – PDF and Flash (to replicate the e-evolve onscreen environment)

The first live assignment was uploaded at the beginning of this month, with more being added over the next few weeks. Anyone familiar with 3692 will probably notice that the new assignments are largely based on existing titles/topics from the most recent batch of 3692 assignments. Nevertheless, there are some structural differences between the old and new assignments that assessors and internal quality assurers will need to familiarise themselves with before carrying out any live assessments.

Please also note that where candidates have previously attempted any 3692 assignments, they should **not** attempt the assignment(s) of the same title/level within 4692.

3692 extended until December 2014

Following the Skills Funding Agency announcement before the summer that they would continue to fund the old (NQF-based) ESOL Skills for Life qualifications until December, we have also extended each of the qualifications within the 3692 suite. These qualifications will now close to new registrations on 31 December 2014, with certification available until 31 December 2015.

The Skills Funding Agency will continue to fund new starts for these qualifications until 31 December 2014 – see the **Simplified Funding Rules Catalogue** for confirmation.

Will there be another opportunity to sit the interim 3692 Level 1-2 Reading assessment?

The interim Level 1-2 Reading assessment that we introduced last year for 3692 was a temporary measure, introduced as a short-term replacement for the Basic and Key Skills national test when these had to be withdrawn. This interim assessment was based on the **same specification** as the Reading components of our Functional Skills qualifications in English at levels 1-2.

We provided three fixed-date opportunities to sit this assessment under a 3692 registration during 2013-14, although it has also been possible for ESOL Skills for Life learners to access this assessment by registering for Functional Skills English (3748-01) and then counting success in the Reading component towards their ESOL qualification (using the prior achievement 'proxy' process outlined in the 3692 handbook and Walled Garden Catalogue pages for 3692-11 and 3692-12). When accessed under a Functional Skills registration, these assessments are available on-demand (both onscreen and paper-delivered). There is **no material difference** between the Level 1-2 Reading assessments made available via 3748-01 and those offered during 2013-14 via 3692.

Whilst the 'via Functional Skills' route described above **remains available** for any candidates still needing to complete the Reading component of 3692 at levels 1-2, please be aware that we **won't** be offering any further fixed-date assessment opportunities within 3692.

A more suitable alternative for some learners might be to switch to the new Level 1-2 Reading tests within **4692**. Unlike the interim Reading assessments within 3692, these have been developed specifically for ESOL learners.

Can achievements from 3692 be counted towards 4692?

Unfortunately, there's **no automatic process** for recognising achievements from previous NQF-based ESOL Skills for Life qualifications (such as 3692) towards the new Framework qualifications. In theory, it might be possible to map evidence across, although here it would need to be entirely clear that each candidate had met all of the assessment criteria within the new Framework unit.

Similarly, whilst NQF ESOL Skills for Life achievements from other awarding organisations can still be counted towards our 3692 suite, there is no automatic process by which any of these can be counted towards any of the new full-mode Certificates within 4692. However, are hoping to be able

to introduce streamlined process for recognising ESOL Skills for Life Framework unit/qualification achievements from other awarding organisations'. We will provide further guidance about this later in the autumn.

Remember – each unit is a qualification in its own right

One of the key differences with the new ESOL Skills for Life qualifications is **each individual mode is a learning aim in its own right** - unlike 3692, where Reading and Writing were recognised only as components of the full-mode qualification, with only Speaking & Listening available as a standalone qualification.

It's therefore less likely that learners would need to combine component achievements from the old qualifications with units from the new qualifications (at least not for funding purposes).

Look out for our ESOL launch events

We will be holding a series of launch events for the new ESOL Skills for Life qualifications later this autumn. Look out for further details on our **Events Calendar** or in the next issue of *All About Maths and English*.

Adult funding for Framework maths and English qualifications: we need your help!

Relevant to: *Principles of Using English/Mathematics and English/Mathematics Skills (3844 and 3847) (England only)*

Purpose: *public policy/strategy/funding*

We confirmed in Issue 05 of *All About Maths and English* that the Skills Funding Agency has now approved most of our Framework maths and English qualifications for adult funding until July 2015. A complete list of the fundable qualifications and units within the 3847 and 3844 suites can be found in the **updated** edition of our **Guide to Policy and Funding Expectations for Maths and English Qualifications in England** – see below.

However, in order to secure continued funding approval for each of these qualifications in **2015-16** and beyond, we are required to provide **evidence of demand**. This involves submitting at least five letters of support from organisations with a current Skills Funding Agency contract to deliver (or organisations included on the current list of Declared Subcontractors) who intend to draw adult skills funding against these qualifications during the current funding year.

Unfortunately, the timescales for submitting these funding applications are extremely tight – they need to be with the Skills Funding Agency by the end of October!

We're therefore urgently seeking letters of support from any current 3847/3844 centres
iteria.

We cannot provide a precise template for these letters, since they need to be individualised, although we have produced a guide for anyone intending to provide a letter, along with a matrix to help indicate which individual 3844/3847 qualifications are being supported. If you are able to provide a letter of support, it is vital that you follow these instructions carefully to ensure the Agency will accept it as evidence of demand.

If you are able to provide a letter please contact us (via **mathsandenglish@cityandguilds.com**) before doing so so we can send you the guidance and matrix. There are 36 qualifications in total requiring support (across 3844 and 3847), and we'd rather have too many letters than too few!

Note that this process only applies to qualifications at **Entry level** and **Level 1**. As we indicated in *Issue 05*, the Skills Funding Agency will not fund Level 2 Framework qualifications in maths or English under any circumstances after July 2015.

Maths and English funding policy guides: updated and now including Wales

Relevant to: any maths/numeracy and English/Welsh/literacy qualifications/learning (**England** and **Wales** only)

Purpose: public policy/strategy/funding

An updated version of the **Guide to Policy and Funding Expectations for Maths and English Qualifications in England** is now available to download from our website (follow the links from www.cityandguilds.com/mathsandenglish). Key changes include:

- updated information about the 'Condition of Funding' within 16-18 Study Programmes
- a list of the individual units (as distinct from single-unit qualifications) within 3847 that can attract adult funding.

We've also produced a separate **Guide to Policy and Funding Expectations for Numeracy and Literacy Qualifications in Wales** that outlines the Welsh Government's position as outlined in *Qualified for Success* in July 2014. Again, this can be accessed via the www.cityandguilds.com/mathsandenglish landing page.

Using and Applying Mathematics: our Core Maths qualification

Relevant to: *Using and Applying Mathematics (Core Maths) (3849)* (**England** only)

Purpose: qualification developments/updates; public policy/strategy/funding

Our new Level 3 Certificate in Using and Applying Mathematics was submitted for Ofqual accreditation over the summer. We're expecting to receive confirmation before the end of October that it will:

1. be recognised by the Department for Education (DfE) as a 'Core Maths' qualification – enabling it to count towards the new **Technical Baccalaureate Performance Measure**
2. attract UCAS tariff points.

Further information about this qualification, along with a sample assessment and the qualification handbook, are now available to download from the qualification webpage – see **information** and **documents**.

Whilst a DfE-funded Core Maths Support Programme is operating this year for 'Early Adopters', this qualification will not be launched fully for first teaching until September 2015. The first assessment opportunity is likely to be in the summer of 2016.

Changes to Essential Skills Wales from September 2015: new design principles now issued

Relevant to: *Essential Skills Wales (3768), wider Key Skills (3638-21) and any other relevant learning (Wales only)*

Purpose: *qualification developments/updates; public policy/strategy/funding*

The Welsh Government Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has issued design principles for the following new Essential Skills qualifications:

- **Essential Communication Skills***
available at levels 1-3, with a two-part end-assessment: controlled task and external test
- **Essential Application of Number Skills***
available at levels 1-3, with a two-part end-assessment: controlled task and external test
- **Essential Digital Literacy Skills**
available at Entry 1 to Level 3, with a controlled task end-assessment.

The new Essential Skills qualifications will replace the current Essential Skills Wales suite (3768) from September 2015. We're currently working with the Welsh Government to clarify more fully how the new assessments will operate, and we anticipate being able to provide further information about what the changes will involve later this autumn.

The current wider Key Skills will also be replaced by a new qualification in **Essential Employability Skills** – available at Entry 3 to Level 3. This incorporates the four skill areas of Planning and Organisation, Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving, Creativity and Innovation and Personal Effectiveness, although assessment of all four will be integrated into a single qualification. Again, this will be available from September 2015, although it is likely that the wider Key Skills will remain available as well until 2016.

Our **Guide to Policy and Funding Expectations for Numeracy and Literacy Qualifications in Wales** (see above) provides further background on these changes, including changes to the Welsh Bac and GCSEs in Wales.

Essential Skills Northern Ireland extended until (at least...) August 2015

Relevant to: *Essential Skills (NI) (3800) (Northern Ireland only)*

Purpose: *qualification developments/updates; public policy/strategy/funding*

Although the Northern Ireland Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) is continuing to review the long-term future of the Essential Skills (NI) qualifications (3800), the current qualifications and assessment model will continue until **at least** August 2015.

As we indicated in Issue 01 of *All About Maths and English*, we are in any event planning to review the current bank of desktop tasks and Entry level tasks over the coming year– given that some of these are now more than ten years old! We will provide more detail about this in due course, although in the meantime all of the current tasks remain available to download from www.cityandguilds.com/essentialskillsni.

* The current Entry level ESW Communication and ESW Application of Number qualifications will continue unchanged.

Entry level ICT in Northern Ireland: qualifications fundable as a step towards Essential Skills

Relevant to: *Essential Skills ICT (3800-60) and Start IT (4249) (Northern Ireland only)*

Purpose: *public policy/strategy/funding*

Meanwhile, DEL has also published an updated list of fundable IT user qualifications at Entry level within **colleges** in Northern Ireland or instances where learners are not yet ready to tackle Essential Skills ICT at Level 1. The list is on the **DEL website** (see Circular Addendum 6); note it includes City & Guilds' Start IT suite of qualifications (4249).

BIS commissions research into adult maths and English: a new focus on e-learning

Relevant to: *any adult maths and English learning (England only)*

Purpose: *public policy/strategy/funding*

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has commissioned a research project to understand the longer term impacts of adults' English and maths learning, as well as the relative effectiveness of different approaches to the delivery of adult learning. TNS BMRB is leading this work, in partnership with AlphaPlus, NIACE and NIESR.

The project has already received the support of many colleges, local authorities and other learning organisations. They are now looking to ensure that the e-learning sector, which constitutes a vital part of the adult learning landscape, is properly represented in the programme of research.

City & Guilds responds to BIS Select Committee report on adult literacy and numeracy

Relevant to: *any adult maths and English learning (primarily England, with some relevance to rest of UK)*

Purpose: *public policy/strategy/funding*

City & Guilds has welcomed the recent House of Commons **Business, Innovation and Skills Committee report on adult literacy and numeracy**. We gave both written and oral evidence to the Committee earlier this year, and it was especially pleasing to see some of our observations quoted directly in the final report.

The report is strongly critical of the UK Government's "obsession with GCSE", as well as bemoaning the lack of available information about numeracy and literacy provision for adults since the previous Government's Skills for Life campaign was wound down in 2010. Whilst the Government is under no obligation to act on the Committee's findings (and is extremely unlikely to do so less than eight months before a general election...), it is nevertheless healthy to see some of ministers' presumptions being challenged so openly.

You can also read **City & Guilds' initial response to the report**.

On Speaking Terms: Demos publishes major report on ESOL provision in England

Relevant to: any ESOL provision (**England only**)

Purpose: public policy/strategy/funding; general information

The think tank Demos has published one of the most substantial independent research reports into ESOL provision within England for many years. As well as being highly critical of successive governments' approaches to ESOL, the report calls for a coherent national ESOL strategy and a statutory requirement on local authorities to carry out a strategic assessment of migrants' needs and provide information about local ESOL provision. It also proposes making FE loans available to ESOL learners and for employers to be encouraged to support language learning.

The report, titled 'On Speaking Terms', is available to read on the **Demos website**. It received some media coverage when it was published, including a feature on Newsnight (available to view via the **BBC News website**).

Functional Skills: how many sample assessments are there?

Relevant to: Functional Skills (3748) (**England only**)

Purpose: qualification developments/updates; operational note

Issue 02 of *All About Maths and English* detailed of the range of sample Functional Skills assessments and guidance that we make available. This includes sample papers in both Flash and PDF format, as well as worked examples and examiner reports.

Whilst we are continuing to add more sample assessments (see below), it's important to recognise that they are **not a substitute for teaching** learners the relevant maths/English/ICT capabilities and problem solving skills. Anyone looking for teaching/learning support should take a look at our **two** new digital products:

- **e-Functional Skills**
an end-to-e-Functional Skills is an end-to-end online teaching and learning experience designed to support anyone delivering or working towards the Functional Skills qualifications.
- **Maths and English e-Toolkit**
combining an adaptive initial and diagnostic assessment tool with a wealth of multi-media resources; designed to help learners in all settings improve their maths and English – increasing their chances of success in **any relevant qualification** they work towards.

See *Issue 05* for a more detailed overview of both products.

Here's the current tally of available sample assessments, along with our immediate plans for adding more :

Qualification	Sample assessments	Any additional samples
Functional Skills qualification in English at Entry 1		
Functional Skills qualification in English at Entry 2		
Functional Skills qualification in English at Entry 3		

Qualification	Sample assessments	Any additional samples
Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	†	
Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	†	
Functional Skills qualification in	6 titles (PDF)	Not at present
Functional Skills qualification in	5 titles (PDF)	Not at present
Functional Skills qualification in	5 titles (PDF)	Not at present
Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	5 x PDF †	More may be added during 2014-15 as live papers
Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	4 x PDF †	More may be added during 2014-15 as live papers
Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	4 titles (PDF)	Not at present
Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	4 titles (PDF)	Not at present
Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	3 titles (PDF)	Not at present
Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 1	1 x Flash [†]	Not at present
Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	1 x Flash [†]	Not at present

† to replicate e-volve onscreen environment

We are not planning to add any further FS ICT samples at levels 1-2 for the time being, since we are planning to introduce a new delivery platform for these assessments in a few months' time. Watch this space for further details...

Tell us what you think

All About Maths & English is a monthly newsletter that brings together all of the key developments from City & Guilds relevant to maths, English or ICT/digital skills learning. It includes information about each of the maths and English qualifications offered by City & Guilds across England, Northern Ireland and Wales, updates on the range of teaching and learning resources we offer, plus relevant public policy or other information we think you might be interested in.

Each edition is numbered, so we can refer back to previous issues or tell you when information has been superseded. We've also tried to categorise each article by indicating which City & Guilds qualification(s) it relates to, and/or if it applies only to England, Northern Ireland or Wales.

If there's anything else you'd particularly like us to cover or explain more fully in future issues of *All About*, please feel free to drop us a line to mathsandenglish@cityandguilds.com or tweet using the hashtag **#CGMathsEnglish**.

For more information about City & Guilds' entire range of maths and English products and services, please visit www.cityandguilds.com/mathsandenglish.

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