

ISSUE 07 – OCTOBER 2014 [#CGMathsEnglish](https://twitter.com/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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New ESOL qualifications: adult funding

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

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

We announced in *Issue 06* that our new Framework-based ESOL Skills for Life qualifications are now available, with the old (3692) qualifications still available for new starts until 31 December 2014.

More assignments coming...

We're in the process of adding more live assignment titles at each level (these will appear on the **4692 qualification documents page**), with at least four complete sets due to be available by the end of December. We're also commissioning at least one further set of sample assignments. We'll advise once this is available.

Adult Skills funding arrangements for England (whoop, whoop... but complicated!)

The Skills Funding Agency has now **confirmed 2014-15 funding rates** for each of the new ESOL Skills for Life qualifications, as well as announcing additional non-regulated 'top up' funding for instances where additional programme hours are needed.

The **top-up arrangements** are remarkably generous, although also quite complex (Nick Linford from FE Week has described them as "Whoop, whoop, but really complicated"). They are intended to take into account of the particular needs of ESOL learners and wide variety of different types of provision.

The funding rates for the new qualifications are also considerably more generous compared to their NQF-based predecessors (£725 for a full-mode qualification, and £300 for Speaking and Listening). They mean for following rates will apply to each of the qualifications within 4692:

Awards – single-mode qualifications

Qualification	City & Guilds number	Registration number	Current City & Guilds	Current ESOL Skills for Life funding
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4187/6	9 / 76	£450
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4188/8	11 / 85	£450
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4189/X	9 / 76	£450
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4190/6	9 / 76	£450
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4191/8	11 / 85	£450
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4192/X	9 / 55	£450
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4193/1	11 / 86	£450
Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4194/3	12 / 73	£600
Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4195/5	11 / 66	£450
Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4196/7	11 / 82	£450
Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4197/9	12 / 73	£600
Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4198/0	11 / 66	£450
Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4199/2	11 / 82	£450
Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-01	601/4200/5	12 / 73	£600

Certificates – full-mode qualifications

Title and level	City & Guilds number	Accreditation number	Credit / GLH	Unweighted Adult skills funding
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for	4692-02	601/4075/6	29 / 237	£1,265
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for	4692-02	601/4077/X	29 / 237	£1,265
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for	4692-02	601/4078/1	32 / 214	£1,265
Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-02	601/4079/3	34 / 221	£1,265
Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	4692-02	601/4076/8	34 / 221	£1,265

What about 16-18 provision?

These qualifications may be used within 16-18 Study Programmes in England. For learners without A*-C GCSE in English they count towards the Department for Education (DfE) ‘Condition of Funding’ requirement for English. The recommended guided learning hours should be used as a basis for determining anticipated programme hours, although some ESOL learners may need considerably more (or less...) time than this.

...and in Wales?

These qualifications do not yet appear on the Database of Approved Qualifications in Wales (DAQW), although this is largely because the old qualifications are still available until December. Once approved, we expect these qualifications will be funded on the basis of their credit values – in line with the normal funding methodology for qualifications in Wales.

...and Northern Ireland?

We expect these qualifications to be funded by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), again on the basis of their size. Unlike in Great Britain, our **International ESOL** qualifications are also eligible for public funding in Northern Ireland.

Look out for our ESOL launch events

We’re holding a series of launch networks to help centres get to grips with the new qualifications. The following dates should be appearing on our **Events Calendar** shortly:

Wednesday 8 April 2015

We'll also be holding at least one face-to-face event in Wales in the New Year, timed to coincide with an update on the new Essential Skills qualifications being introduced from next September. The four face-to-face events in England will be held back-to-back with network meetings for the Framework maths and English qualifications (3844 and 3847).

Using and Applying Mathematics: the (now accredited...) Core Maths qualification

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

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

Our Level 3 Certificate in Using and Applying Mathematics has been accredited by Ofqual, and has now been submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) for recognition as a Core Maths qualification – enabling it to count towards the new **Technical Baccalaureate Performance Measure** from 2017.

UCAS has already confirmed this qualification will attract Tariff points for entry to Higher Education, as follows:

- Grade A - 60 points
- Grade B - 50 points
- Grade C - 40 points
- Grade D - 30 points
- Grade E - 20 points.

The qualification handbook is available to download from the **3849 qualification documents page**. As well as setting out the qualification specification, this document also contains substantial teaching and learning guidance for anyone seeking to deliver this qualification. So far we have issued one complete set of sample assessments, although a further two sets have been commissioned now that the qualification has been accredited.

This qualification has been designed to complement City & Guilds' new **TechBac® programme** for 14-19 learners. We worked extensively with a number of high profile employers such as Barclays and TUI when designing this qualifications, focusing on the specific areas of maths and mathematical fluency they had highlighted as important for their current/future workforce.

If you're involved in one of the Core Maths Support Programme Early Adopter Teaching Pilots...

Looks out for a series of City & Guilds Core Maths network events later this autumn, and during the New Year. If you've any queries about our offer in the meantime, please **get in touch**.

Recent improvements to Functional Skills onscreen assessments

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

Purpose: *qualification developments/updates; operational note*

Following a recent upgrade to the e-volve system, we've been able to make a number of improvements to our onscreen-delivered Functional Skills assessments.

Functional Skills Mathematics changes

We will be phasing in the following changes as each individual assessment paper is reviewed and refreshed:

Diagram creator	Object highlighting	Objects will highlight green when selected which makes it easier to see which object is currently
Diagram creator	Copy and Paste	Allows candidate to copy and paste any shape they have constructed as well as objects they have dragged on from the object list on the right-hand
Diagram creator	Bring forward/ send backward	The layering works similar to the tools in other software drawing packages, ie the number of layers determines the number of times you need to click the send forward / send backward button. For example, if your image is built up of 5 layered 'objects' it would take 5 clicks of 'send to back' to move the top selected object to the bottom of the
Diagram creator	Select objects/ select all	Enables candidate to perform the same action to multiple items. For example, if you want to fill 10 tiles in blue, you would highlight all (by dragging the mouse round all to select them) then click 'blue' colour fill and all of them will fill in blue.
Diagram creator	Arrow tool	Double-headed and single-headed arrows have been added to the diagram creator object list to save candidates having to manually draw these on. The arrows should be dragged on and can be
Graph/chart creator	Add key	Enables candidates to add a key/legend to the chart or graph if this is their preferred way of working. Please note the key cannot be moved, it will always appear in top right corner. The height of the vertical axis therefore should be considered
Graph/chart	Line graph plot	Plot markers will now stay visible at all times on
Graph/chart creator	Pie chart segment labels	Segment size labels have moved to the centre of each segment so that it is easier for candidates to
Other	Feedback screens (for sample assessments only)	Allows tutors to view candidates' responses even after a test has ended. Please note, the candidate needs to press 'Finish' to end the test, but must not close the browser , otherwise their work will

To practise using the new item types, please click on the links below to view the latest sample assessments that include these new features:

- **Level 1 sample 4: example graph creator - Section 3 Question 2**
- **Level 2 sample 4: example diagram creator - Section 2 Question 1**

Note samples 1-3 will also be updated to reflect these changes in due course.

A reminder about preparing for these assessments...

Candidates should be given plenty opportunity to practise using the various items before attempting any live onscreen-delivered FS Mathematics assessments. The tools are not difficult to use (especially for learners used to operating in a digital environment), although they do require a bit of familiarisation – of the sort that clearly **mustn't** be left until the day of the assessment!

To scroll or not to scroll...?

One change we are also contemplating, for both FS Mathematics and FS English, is presenting each task/section of the assessment on a scrolling screen rather than on separate pages. We'd like to work with a small number of centres to try out a (non-live) prototype version in this format with some of their learners. If you're interested in taking part in this, please contact our Assessment team (functionalskills@cityandguilds.com).

Look out for big changes to our Functional Skills ICT assessments...

We're also working on a new delivery platform for our FS ICT assessments known as In-Application (or 'In-App') assessment. Like the other changes outlined above, In-App is made possible by the recent upgrade to the e-evolve system and we now expect it to be available early in the New Year.

We'll explain how In-App is going to work in more detail nearer the time, although in essence it involves

- using the e-evolve system to deliver the assessment task information and source data to candidates, then
- allowing them to complete the assessment activities using locally installed software applications (eg Microsoft Office or any other mainstream commercial product), before
- uploading their outputs back into the e-evolve system for marking.

In time we expect In-App to replace both the 'simulation' e-evolve assessments, as well as the current paper-delivery route where candidates' outputs have to be printed locally before being posted (and then re-scanned...) for marking. However, both of these routes will remain available until we're confident that In-App is working as intended and able to support the volume of learners typically accessing these assessments during the busiest times of the year.

Functional Skills thrown a lifeline...

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

Purpose: *public policy/strategy/funding*

Meanwhile, you may have seen that Skills Minister Nick Boles has recently written to Ofqual, confirming that Functional Skills "will continue to be one of the types of qualification that learners have available". **FE Week initially broke the story earlier this month.**

His comments mark a significant change of direction for the Government from the earlier 'ambition' that GCSE should become the gold-standard Level 2 qualification for all learners. Nevertheless, what this change of heart means in practice remains to be seen. Nick Boles is known to favour a rebranding of the qualifications – at least for Level 2, and is looking to Ofqual for assurances that these qualifications provide "a reliable test of [learners'] literacy and numeracy skills".

Changes to Essential Skills qualifications in Wales: further update

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*

We indicated in *Issue 06* that the Welsh Government has now published design principles for most of the revised Essential Skills qualifications that will be introduced for first teaching from September 2015. These changes involve a shift towards ‘end’ assessments completed entirely under supervised conditions, without any ongoing portfolio-based assessment.

We’re continuing to work closely with the Welsh Government on these changes, especially emphasising that the new assessments will need to be suitable for the full range of adult and work-based settings in which these qualifications will be completed in future. Both the National Training Federation Wales (NTfW) and Colleges Wales are also closely involved in these changes, including joining some of the working groups that will be producing the new assessments.

We will be holding a series of briefing events of our own about the new Essential Skills qualifications early in the New Year – by which time it should be much clearer how these changes will affect centres’ assessment planning. In the meantime, it’s important to emphasise that these changes will not involve any fundamental changes to the Essential Skills Wales performance standards and knowledge requirements that underpin these qualifications.

You may have also seen that we are currently consulting on the future of the **Level 3 Essential Skills Practitioners’ qualifications (8375)** and **Level 2 Award/Certificate in Supporting Adults and Young People in Essential Skills (9300)**. You can find the consultation questionnaire

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**.

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