

Essential Skills (Wales) – Changes to the Design Principles

FAQ document

V1-0 August 2022



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V1-0	01/08/2022	Document created

1. Webinar recording

A recording of the webinar outlining the changes to Essential Communication Skills at Levels 1, 2 & 3 and Essential Application of Number Skills at Levels 1, 2, & 3 can be found on the Essential Skills Wales updates page here: [Essential Skills Wales Updates | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/essential-skills-wales-updates)

2. Slide deck

This document should be read in conjunction with the copy of the slides used in the webinar which can be found here: [Essential Skills Wales Updates | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/essential-skills-wales-updates)

These have been updated to show the adjustment to the marks for AoN relating to the planning element.

3. Questions and Answers

3.1. Will total number of questions in confirmatory test be fixed? and will pass mark be the same or differ with the relevant test?

The confirmatory tests will retain the same number of questions and marks. The pass marks remain the same for all tests. The effects of the change to the design principles are that the number of questions within the band relating to each skill being assessed criteria have been changed which allows a flexibility around the number of questions testing each skills when writing tests.

3.2. With the new sample papers on C&G website, there is an example of a plan. Is this the level that is accepted now for the planning?

Rather than an example of a plan, the candidate pack now directs candidates to show their plan as a list, a table, a spider diagram or a flow chart. This will encourage them to produce shorter plans rather writing a narrative, which is more time consuming. The Assessor pack gives further detail.

3.3. There are new sample tests on the website, will there be any new sample tasks please?

There is an example of the sample confirmatory test at each level which takes account of the changes to the specification for tests. We hope to make additional samples available in due course.

For Communication, the controlled tasks were unaffected by the changes to the design principles, so no new sample tasks have been uploaded.

For Application of Number we have revised the Travel and Tourism tasks for Level 1 and 2 and the Sport & Leisure task for Level 3 to demonstrate the new requirements. Further sample materials will be made available in due course.

3.4. How many marks will be given for the planning in the AoN task now?

The marks for planning have been adjusted as follows:

Current Model for marks	Marks for the plan	Total marks for N1/2/3.1	Effect of reducing marks for planning	Marks for the plan	Total marks for N1/2/3.1
Level 1	4	8	Level 1	2	6
Level 2	5	9	Level 2	3	7
Level 3	6	11	Level 3	4	9

This information has been added to the slide deck which accompanies this FAQ document.

A risk of reducing the marks available for the plan is that candidates might be able to achieve a pass mark without showing sufficient evidence of planning, or without attempting a plan. The Assessment Records will show a requirement for at least 1 mark to be awarded for a plan for a candidate to achieve a pass.

3.5. One of the marks for level two asked where a learner had explained use of calculation- but nowhere on controlled paper were they asked for that.

This has now been included in the bullet points in the candidate pack where the candidate is told what they are expected to include.

3.6. Many learners lost the mark for explaining the use of calculation AND the plan mark which meant a fail, so hopefully this has been explored?

As these are now separate instructions to the candidate this should assist them to include all the relevant responses – centres should use the sample tasks to reinforce this message to prepare learners successfully.

4. If you have further questions please email: pre-employment@cityandguilds.com

A member of the team will get back to you and we will update this document with further information.



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Contact us

T: 01924 930 801

E: centresupport@cityandguilds.com

Lines open: Monday to Friday 08.00 to 18.00 GMT

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City and Guilds Group

Giltspur House

5–6 Giltspur Street

London EC1A 9DE

www.cityandguilds.com

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