

All about...

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 #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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Forthcoming maths, English and Essential Skills Wales workshops – and ESOL updates

Relevant to: English/Mathematics Skills (3847), Essential Skills Wales (3768), Essential Skills for Work and Life (3846), ESOL Skills for Life (3692/4692) (**England and Wales only**)

Purpose: changes/improvements to qualification/offer; operational note; coming soon

We're holding a series of workshops and briefings during **June**, covering the following:

English/Mathematics Skills (3847) – interactive workshop

Warrington (2 June), London (6 June), Wakefield (20 June)

- two half-day (2 ½ hours) sessions – one for English, one for maths
- for **existing** 3847 centres
- main purpose to share/discuss approaches to generating portfolio evidence, including the City & Guilds workpacks as well as any locally devised assessment activities
- also an opportunity work with other delegates and City & Guilds consultants to identify best practice ideas for the quality assurance of these qualifications
- delegates expected to **bring along a range of portfolio evidence from their own centre**, along with **samples of activities** being used to generate evidence
- places limited to **one** delegate per centre, although it is intended that further events will be held in the autumn.



Essential Skills Wales (3768) – interactive workshop

Cardiff (16 June)

- half-day (2 ½ hour) session
- for **existing** City & Guilds Essential Skills (3768 and/or 3846) centres
- main purpose to share/discuss approaches to generating portfolio evidence for Essential Skills Communication and Application of Number, especially those aspects of the standards where centres find it difficult to generate meaningful or purposeful evidence.
- also an opportunity work with other delegates and City & Guilds consultants to identify best practice ideas for the quality assurance of these qualifications
- delegates expected to **bring along a range of portfolio evidence from their own centre**, along with **samples of activities** being used to generate evidence
- also includes brief update on likely changes to the Essential Skills qualifications after 2015, including the move to controlled assessment activities
- will also explore how the Essential Skills for Life and Work qualifications and units (3846) can be used alongside the ‘full’ Essential Skills qualifications
- places limited to **one** delegate per centre, although it is intended that further events will be held in the autumn.

ESOL Skills for Life (4692) – face-to-face update

Warrington (2 June), London (6 June), Cardiff (16 June), Wakefield (20 June)

- half-day (2 ½ hour) session
- for existing/prospective ESOL Skills for Life centres, working with City & Guilds or any other awarding organisation
- main purpose to introduce centres to City & Guilds’ new Framework ESOL Skills for Life qualifications, due to launch in September 2014
- will include:
 - key similarities/differences compared to current (3692) ESOL Skills for Life suite
 - opportunity to view draft* sample assessments and documentation for new qualification
 - quality assurance expectations
- also an opportunity to discuss ideas for delivery – eg with Jobcentre Plus clients, and where/how it might be used alongside other qualifications such as English/Mathematics Skills (3847)
- places limited to **one** delegate per centre, although it is intended that further events will be held in the autumn.

ESOL Skills for Life (4692) – webinar update

webinar – 17 June (pm)

- 1 hour session, with same agenda as the face-to-face sessions (see above)
- all welcome.

To book onto any of these events, visit www.cityandguilds.com/events.

* This may still be subject to Ofqual accreditation and therefore will be liable to change before the new qualifications are finalised.

Qualifications Wales publishes new GCSE Principles for English/Welsh and Mathematics

Relevant to: all English/Welsh or mathematics learning (Wales only)

Purpose: public policy/strategy; general information

Qualifications Wales has issued **Qualification and Subject principles** for the following new GCSEs that will be introduced for first teaching in Wales from September 2015:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Welsh Language
- GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy
- GCSE Mathematics.

The new GCSEs for Wales are part of a decisive break from the previous ‘three country’ model, where GCSE Criteria were common across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As well as retaining the current A*-G grading system (rather than the 1-9 scale proposed in England), the new qualifications in Wales include:

- two separate maths qualifications: GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy
- oracy (speaking and listening) contributing 20% of the available marks for English/Welsh language.

Both subjects will have ‘linear’, rather than modularised, assessment – with end-assessments available twice a year.

Meanwhile the revised assessment model for the Essential Skills qualifications, involving controlled tasks rather than portfolio assessment, will also be introduced from September 2015. We’re currently working with the Welsh Government to finalise piloting and implementation arrangements.

Funding for 3844 and 3847 during 2014-15

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

Purpose: public policy/strategy; general information

Over the last few months, the Skills Funding Agency has been reviewing all of the Framework English and mathematics qualifications developed since 2012. This has involved looking at **all** awarding organisations’ qualifications, including our Principles of Using English/Mathematics (3844) and English/Mathematics Skills (3847) suites.

When they announced their review, the Agency put a temporary hold on approving any new Framework English or maths qualifications for Adult Skills (19+) funding. We understand that this has now been lifted, although, because Adult Skills funding for all qualifications is now reviewed annually, these qualifications have yet to be included in the **2014-15 Funding Rates Catalogue**. The Catalogue is next due to be refreshed at the end of this month.

Nevertheless, as the recently revised (Version 2) **Funding Rules for 2014-15** make clear, Framework units and qualifications **will** continue to be eligible for Adult Skills funding in 2014-15. We would advise anyone intending to draw funding for adults accessing these qualifications to read the new Funding Rules carefully, since they now include much more detail about the need for robust initial/diagnostic assessment and clear progression.

In doing so, it's important to appreciate that 3844/3847 were never intended to be 'destination' qualifications; their main purpose is to support and recognise learner progression, rather than be a substitute for Functional Skills or GCSE. They have a key role to play in helping to build learners' confidence and demonstrating their progress, although almost all types of publicly-funded provision will also require a plan for moving learners towards Functional Skills and/or GCSE.

English and maths Condition of Funding within 16-19 Study Programmes

As we indicated in *Issue 01*, there has been some misconception about the exact requirements of the new **English and maths Condition of Funding** that will apply to 16-19 Study Programmes from this September. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has confirmed the Condition requires all learners without A*-C GCSEs in English and Mathematics to be *enrolled to take* one or more of the following as part of their programme:

- GCSE (or regulated 'i-GCSE' certificates)
- Functional Skills
- ESOL Skills for Life.

For this purpose, 'enrolled to take' means intending to undergo assessment in that qualification at some point during their programme. Funding is not dependent on *achieving* that particular qualification, and there is no inherent reason why learners cannot access other Section 96-approved qualifications such as 3844/3847 beforehand – as long as the centre is able to justify this in terms of enabling individual learners to make progress towards one of the qualifications the EFA has specified within the Condition.

It is also worth recalling that the **Common Inspection Framework** places particular emphasis on

- meeting individual learners' needs
- initial assessment and monitoring
- challenging learners to make progress
- developing English and maths.

Funding for ESOL qualifications

Finally, it's also worth noting that the revised Skills Funding Agency **2014-15 Funding Rules** also re-state that the new Framework-based ESOL qualifications will be approved for Adult Skills funding once these have received Ofqual accreditation.

ESOL Skills for Life redevelopment: latest news

Relevant to: *ESOL Skills for Life (4692) (England, Northern Ireland and Wales)* **Purpose:** *changes/improvements to qualification/offer; coming soon*

As we advised in *Issue 02*, the first batch of our new ESOL Skills for Life qualifications was submitted for accreditation just before Easter. We're expecting to hear back from Ofqual shortly, and once these qualifications have been accredited we expect the process for the remaining Award-sized qualifications to be straightforward.

We indicated last month that we would publish draft sample assessments for the new qualifications as soon as we could. On Ofqual's advice we have concluded that it would not be helpful to do this whilst the accreditation process is still underway, although the **4692 qualification page is now live** and does include an overview of the new qualifications. The forthcoming ESOL events and webinar will provide more information about the new qualifications. We'll also be attending **NATECLA National Conference** at the end of June.

Ofqual announces thematic review of Functional Skills

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

Purpose: *public policy/strategy; general information*

Ofqual has recently begun a thematic review of the Functional Skills qualifications in English and Mathematics at Level 2. The review is seeking to evaluate whether these qualifications are fit for their intended purpose as well as considering patterns of take-up since they were introduced in their current form nearly four years ago.

As part of the review, Ofqual intends to speak to some centres about their Functional Skills provision, and they also plan to observe some of our centre monitoring activity (eg External Quality Assurance visits covering FS English Speaking, Listening and Communication as well as exam audits for the externally-marked components of both FS English and Mathematics).

Access Arrangements: don't forget the guiding principles

Relevant to: *all City & Guilds maths/English qualifications (England, Northern Ireland and Wales)*

Purpose: *operational note*

General guidance on the process for applying for formal adjustments/modifications to the assessment of any City & Guilds qualification can be found in the **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** pages of our website. In **all** cases this must be read in conjunction with the relevant qualification handbook, since the range of what might be considered a reasonable adjustment will always depend on the nature/purpose of the qualification and how it is normally assessed.

Most of our maths and English qualification handbooks or standards documents include detailed information about the scope of any permitted adjustments. In the case of Functional Skills (3748), Essential Skills Wales (3768), Essential Skills NI (3800), English/Mathematics Skills (3847) and Essential Skills for Work and Life (3846), candidates are generally able to deploy their normal methods of working and use 'routinely available' equipment, although they must **not** have human help with anything that is intrinsic to the assessment.

For example, candidates undergoing assessment in Reading are able to use assistive technology such as screen-reading software if this reflects how they would normally read documents – and they are able to use this equipment independently. They **cannot** rely on a human reader.

Likewise, where candidates are required to produce graphs, charts or diagrams whilst undergoing assessment in Mathematics, Numeracy or Application of Number, they must do so **independently** without relying on a human scribe to complete this task on their behalf. In doing so, they may use any reasonable technology or other presentational solution (eg in the case of visually impaired candidates this might involve producing a tactile representation).

Human help is only permitted where this does not compromise independent achievement of the skills being assessed – eg a human reader could be permitted for an FS English Writing assessment.

In any event, learners should undergo a rigorous process of initial and diagnostic assessment to ensure they are personally capable of meeting the required standard for any qualification(s) they intend to work towards. In some cases they might need to be taught particular methods of working that enable them to meet the required standard without relying on third party assistance.

Our Access Arrangements team (policy@cityandguilds.com or 020 7294 2772) are happy to advise where centres need to discuss an individual case, although generally if this involves adjusting something that forms part of the assessment then the guiding principle should always be: **however it's done, it needs to be done by the candidate.**

Essential Skills (NI): remember you *can* now download the tasks

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

Purpose: *operational note*

Finally, a reminder that the complete bank of Essential Skills Entry level tasks and Level 1-2 desktop tasks are now available to download from the Essential Skills qualification pages on our website – www.cityandguilds.com/essentialskillsni. This is the default method by which we now make these documents available to centres, and it enables the tasks to be accessed at any time throughout the year.

Like any other 'live' assessment material, these documents are password-protected, although the relevant passwords can be found on the 3800-40 and 3800-50 Catalogue pages on the Walled Garden.

Recent maths and English video updates from City & Guilds

Please click on the links below to view



Maths and English qualifications update – England (22 May 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPEtclDCAtl>

Essential Skills qualifications update – Wales (22 May 2014)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7e_1EbDv1E

ESOL qualifications update (22 May 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPweyZF9Cfk>

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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