

Indicative Pass Marks

For Functional Skills

(4748) English and

Maths

January 2022 v4



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V1.0	January 2020	Document created
V2.0	February 2020	Indicative pass mark changed for Reading L1 & L2 and Writing L1 & L2
V3.0	December 2021	Cover added to document
V4.0	January 2022	Indicative pass marks reviewed and amended for Reading L1



How does City & Guilds decide on the pass mark for each Functional Skills assessment version?

Our Functional Skills assessments are designed to measure whether or not a candidate has met the requirements of a particular Functional Skills qualification. They are awarded on a pass/fail basis and are **criterion-referenced**. This means all who take an assessment and demonstrate that they can meet the required standard are awarded a pass. Our assessments are not **norm-referenced**, and therefore there is no requirement for a set number of candidates to pass.

Each test version that is set live by City & Guilds will have gone through a rigorous quality process, which has been ratified by the regulator; Ofqual. Every test version is written against a very clear test specification to ensure that the content is appropriate and in line with the subject content statements outlined by DfE. Due to the complex nature of the tests and the underlying contexts which underpin each version, we acknowledge that some versions may end up being slightly more or slightly less challenging than others and so we always set a pass mark for that version based on a thorough review of the statistics and candidate responses. This process is known as Awarding. The aim of awarding is to ensure that the pass mark is fair for all candidates sitting the test.

During Awarding we work with our subject matter experts to scrutinise each test and compare candidate responses against the pass descriptors. We also compare the pass marks for the current test version against other versions of the test to ensure a comparable standard over time. With regards to the new versions of Functional Skills tests (4748) we also compare the standard of the reformed tests to those within the legacy qualifications (3748). We are also undertaking work with all other Awarding Organisations who offer 4748, and Ofqual to ensure a common understanding of a pass standard across all organisations.

The link below to the Ofqual website is a useful reference, and notes that early candidates taking the reformed qualifications (4748) may perform slightly less well as teachers will be less familiar with the requirements of the new specifications. On that basis, City & Guilds will also take this into account when setting the pass mark during Awarding.

<https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2019/08/30/setting-standards-in-new-functional-skills-qualifications/>

City & Guilds are helping centres to limit this impact on early candidates with a wide range of support materials; including sample tests which help candidates to prepare for the assessment. It is important to note that sample tests only provide a snap shot of the content of the test, and that candidates should be prepared fully against the full breadth of subject content.

City & Guilds plan to have 3 sample assessments available during the 2019/20 academic year with more to follow in subsequent years.

Pass Marks

The following figures represent an early indication of the upper end of the range of pass marks for each subject and level. These may be updated as new exam papers are added to the bank of papers.

Level	Subject	Marks available	Indicative Pass Mark (Upper end of the range of pass marks)
Level 1	Mathematics	60	33
Level 2	Mathematics	60	33
Level 1	Reading	30	20
Level 2	Reading	30	20
Level 1	Writing	54	31
Level 2	Writing	54	31

Glossary:

Pass Mark – This is the mark required to pass an assessment. These are given as a range as each paper is set a pass mark following the awarding process.

Pass Rates – This is calculated based on the number of learners who pass as a percentage of the total number of assessments taken.

Programme Pass Rates/Success Data – These are figures used by providers to describe the number of learners who have passed their assessment as a percentage of the number of learners starting the programme.

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