

Functional Skills (4748)
Level 1 and Level 2
Mathematics and English
Pass rates 2020-21



City & Guilds Functional Skills (4748) Level 1 and Level 2 Mathematics and English Pass Rates 2020-21

Background

City & Guilds has been offering reformed Functional Skills in English and Mathematics at levels 1 and 2 since September 2019, with first exams being taken in October 2019. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, teaching, learning and assessment were severely disrupted, with exams being cancelled between March and July 2020, giving very limited time for teachers/tutors to fully familiarise themselves with new material, for the reformed assessments to bed in, and for live tests to be taken at volume. In the academic year 2019-20, a significant percentage of results were issued as Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs).

During 2020-21, the Department for Education's directive was that Functional Skills qualifications should be assessed as normal wherever possible using adaptations. For City & Guilds' candidates, this meant through on-demand, live tests, either on screen and/or on paper. However, to mitigate the ongoing challenges of Covid relating to assessment delivery, a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) could be awarded, where candidates were eligible, and with robust evidence available to demonstrate both eligibility and performance.

Information about pass rates

The overall pass rates presented in this document are given as a percentage which is based on the number of pass grades awarded out of the number of times an exam has been attempted. It should be noted that re-sits are included within this calculation. Our Functional Skills exams are available on demand, and we have multiple exam question papers available at any one time. The data we publish here are at subject level, not question paper level.

Our Functional Skills exams are taken by a wide range of learners across different settings and using different programme lengths and delivery arrangements.

Unlike many general qualifications such as GCSE, our Functional Skills exams are not norm-referenced. The pass rate reflects the proportion of exam attempts which meet the required performance standard. It is not unusual for the number of learners taking the test and pass rates to fluctuate over the year as a result. Our pass rates are kept under continuous review, and we will update the information published here as new information becomes available.

The following overall pass rates for each Functional Skills exam and level are published for information and to help centres gauge their own performance.

Overall pass rates

The data presented below reflects the total number of exams taken by candidates within all provider types and across all age groups, and the percentage of passes awarded.

The exams include all live versions of level 1 and level 2 reformed Functional Skills Reading, Writing and Mathematics (4748) exams taken across all provider types, both on screen and on paper, between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021.

TAG pass results submitted by centres and approved by City & Guilds are also included to provide a full picture, although these represent a very small number of the overall total.

There were differences across provider types.

| | | All provider types % Pass Rate | FE % Pass Rate | Independent Training Providers % Pass Rate | Adult & Community Learning % Pass Rate |
|---------|----|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Reading | L1 | 78.4% | 71.6% | 85.5% | 85.5% |
| Writing | L1 | 69.8% | 62.0% | 78.5% | 78.1% |
| Reading | L2 | 77.2% | 71.8% | 79.0% | 80.2% |
| Writing | L2 | 83.8% | 77.3% | 87.2% | 87.4% |
| Maths | L1 | 34.1% | 21.4% | 51.6% | 55.1% |
| Maths | L2 | 41.2% | 28.9% | 46.6% | 45.0% |

First-time pass rates

We also provide a view of first-time pass rates. These represent the number of exams taken for the first time by candidates and passed by those candidates at the first attempt.

| | | All provider types First-time pass % | FE First-time pass % | Independent Training Providers First-time pass % | Adult & Community Learning First-time pass % |
|---------|----|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| Reading | L1 | 82.3% | 76.9% | 87.3% | 87.3% |
| Writing | L1 | 73.5% | 66.3% | 79.9% | 81.9% |
| Reading | L2 | 79.8% | 75.6% | 80.9% | 82.4% |
| Writing | L2 | 85.7% | 80.4% | 88.2% | 87.9% |
| Maths | L1 | 38.4% | 24.1% | 54.2% | 59.0% |
| Maths | L2 | 44.2% | 31.8% | 48.5% | 48.5% |

Supporting Functional Skills

We recognise that since the introduction of reformed Functional Skills there has been an unprecedented period of challenge and disruption, both for teachers/tutors and learners.

Alongside the disruption, centres have been transitioning from legacy to reformed Functional Skills and adjusting to some significant changes to design and subject content, particularly in mathematics. It is important that, despite all of this, candidates are fully prepared before sitting an exam.

As a result, we would encourage centres to re-visit some key documents which we have published to support the transition and aid improvement and success. You can access these through our [qualification web page](#).

- **Guidance for delivery documents:** Guidance for Delivery of Functional Skills Maths / English documents have been developed to enable candidates and centres to better understand the structure of the assessments and the types of items and breadth of range which could occur in live exams.
- **Examiner reports:** These reflect any trends or patterns our examiners have observed in performance across all exams during that period and are intended to support centres in preparing learners to take the exams. We recommend these are read alongside the

Guidance for Delivery documents.

- **Sample Assessments and mark schemes:** We make available a number of sample assessments with mark schemes, which clearly reference subject content statements, for each Functional Skills subject area for centres to help prepare candidates for the exam. These are written and standardised using the same process and level of scrutiny as live papers. Our sample assessments draw content from across the whole syllabus and are therefore not exhaustive; we try to ensure that these cover as much breadth as possible and aim to familiarise learners with a variety of question types and assessment scenarios. We recommend that these are used in conjunction with the Guidance for Delivery documents.

We would also encourage centres to make use of other resources which we make available to support delivery and exam preparation.

- **Performance feedback:** We provide candidate and cohort feedback through our Centre Analytics platform. Centres can access feedback on performance and identify areas for remedial work if unsuccessful, or areas for development if progressing to the next level. This is available for both on screen and paper exams. Find out more [here](#).
- **Digital resources:**
 - **SmartScreen:** We have a wealth of maths and English digital learning resources on our SmartScreen platform to support face to face and remote learning at all levels.
 - **e-Functional Skills:** This tool supports learners specifically preparing for City & Guilds Functional Skills from Entry level 3 to Level 2. It takes learners through initial and diagnostic testing to a programme of personalised learning, and on to a range of City & Guilds practice test questions building confidence and familiarity with our assessment approach. Learners may also wish to build their confidence further using our Open Assess platform.
- **Open Assess:** We have recently upgraded our Functional Skills practice test platform for candidates preparing for on screen exams. This provides an opportunity for learners to fully prepare for the onscreen experience and for tutors to mark onscreen tests and review their marking and feedback with learners.
It can be used as both a teaching and formative assessment tool.

- **Technical Advisors:** We have Technical Advisors who provide face to face and digital support and guidance to centres free of charge. They regularly host events which support best practice in maths and English delivery and help centres understand our assessment approach and the range of materials available to support exam preparation. You can contact our Technical Advisors by emailing pre-employment@cityandguilds.com.

Find out more: You can find out more about all the [support available here](#).

Ongoing evaluation

Our Functional Skills exams are kept under close and ongoing evaluation, and we strive to make continual improvements to them. We are always exploring ways to improve fairness, accessibility and candidate experience. To this end, findings from the awarding process and continuous monitoring are fed back into the development process and we proactively seek feedback from tutors and learners.

You are welcome to share any feedback you may have or speak to our Centre Support team by emailing centresupport@cityandguilds.com

Centre Document Library

The City & Guilds / ILM Centre document library can be found at:

[cityandguilds.com/delivering-our-qualifications/centre-development/centre-document-library](https://www.cityandguilds.com/delivering-our-qualifications/centre-development/centre-document-library)

This is a resource area designed for our centres and has practical guidance information to help you with every aspect of running our qualifications.

The guidance covers everything from initial approval and centre charges, malpractice, to learner exam administration, policies and procedures.

Contact us

T: 0844 543 0000*

E: centresupport@cityandguilds.com

Lines open: Monday to Friday 08.00 to 18.00 GMT

About City & Guilds

Founded in 1878 to develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed to help businesses thrive, we offer a broad and imaginative range of products and services that help people achieve their potential through workbased learning.

We believe in a world where people and organisations have the confidence and capabilities to prosper, today and in the future. So we work with like-minded partners to develop the skills that industries demand across the world.

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*Calls to our 0844 numbers cost 7 pence per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.

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