

Functional Skills Initial Assessment Tool (IAT): Deliverer's Guide

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1. Intoduction: The Functional Skills Initial Assessment Tool (IAT)

This guide is designed for you, as a deliverer, to explain to you how to operate all the functions of the Functional Skills Assessment Tool (IAT) so that you can use it with your learners.

Its aim is to compliment other initial assessment instruments that might be available to you but that are not specifically designed to assess Functional Skills (FS). (Please note that it is **not** a full diagnostic tool and is **not** intended to replace any commercially produced products that you may already be using.)

On completion of the FS IAT your learner will have a broad idea of what level they are operating at but this should **not** be taken as an indication of what level of Functional Skills test they will pass. This is **not** a practice test and we strongly recommend that learners follow a suitable programme of delivery and learning before they are entered for one of the final assessments.

2. Getting Started

You can access the FS IAT from the home page of the Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills website www.edexcel.com/functionalskills

You are here: Home > Qualifications > Functional skills

Functional skills

Functional skills are qualifications in **English, maths** and **ICT** that equip learners with the basic practical skills required in everyday life, education and the workplace. They are available at Entry Level 1 through to Level 2.

Edexcel can offer you a **complete teaching and learning package**, including:

- a unique **initial assessment tool**
- face-to-face and online **training events**
- **podcasts**
- free **delivery and assessment support resources**
- **published resources** for additional support

In addition to our **onscreen on-demand tests**, we offer **five-day fixed assessment windows** across our Level 1 and 2 paper-based tests, giving you the flexibility to timetable tests on any day of that week. [Learn more about onscreen on-demand testing](#)

[Check details of our Level 1 and 2 assessment windows for 2012-13.](#)

To run the IAT you will need to have the latest version of **Flash Player** and **Adobe Reader** installed on your computers.

On the next page there is an overview of the test and the link to the IAT.

You are here: Home > Qualifications > Functional skills > Support > **Initial Assessment Tool**

Functional skills | Initial Assessment Tool

We're pleased to announce our new and improved free Initial Assessment Tool (IAT) for English and maths is now available.

Our new Initial Assessment Tool (IAT) has been developed to provide a simple way of helping teachers and tutors to screen a learner's existing skills and give an indication of their ability in English and mathematics from Entry Level 1 up to Level 2. It can also be used as part of Information Advice and Guidance practice.

We have redeveloped the Initial Assessment Tool so that it is more adaptive to your learner's abilities and will alter the type of questions it asks according to their answers in the first half of the assessment.

New features also include:

- **Group profiles**
- Teachers/tutors have a personal log-in code which enables them to securely view their learning groups' performance
- Each group and subject can be given a separate code
- Profiles can be exported to a spreadsheet, showing marks, level and time taken to complete the assessments
- **Screen colour can be changed for dyslexic learners** – this functionality is operated in the actual test in the same way as our onscreen functional skills tests
- **Ability to save the entire test to PDF to aide feedback** – this can be saved to a desktop, memory stick or printed.

Coming soon:

- Extension exercises and mark schemes to help assess areas
- Full user guide
- ICT Initial Assessment

[Try our new Initial Assessment Tool now!](#)

Click on this link to access the IAT

Before you let your learners sit an assessment you need to request a group code. This will identify the test on our system and allow you to access it at a later date. You can request as many group codes as you like (for example, if you teach several groups of FS English you can request a different code for each one) – this will allow you to produce a group profile of all the learners saved under that code.

Initial Assessment Tool for Functional Skills

If you are a student
Click [here to choose a test](#).

If you are a teacher

- [Get group code for your students](#)
- [Review your students' tests](#)

[home](#) | [software you need](#)

Click here to request a group code

The first time you request a group code you will need to give yourself a login and password. (You will use these to access the results for your learners when you want to produce a group profile.) The login and password should be memorable to you but can be anything you like (as in the example below).

You then enter your email address and confirmation of your login, password and group code will be automatically sent to this address. If you forget it at any time you can request a reminder (we will cover how to do this later in the guide)

Initial Assessment Tool for Functional Skills

Get group code for your students
 You need to get a group code for your students before they start tests.

Name:

Choose your login:

Password:

Repeat the password:

Email:

Centre Number:

[home](#) | [software you need](#)

The group code you have requested is automatically shown on the screen as in the example below:

Initial Assessment Tool for Functional Skills

Get group code for your students

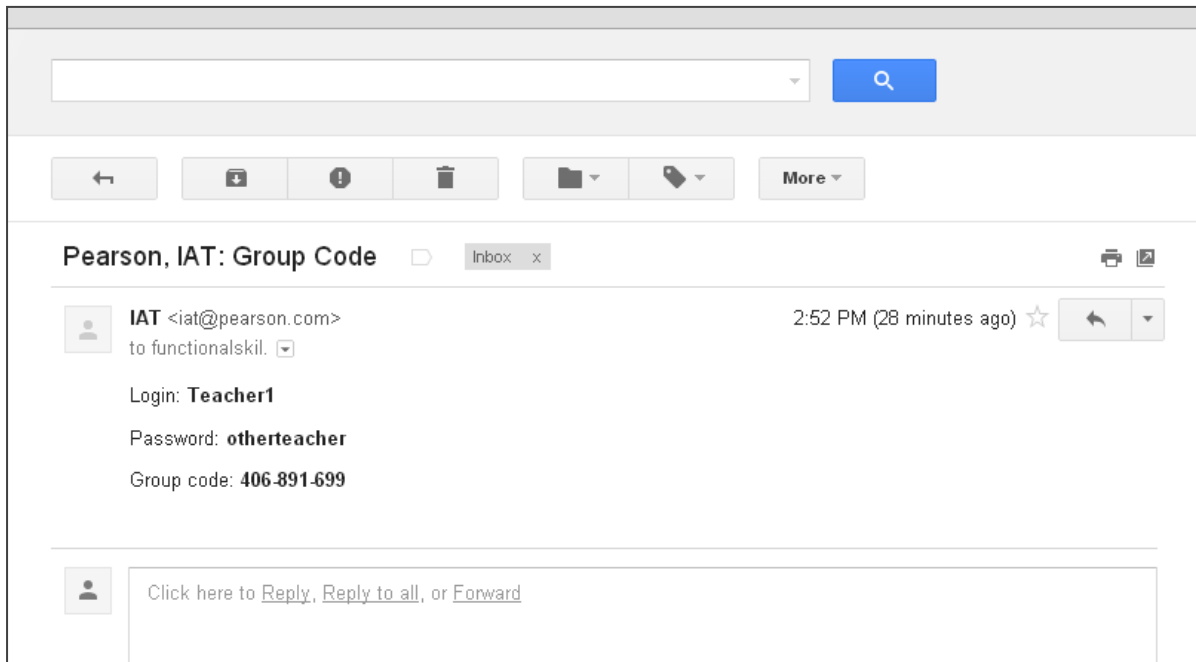
Thank you! New group code was successfully registered.

The group code is: **406-891-699**

All details were also sent to your email address (functionalskills@pearson.com).

[home](#) | [software you need](#)

The group code is also emailed to you along with your password and login.

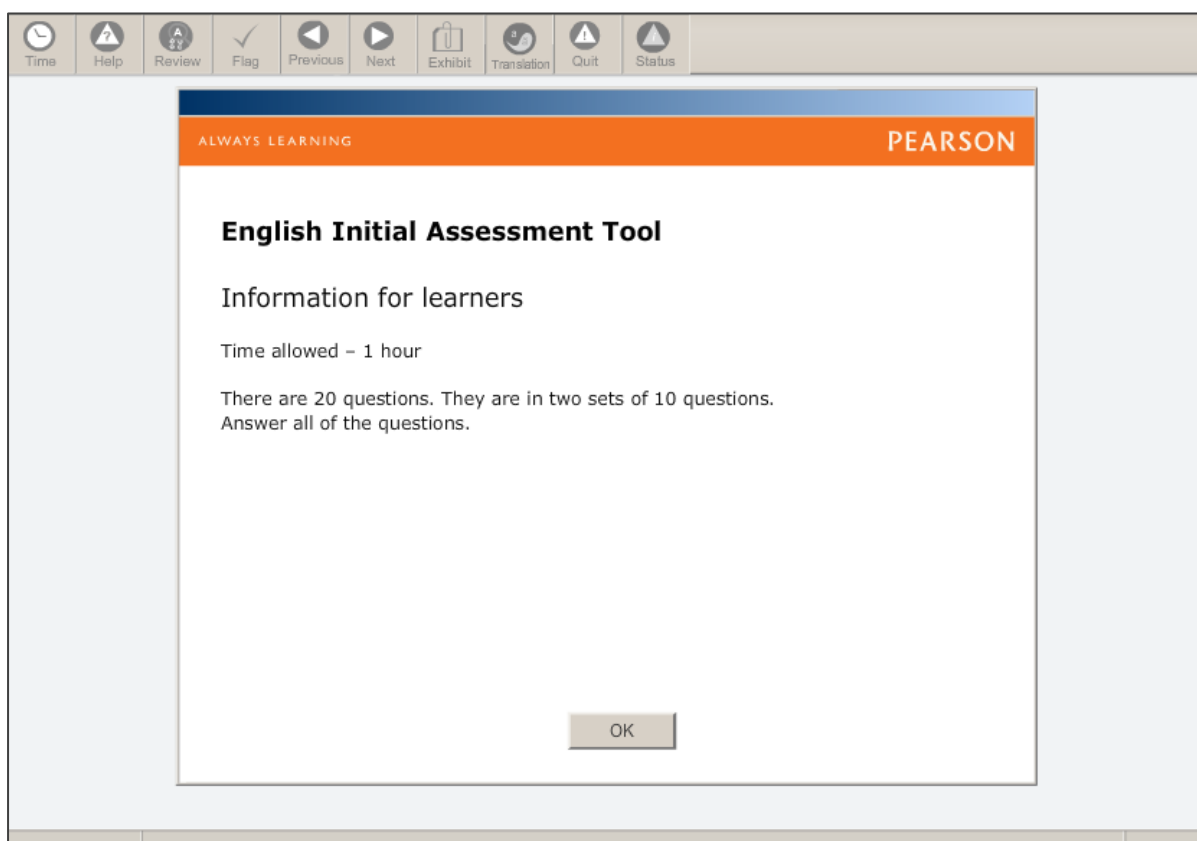


3. Using the Initial Assessment Tool

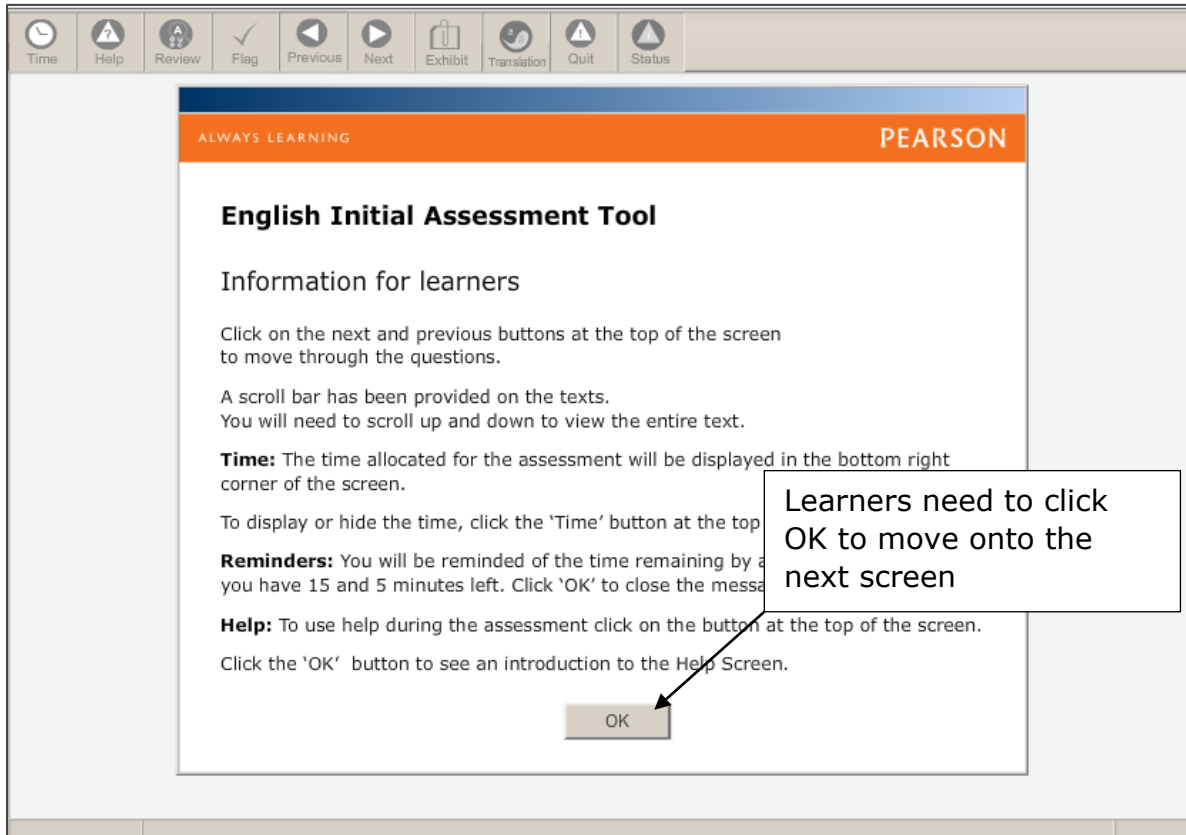
Now you are ready for your learners to take their assessments. They need to click on the subject they wish to sit and then they will see two screens which give them information. You can read these with them if you feel they will need assistance. The first shows which subject they have chosen and informs them that there are 20 questions (in two sets of 10 questions).

Each test takes one hour maximum. The time does not start until the first question is loaded.

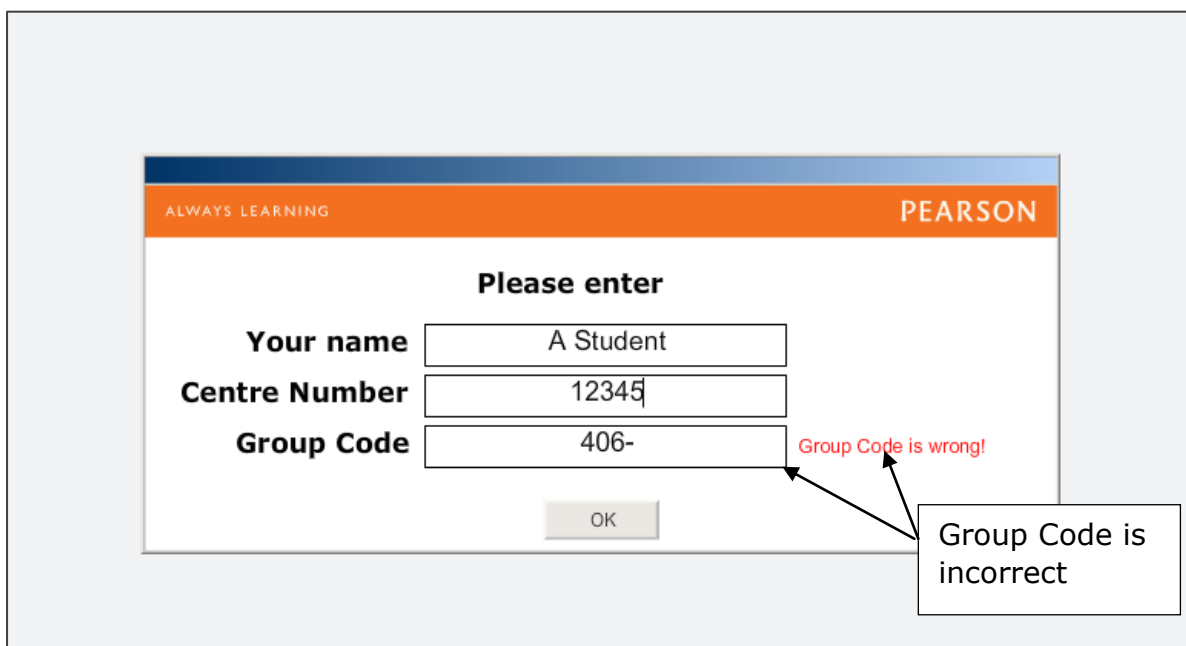
Screen 1



Screen 2 - This screen explains some of tools they will use and that they will get reminders about the time remaining. (Remind your learners that the time will not pause if they click on the Help button during the test.)



Next your learner should enter their details (name, centre number and Group Code). Please note – if the learner does not put the group code in correctly an error will show and they will not be able to enter the IAT(As in the example below).



Learners have access to the same accessibility tool that is used on the Functional Skills Onscreen tests – this may be useful for dyslexic learners, for example. The Tool is accessed in the IAT by clicking on the small blue and white cross at the bottom left of the screen.

Bread Bin Sandwich Bar

Happy Hour - Special Offer

Baguettes all **half price** when bought with a drink during happy hour:
 Monday/Thursday 3 - 4pm
 Tuesday/Wednesday 10 - 11am

Choose from chicken, ham, turkey, beef or cheese
 Additional extras: egg, tomato, lettuce, cucumber, onion, red pepper, olives, sweetcorn or mayonnaise

Basic baguettes only £1.79!
Extras - 20p each

Drinks available:
 bottled water, lemonade and milk

Tel: 0010 67839 for orders for collection
 Tel: 0010 67838 for deliveries

This flyer is sent to your office.
 Your friend only works in the mornings.
 Which days can she get a half price baguette?
 Click on **two** from the list below.

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

Question Number 1

Bread Bin Sandwich Bar

Happy Hour - Special Offer

Baguettes all **half price** when bought with a drink during happy hour:
 Monday/Thursday 3 - 4pm
 Tuesday/Wednesday 10 - 11am

Choose from chicken, ham, turkey, beef or cheese
 Additional extras: egg, tomato, lettuce, cucumber, onion, red pepper, olives, sweetcorn or mayonnaise

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 Click on **two** from the list below.

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

Settings

- colour reset
- switch colours
- zoom reset
- zoom in
- zoom out

The screen colour can be changed (there are a range of colours) & they can zoom in and out of areas of the text

Question Number 1

The IAT uses several types of items which are all be computer marked. They do not require a great deal of IT ability to complete but you need to be aware of them so that you can help your learner if they are confused. The examples below illustrate the types of techniques that are used:

Bread Bin Sandwich Bar
Happy Hour - Special Offer
 Baguettes all **half price** when bought with a drink during happy hour
 Monday/Thursday 3 - 4pm
 Tuesday/Wednesday 10 - 11am
 Choose from chicken, ham, turkey, beef or cheese
 Additional extras: egg, tomato, lettuce, cucumber, onion, red pepper, olives, sweetcorn or mayonnaise
Basic baguettes only £1.79!
Extras - 20p each
 Drinks available:
 tea, coffee, cola, orange, bottled water, lemonade and milk
 Tel: 0010 67839 for orders for collection
 Tel: 0010 67838 for deliveries

In this question the learners need to click on the boxes in order to 'tick' them. Other Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) are used in the assessments

Click on **two** from the list below.

Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question Number 1 | 0:58:46

Bread Bin Sandwich Bar
Happy Hour - Special Offer
 Baguettes all **half price** when bought with a drink during happy hour:
 Monday/Thursday 3 - 4pm
 Tuesday/Wednesday 10 - 11am
 Choose from chicken, ham, turkey, beef or cheese
 Additional extras: egg, tomato, lettuce, cucumber, onion, red pepper, olives, sweetcorn or mayonnaise
Basic baguettes only £1.79!
Extras - 20p each
 Drinks available:
tea, coffee, cola, orange, bottled water, lemonade and milk
 Tel: 0010 67839 for orders for collection
 Tel: 0010 67838 for deliveries

What can you do if you can't get to Bread Bin Sandwich Bar to pick up your lunch?
 Click on the correct section of the text.

In this example the answer is produced by clicking on a part of the text. This will highlight red when highlighted

Question Number 2 | 0:58:17

Read the following adverts.

Which number would you ring for your home carpets to be cleaned?

Click on the correct advert.

In this item the learner clicks on the advert they think is the answer. The advert will be highlighted with a blue edge when it is selected

Mo-Clean
Mobile valeting service:
car and commercial work
including van interiors
Full or part valet available.
For a quick quote, ring:
00829 37229

Crisp Cleaning
Daily or weekly home cleaning
service.
Also available - carpet and
furniture steam clean.
To discuss your needs, ring:
0010 128631

CleanRight
Top quality supplies to the trade:
Stain removers, scouring
cleansers, floor polishes, carpet
cleaning fluid.
For a full product list call:
0010 484988

Question Number 3 0:57:16

Jess sells beauty products on a website.

A customer orders some face cream.

What shape is the container?

Click on the right answer

A. A cube

B. A circle

C. A sphere

D. A cylinder

This item has a simple MCQ format. Learners just need to select one answer by clicking on it.

Note the calculator. It is a BODMAS calculator and is on every maths item, although learners may use their own or not use one at all if they prefer. It cannot change position.

face cream



Question Number 5

Time Help Review Flag Previous Next Exhibit Translation Quit Status

Josh starts a new job.
Each week he works for 7 hours a day, Monday to Friday

How many hours in total does he work each week?

Put your answer in this box.

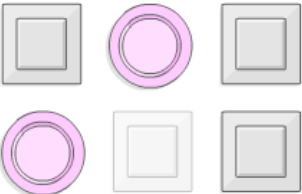


In this item learners need to type their answer into the box provided


Question Number 1

Time Help Review Flag Previous Next Exhibit Translation Quit Status

Jay has these plates.



Drag all the **square** plates to this box.



In this item the learner needs to pick up the items from the list by clicking on them and then dragging them into the box below before releasing the mouse button

Question Number 13

When your learner has completed 10 questions a box will pop up asking them if they want to review any of their answers (NB if they choose to go on, they cannot review these items at a later stage).

The screenshot shows the assessment interface with a 'Review' dialog box. The dialog box contains the following text:

What is this advert trying to do?

Are you
Are you
course
We hav
in the f

* Reta
* Cusi
* Anin

To boot
call 001

ITP - Of
1999

ALWAYS LEARNING

You are about to finish part 1 of this test.

You have answered 1 out of 10 questions.

To check your answers and return to part 1 of the test click on the Review button.

If you wish to end the test, please click on the Continue button.

You will not be able to return to part 1 of the test once you start part 2.

Review Continue

Callouts explain the 'Previous' and 'Review' buttons, and the 'Review' button.

Once the learner presses the 'Continue' button they will be given another 10 items to answer. At the end of the assessment a screen appears which gives them an indication of the level they are working at. They will also be asked to click 'OK' to generate a PDF of their test. (If they do not click on 'OK' the data from this assessment will be lost and not saved to your group profile.) Please be aware that this PDF takes a few minutes to be produced as the data is simultaneously being saved to the teacher's section of the web under the group profile.

The screenshot shows the assessment completion screen with the following text:

ALWAYS LEARNING PEARSON

Thank you for taking this test.

Your outcome level is E1.

Please quietly notify the invigilator that you have finished.
Click 'OK' to generate a PDF with your test.

OK

4. Retrieving Group Profiles

When you want to produce your group profiles you need to return to the home page of the IAT. Then follow the instructions shown in the images below:

Initial Assessment Tool for Functional Skills

If you are a student
Click [here to choose a test](#).

If you are a teacher

- [Get group code for your students](#)
- [Review your students' tests](#)

home | [software you need](#)

Click here to review the tests

ALWAYS LEARNING PEARSON

Initial Assessment Tool for Functional Skills

Review your students' tests

Login:

Password:

Group Code:

Submit

Click here if you [do not remember](#) your login or password.

home | [software](#)

ALWAYS LEARNING

Enter the login and password you set up for yourself before. Then enter the group code you want to look at

If you can't remember you login and/or password you can request a reminder by clicking here and entering you email address. A reminder will automatically be sent to your email address containing your login, password and all the group codes you have set up.

Once you have entered the correct details and clicked submit you will be taken to the following screen. Your list of learners' tests will appear. This group code only has one test in it.

The spreadsheet will show the group code, the learners' names, the dates they took the assessment, their total marks, level and each item's results. (Each item is marked 1 or 0 (representing right or wrong)).

Name	Started	Duration	Total Marks	Level	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
A Learner	30/04/2013 20:53	00:03:44	10	E3	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

You should now be familiar enough with the FS IAT to try it with your learners. We hope that you find it useful in helping to decide which Level of programme will challenge your learner but be achievable during their course of study.

If you have any further questions please contact: functionalskills@pearson.com