Onscreen Functional Skills – Frequently Asked Questions

How can I gain approval to run onscreen FS tests with Edexcel?

See diagram attached.

Centres are automatically approved if they are an existing Edexcel centre. If not, they will need to complete an academic approvals form.

If your centre does not currently offer Edexcel onscreen tests (for any qualification) you should complete the technical requirements form.

Both forms are available in this pack, or at this address on the Edexcel website: http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/onscreen.aspx

Our centre are currently offering onscreen tests from another provider and we have GOLA installed, is this a problem?

This should not cause any problems. Ring our technical staff on 0844 576 0024 to activate Edexcel tests on your system.

Are practice tests available for candidates before they sit the tests?

We aim to have practice tests available soon.

When can my learners sit these test?

Learners can sit when they are ready as these tests will be available on demand.

Once a learner is registered, you may book their test at any point up to two hours before the scheduled start time.

When can a learner re-sit a test?

Tests may be re-booked as soon as a learner receives their results, if they have not passed.

If we have entered learners for paper tests can they be withdrawn and entered for onscreen tests?

If you withdraw a paper-based entry before the higher late fee is imposed you will receive a refund.

What access arrangements can be put in place?

You can apply for extra time for learners who require it as detailed in the ICE document.

What is the duration of the tests?

Maths Level 1: 90 minutes
Maths Level 2: 90 minutes

English Reading Level 1: 45 minutes
English Reading Level 2: 45 minutes
English Writing Level 1: 45 minutes
English Writing Level 2: 45 minutes

What are the unit codes for entry?

Level 1 Maths - MAT01
Level 2 Maths - MAT02
Level 1 English Writing - ENW01
Level 2 English Writing - ENW02
Level 1 English Reading - ENR01
Level 2 English Reading - ENR02
Level 1 English Speaking and Listening ENC01
Level 2 English Speaking and Listening ENC02

What happens if there is a technical problem or an emergency during the tests?

Please refer to the ICE document and Onscreen User guide for information on how to proceed in the case of technical difficulties. If you require technical support it is available from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

How is the Speaking & Listening Component in Functional English assessed?

This component is a internally assessed unit. There is no change to the process used for the paper-based Functional Skills. You will submit your claim via Edexcel Online. Claims for speaking and listening can be made when the learner is ready.

Can we mix and match paper-based and onscreen for English components?

Yes you can mix and match English components, however this process will mean your certificates will not be issued automatically and you would need to notify Edexcel by calling General Enquiries with the details of the candidate involved.

Can learners combine components from Levels 1 and Level 2 to gain an overall pass in Functional English?

Yes – Once a learner has completed all three components for English a certificate will be generated automatically. If there is a combination of level 1 and level 2 components a certificate will be awarded at the lowest achieved.

Do I need to claim for learner's Functional Maths and Functional English Certificates?

No. Our system will automatically issue a certificate as soon as a learner passes all the required components. These should arrive in centres (within 10 working days after results have been issued on Edexcel Online.

How long will it take for me to receive a learner's results once I have uploaded their test?

Results will be available on Edexcel Online within 30 calendar days of uploading the learner's test.

Will the certificates be the same as those offered for paper-based tests?

Yes, certificates will have the same currency as they are for the same qualification

What format will the results take?

We will issue a pass/fail result for each candidate as well as their raw mark.

What is the pass mark for each of the tests?

Each individual test paper is awarded to set the pass mark. These may vary between papers.

Why can't we find out how they performed on each skill area (e.g. shape and space) like we can in key skills/ALAN?

Functional Skills papers are structured in such a way as to make it difficult to isolate individual skill areas within each question, as is currently possible in key skills. We are still looking at ways of providing you with 'richer' data about your candidates performance at some point in the future and hope to be able to provide an update in due course.

Can we see copies of the papers and the mark schemes after the test has been completed?

Unfortunately not. The papers form part of a bank that is still live and could be offered to other candidates in the future.