

DfE Functional Skills in apprenticeships requirements

The DfE has published a COVID-19 response document that lays out changes to Functional Skills in Intermediate Apprenticeships. The following is from the DfE document with a link at the bottom to the full report.

For Level 2 (intermediate) apprenticeships, apprentices must achieve a Level 1 in both English and maths Functional Skills qualifications to complete their apprenticeship. Intermediate apprentices were also required to study towards, and attempt, the Functional Skills assessments at Level 2.

Ofqual have published their approach to assessment for vocational and technical skills in light of COVID-19. This includes confirmation that students due to take functional skills assessments this summer will receive a calculated grade. In light of this guidance, and the fact that scheduled functional skills assessments are not taking place, the rule requiring Level 2 apprentices to study towards, and attempt, the functional skills assessments at Level 2 is suspended temporarily. This will allow apprentices, employers, providers, and end point assessment organisations, to focus on other key requirements for completion of a Level 2 apprenticeship.

Therefore, apprentices who are due to take their end point assessment up until 31 July 2020 should be passed through gateway to sit their EPA without the need to attempt the Level 2 functional skills English and maths assessment. Providers should retain evidence if an apprentice did not take the Level 2 assessments due to COVID-19. A Level 2 apprentice will still require a Level 1 Functional Skills in English and/or maths in order to complete apprenticeship. We will review the position in July 2020 to determine whether the suspension should continue.

Apprentices undertaking a Level 3 or higher apprenticeship are still required to hold or achieve an approved Level 2 Functional Skills English and maths qualification, before they can successfully complete their apprenticeship.

Functional Skills requirements

- **What evidence do I need to provide to show the apprentice did not take the Level 2 English and/or maths Functional Skills test before entering them for EPA?**

You should add a dated note to the evidence pack for the apprentice explaining that the test was not taken due to revised guidance during COVID-19.

- **Will there be a requirement to go back and take the Level 2 Functional Skills test after the apprenticeship has been achieved?**

Studying and taking the test for intermediate apprentices is suspended until July 2020, upon which time we will review this position. There will be no requirement for those apprentices who are passed through gateway to go back and take the Level 2 Functional Skills test.

- **What does this mean for the arrangement for Gateway prior to end-point assessment?**

We want to make it as straightforward as possible to continue end point assessments. Lifting the rule to take the test for intermediate (Level 2) apprentices should help them to progress to end point assessment during the COVID-19 disruption.

- **What about the Level 2 English and maths exit requirements for level 3 and higher apprenticeships?**

This requirement applies to intermediate (Level 2) apprentices only. Apprentices undertaking a Level 3 or higher apprenticeship are still required to hold or achieve an approved Level 2 English and maths qualification before they can successfully complete their apprenticeship.

[Link to the DfE webpage](#)