

The reform of Functional Skills Mathematics

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October 2018



Training Overview

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Timelines

31 August 2019	Last registration on legacy Functional Skills
01 September 2019	First registration/teach on reformed Functional Skills
September 2019	First assessment on reformed Functional Skills
12 July 2020	Last assessment on legacy Functional Skills
30 June 2020	Last SV visit for legacy Functional Skills
31 August 2020	Last certification on legacy Functional Skills

September 2019	Introduction of Pearson's Reform Webinars, for up to date information on the reforms
February 2019	Introduction of Pearson's Reform Surgery Webinars, offering centre the opportunity to ask their burning questions
May 2019	Reform Functional Skills launch events
May 2019	Network Events
Summer 2019	Getting Ready to Teach events

Key Changes

The Purpose of Functional Skills

“Functional Skills qualifications should provide reliable evidence of a student’s achievements against demanding content... [and] provide a foundation for progression into employment or further technical education and develop skills for everyday life.”

There is now more focus on employment and educational progression within the qualifications.

Introduction of a non calculator paper to all levels

- The assessment at each level will now include a non calculator paper which will form 25% of the overall assessment (for both time and number of marks)
- Both non calculator and calculator papers will be assessed in the same sitting as one paper
- There will be one overall mark with no partial resits
- Pearson has made the decision that the non calculator paper will be assessed first
- Pearson has taken the decision not to specify certain topics as non calculator only

Introduction of underpinning skills and problem solving skills

- Underpinning skills questions may be in a context but they are more structured than the problem solving questions.
- They assess the learners' knowledge and understanding rather than their ability to apply this knowledge and understanding.

An example

- Find the surface area of a cube – underpinning
- How much paint would you need to cover a cube with a coverage of 1 litre per 1 metre squared – problem solving – wouldn't use the phrase surface area.
- In addition, underpinning skills could be assessed with questions such as "What is $60-5 \times 3$?"
- Underpinning covers 25% of the assessment.

New Content

Pearson has produced a mapping document that maps the legacy Functional Skills to the reformed Functional Skills to the GCSE (9-1) for ease of understanding for practitioners.

The content now contains more content statements than previously. These are under the headings:

- Number
- Measure and Shape
- Handling Data.

There is a fourth section in the DfE subject content covering problem solving.

New Content

Predominantly the new content comes in at Entry 3 and Levels 1 and 2. The key headlines are:

Entry 3

- Use appropriate positional vocabulary to describe position and direction

Level 1

- Use angles when describing position and direction, and measure angles in degrees i.e. bearings

Level 2

- Original value after percentage change
- Compound interest
- Estimate the mean of a grouped frequency distribution from discrete data
- Work out the probability of combined events

Content moving between levels

There has been considerable movement of content across the levels, content in higher levels have now become part of lower levels. For example:

- Pie charts have moved from L2 to L1
- Probability has moved from L2 to L1
- Representing information in graphs and charts has moved from L1 to E3
- Interpreting information in graphs and charts has moved from L1 to E3
- Measures of capacity have moved from E3 to E2
- Reading and drawing simple charts and diagrams has moved from E3 to E1



Considerations for Centres

Guided Learning Hours

- Guided Learning Hours have been set by the DfE. The new GLH will be 55 hours, for both English and maths at all levels. This is an increase of ten hours.

Progressing Learners

- For learners that progress, the progression between the legacy and the reformed will be more difficult as the increase in content will see changes to the assessments.

Transition Period

- Ofqual have set a maximum transition period of one year for dual running of the legacy and the reformed Functional Skills.
- This will provide potential challenges for providers.

Contexts

- Pearson has been carrying out research on appropriate contexts for the reformed Functional Skills. These will be in place for our assessments and resources from September 2019.

Games **Social media** **Planning a party**
Holidays **Renting a flat** **Sporting events**
Personal Budgeting **Shopping** **Fundraising**
DIY **Finding a job** **Decorating**
Health and fitness **Buying a car**
Mobile phones **Budgeting** **Healthcare**
Music Festivals **Learning to drive**

Apprenticeship Learners

Pearson would suggest centres will need to make a decision on which Functional Skills to enter learners on, for learners starting on programme from July onwards. There are three important dates to consider:

- 31 August 2019, the last date to register learners on the legacy Functional Skills
- 1 September 2019, the first date to register learners on the reformed Functional Skills
- 31 August 2020, the date learners need to have completed their legacy Functional Skills.

The date of 31 August 2020, is a hard and fast date set by Ofqual, by which the learners will need to achieve the legacy or they will need to move onto the reformed. The difference between the two means this transition will not be easy for learners.

Similarly for learners who need to achieve Level 1, and take Level 2, centres need to be aware that the registration for the Level 2 is likely to be on the reformed and so success will be more difficult.

Possible Scenarios

Scenario 1

- Shanika is studying on a Level 2 apprenticeship programme and starts in July 2019. She will need to pass Level 1 Functional Skills English and maths and, as a minimum attempt level 2. In this scenario, the provider has two options:

Option 1

- Register the learner straight away for level 1 and teach to the legacy standards. They will have until 31 August 2020 for Shanika to complete level 1. Shanika completes level 1 in October 2019. The provider will now need to register her for Level 2 on the reformed standards.

Option 2

- Wait until the 1 September 2019 and register the learner on the reformed Functional Skills. In this scenario there is no deadline from the qualification to complete.

Possible Scenarios

Scenario 2

- Magda is studying Level 1 Functional Skills maths as part of her study programme. She attempted the exam in July 2019 and did not pass. In this instance, Magda is still registered on the legacy Functional Skills at Level 1, so she can continue to be entered for the assessment until the summer of 2020. If she passes and progresses, she will then need to be registered on the Level 2 reformed Functional Skills maths.

Scenario 3

- Alfie is studying on a Level 4 apprenticeship programme and starts on 2 September 2019. He will need to pass Level 2 maths. In this scenario the only option available to the provider is to register him on the reformed Functional Skills standards.

Assessment

Entry Level

- The Entry Level assessments will be available as controlled tasks downloadable from our website as they are now.

Levels 1/2

- The Level 1 and 2 assessments will be available on demand either paper-based or onscreen as they are now.

Proposed Assessment Length (subject to Ofqual approval)

Level	NonCalc	Calc	Total
Entry 1	20 min	60 min	80 min
Entry 2	25 min	65 min	90 min
Entry 3	25 min	75 min	100 min
Level 1	25 min	90 min	115 min
Level 2	25 min	90 min	115 min

Sample Assessments

- We plan to have two sample assessments for each level for reformed English and Maths available for first teach in September 2019.
- The first set will be available from April / May 2019; the second from the summer.
- For levels 1 and 2, both sets will be available paper based and onscreen.

ExamWizard

- As part of the reform ExamWizard will be updated.
- Will include entry level Functional Skills for English and maths.
- Existing content will be mapped across to the reformed Functional Skills at the appropriate level.

ResultsPlus

- ResultsPlus will continue as per the current offer.

Updated Test Player

- Due to the changes in content, we have had to update our test player to include new features such as a ruler and a protractor. We will be producing an onscreen mini test that will allow learners to practice with these features prior to the assessment.



**There's so much
more to learn**

ALWAYS LEARNING