

16 ESOL Skills for Life (QCF) Entry Level and Levels 1 and 2

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1 Introduction

Our ESOL Skills for Life qualifications cover a range of English language skills, contexts set out in the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum and the appropriate levels of the National Adult Literacy Standards.

The units for ESOL are available at Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2. There are three modules available at each level:

- speaking and listening
- reading
- writing.

Each module, at each level, consists of one unit, which is assessed by means of a unit assessment. Assessments have nominal time limits and these may vary between module and level.

Learners must achieve all three units (Speaking and Listening, Writing, Reading) in order to achieve a Pearson Edexcel Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF).

Learners can gain certification for individual units to achieve a Pearson Edexcel Award in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF).

Pearson provides all the assessments on a secure area on our website. The assessment materials on the secure website should be treated as any other live materials and kept securely at all times. They should not be used as practice materials. Practice papers can be found in the Course Materials section for each level.

Centres must adhere to procedures as outlined in the Instructions for Conducting Controlled Assessments for ESOL (QCF) document and the Quality Assurance Handbook. These documents and further support materials can be found at qualifications.pearson.com/esol

Completed assessments are marked by the centre and must be subject to internal verification. Pearson will externally verify the marked assessments.

The only form of assessment will be the assessments set by Pearson for each component. There will be no need for candidates to construct portfolios of evidence or to submit additional coursework.

For further guidance on the assessment of these qualifications please visit qualifications.pearson.com/esol

2 Qualification structure

ESOL is available for registration as individual Awards or a combined Certificate across three units, Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.

To achieve reading or writing units learners must pass a paper-based test. To achieve speaking and listening units learners must pass a task-based test.

All units are Pearson-devised assessments. Pearson sets the unit assessment, the centre assessor assesses the test or task, the centre internally verifies the assessments and a Pearson Standards Verifier samples the assessments to check centre quality assurance and the maintenance of standards.

2.1 Awards in ESOL Skills for Life

Speaking and Listening

Unit title	Level
Pearson Edexcel Entry 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (QCF)	E1
Pearson Edexcel Entry 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (QCF)	E2
Pearson Edexcel Entry 3 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (QCF)	E3
Pearson Edexcel Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (QCF)	L1
Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (QCF)	L2

Reading

Unit title	Level
Pearson Edexcel Entry 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (QCF)	E1
Pearson Edexcel Entry 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (QCF)	E2
Pearson Edexcel Entry 3 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (QCF)	E3
Pearson Edexcel Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (QCF)	L1
Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (QCF)	L2

Writing

Unit title	Level
Pearson Edexcel Entry 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (QCF)	E1
Pearson Edexcel Entry 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (QCF)	E2
Pearson Edexcel Entry 3 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (QCF)	E3
Pearson Edexcel Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (QCF)	L1
Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (QCF)	L2

2.2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life

Unit title	Level
Pearson Edexcel Entry 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)	E1
Pearson Edexcel Entry 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)	E2
Pearson Edexcel Entry 3 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)	E3
Pearson Edexcel Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)	L1
Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)	L2

3 Internal and Standards Verification**3.1 Internal verification**

Completed assessments are marked by the centre and must be subject to internal verification. Given the centre's responsibility for marking across unit tests, it is imperative that a robust system of internal verification is established from the outset.

Note: Internal verifiers must not verify evidence that they have assessed.

3.2 Standards verification

Pearson will appoint a Standards Verifier to centres each academic year when registrations are made onto the programme. You can view the details of your appointed Standards Verifier on Edexcel Online.

4 Access arrangements

Guidance on providing special arrangements for candidates with particular assessment requirements has been agreed between accredited awarding bodies.

Centres should refer to the Joint Council's document 'Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration, General and Vocational Qualifications' which is available to be downloaded from <http://www.jcq.org.uk/>

5 Guidance on administrative processes

We have published all current administrative guidance on our website, which provides the necessary information to carry out these processes. This will be particularly helpful for new exams officers undertaking these administrative tasks.

Please see below to find the relevant guidance:

- Guidance on conducting assessments can be found in the following document [ESOL Instructions for Conducting Controlled Assessments 2025 to 2026](#)
- Guidance on our quality assurance procedures can be found in the following handbook, [English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\) Centre guide to Quality Assurance 2025 to 2026](#)
- [How and when to report learner achievement](#).