

Workskills Redevelopment Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Will the Workskills redevelopment result in there being external assessment from September?

No, there will be no external assessment and the qualification will continue to be

assessed internally by portfolio.

2. We find that the current assessment methodology works really well with our learners. Is it changing at all?

The assessment methodology will remain entirely the same so it will be marked and then internally verified. Our feedback is unanimous from centres that they wish for this to be the case. The only changes are to the actual criteria and these have been reviewed to ensure that there is not unnecessary overlap between criteria and units.

3. Is Workskills remaining as ungraded and pass/fail or is this being changed?

Workskills is remaining as ungraded. We did consider carefully whether to change this to support progression between levels but as it is retaining its spiky profile concluded that taking units at different levels is a better way to aid progression from entry and level 1. Pearson has a new graded level 1 offer, follow this link for further information:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-entry-level-and-level-1/btec-level-1-introductory.html>

4. Will the new qualifications be included in English performance tables?

Workskills is not significantly changing in structure, content, purpose and assessment. Therefore in England it will still not meet the requirements for the performance tables. This has the advantage that it enables the qualification to be flexible and meet the needs of very diverse groups of learners. Workskills is **not** eligible in England either for 14-16 or 16-18 performance tables.

5. If the qualifications are not included in the English performance tables does this mean that there is no funding for learners aged 14-18?

The DFE publishes a separate list of qualifications that are eligible for delivery to young learners using public money (Section 96). This includes both qualifications that are in performance tables and those that are not. At the present time all Workskills qualifications from entry 3 to level 2 are included in Section 96 for all age groups and we are not aware of any intention to change this policy.

6. Will the new qualifications be funded for 19+?

At the time of writing the rules for qualification approval for 2016/7 have just been published by the SFA and we are in the process of determining their implications. There is good news for providers that the new rules also include

level 2, so this may well mean that next academic year there will be funded Workskills provision at level 2. We will confirm which of the new qualifications will be eligible for funding via insight and on the website as soon as we are able to.

In 2015/6 the following qualifications are funded for delivery to learners aged 19+ (this is determined by the business rules of the SFA):

QAN	Title
601/0689/X	Pearson BTEC Entry Level 6-credit Award in WorkSkills (Entry 3) (QCF)
601/0691/8	Pearson BTEC Entry Level 9-credit Award in WorkSkills (Entry 3) (QCF)
600/2392/2	Pearson BTEC Entry Level Certificate in WorkSkills (Entry 3) (QCF)
600/2392/2	Pearson BTEC Level 1 6-credit Award in WorkSkills (QCF)
601/0688/8	Pearson BTEC Level 1 9-credit Award in WorkSkills (QCF)
600/2394/6	Pearson BTEC Level 1 Certificate in WorkSkills (QCF)
600/2382/X	Pearson BTEC Level 1 Diploma in WorkSkills (QCF)

7. Workskills works well for us as it is. Why is it being changed?

There are three main reasons for Workskills being reviewed which are given below:

- a) The Workskills suite of qualifications was first developed in 2008. A review took place in 2011 purely in relation to the technical qualification requirements not content. As a result it is now dated, as there have been changes during this time including an enormous increase in the role of online recruitment and social media.
- b) The need to ensure that the qualifications are highly effective in developing core employability skills and lead to programmes being developed to meet this aim.
- c) Feedback from assessors and customers that some of the very small units are causing over assessment and administrative burden. We need to rebalance to ensure that the size and composition of units is fully fit for purpose.

8. Are all of the units being changed?

No, not all of the units are being changed. Units which work well, are fit for purpose and have up to date content will be included in the new version. Many centres will find that even where the units are changed it will just be a case of double-checking programmes to make sure that updated content is included.

9. Is Workskills going to be as flexible as present?

We have had to carefully balance the need for customer flexibility with the requirement for each qualification in the suite to have clear purpose. In some ways the qualifications are more flexible than previously at larger sizes but the number of units to choose from is more restricted in 3-credit awards than at present. To summarise the provisional structure is as below:

- a) 3-credit awards include core employability units only. A minimum of 2 units must be taken.
- b) 6 and 9-credit awards and the 13-credit award at Entry 3 include both core and wider employability units. Learners must complete a minimum of one core units but then there is a free choice.
- c) 13 and 18-credit certificates (at levels 1 and 2) include core, wider employability and optional industry-based units. Learners must complete a minimum of one core unit but then can choose units including industry-based if there is an area of employment that they specifically want to research.
- d) 37-credit diploma includes core, wider employability, optional industry-based and personal and social development units.

10. What Workskills qualifications will be available from September?

The table below summarises the core workskills qualifications that will be available from September 2016 (please note that there will be **no qualifications in the core Workskills suite at level 3**):

	3-credit award	6-credit award	9-credit award	certificate	extended certificate	diploma
Entry Level 3	√	√	√	√	X	X
Level 1	√	√	√	√	√	√
Level 2	X	√	√	√	√	√

We also intend to extend the following standalone award qualifications, and this is currently going through the Pearson internal extension processes (Feb 2016). So we expect that the following existing qualifications will also continue to be available as at present and will confirm in the next few weeks:

600/6573/4	Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Award in Personal Behaviour for
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	Success (Entry 3) (QCF)
600/6549/7	Pearson Edexcel Level 1 Award in Personal Behaviour for Success (QCF)
600/6647/7	Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)
600/6648/9	Pearson Edexcel Level 1 Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)
601/0758/3	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)
500/8754/X	Pearson MTEC Level 1 Award in Supporting Employability and Personal Effectiveness (QCF)

11. Are there any qualifications that are not being replaced?

Yes, the following qualifications are being withdrawn without replacement. The reasons for these withdrawals are included:

Level 3 Workskills	600/2291/7 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Workskills (QCF) 600/2381/8 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Workskills (QCF)	These qualifications are no longer listed on section 96 effectively meaning that schools in England cannot deliver them.
Level 3 Work Experience	601/1304/2 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF) 601/1415/0 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF) 601/1414/9 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)	These qualifications are no longer listed on section 96 effectively meaning that schools in England cannot deliver them.
Level 2 3-credit Award	600/2292/9 Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Workskills (QCF)	There are insufficient small-sized units at level 2. It is still possible to enter learners for level 2 units through Skilled for life.

12. So what does that mean for Workskills qualifications at Level 3?

There will no longer be Level 3 core Workskills, these qualifications will be Entry 3 to Level 2 only. Moving away from offering this provision at level 3 was a move Pearson was already considering

The following level 3 qualifications that support learners taking apprenticeships will still be available:

501/1791/9 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Workskills for Effective Learning and Employment

501/1792/0 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Award in Workskills for Effective Learning and Employment

501/1795/6 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Workskills for Effective Learning and Employment

Further information about these qualifications can be found here, but unlike the Workskills qualifications there is mandatory content that directly relates to apprenticeships: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-specialist-and-professional-qualifications/teaching-training-and-education/btec-specialist-workskills-for-effective-learning-and-employment-l3.html>

13. Are the 'Workskills for Effective Employment and Learning' qualifications in Apprenticeships being changed?

No, the 'Workskills for Effective Employment and Learning' qualifications at both levels 2 and 3 have a review date of 30th April 2018; we have no plans to alter these qualifications prior to that date.

14. What is happening to the other qualifications in the wider Workskills suite that share units with the core qualifications?

In the future we are intending to concentrate our provision in Employability in the core Workskills suite. The large Supporting Employability and Personal Effectiveness, Work Experience and Personal Behaviour for success units are included in the new Workskills qualifications. This means that these can continue to be used to support larger programmes, and can be delivered alongside other units from Workskills.

Therefore, to avoid duplication of qualifications the following will be withdrawn on 31.8.16:

500/8754/X	Pearson BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Supporting Employability and Personal Effectiveness (QCF)
500/9074/4	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Employability and Personal Effectiveness (QCF)
601/0724/8	Pearson BTEC Level 1 Extended Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)

601/0723/6	Pearson BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)
601/0727/3	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)
601/0725/X	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Planning and Participating in Work Experience (QCF)

15. When will the new specification be published so that we are able to plan for next academic year?

The schedule for materials being available is as follows, please ensure that you register for regular email updates (these will be sent automatically to delegates registered for Workskills new specification launch events):

- Late **March 2016** lists of units and qualification structures will be complete and agreed
- The specification will be published on **29th April 2016**
- The specification will be published onto the website on **6th May 2016**

16. We register for Workskills units using Skilled for Life, will this affect our programmes also?

Yes, Skilled for Life is just a different way of registering for units and qualifications so it will affect Skilled for Life programmes which include Workskills qualifications.

17. What training is going to be provided?

At the start of March webinars are available for all centres to explain the changes and give an opportunity to ask questions. These are absolutely free and will last one hour. To register please follow this link:

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/rt/5245723069469927425>

During the summer term after the Specification has been published five regional plus 2 online **Workskills new specification launch events** have been organised to fully explain the differences between the specifications and provide support to centres with preparing for delivery in September 2016. All events are free and open for booking now. Details of these events are below:

Code	Location	Timing	Date
15BVWS02/01	London	10:00-15:30	14/06/2016
15BVWS02/02	Manchester	10:00-15:30	21/06/2016
15BVWS02/03	Birmingham	10:00-15:30	28/06/2016
15BVWS02/04	Newport	10:00-15:30	13/06/2016

15BVWS02/05	Middlesbrough	10:00-15:30	22/06/2016
15OVWS04/01	Online	15:30-17:30	27/06/2016
15OVWS04/02	Online	15:30-17:30	07/07/2016

18. What other support is going to be available?

The new qualifications will be presented to customers showing clearly the role in supporting learners with different short term aims. These will give ideas about how the units can be used together to form coherent programmes.

Sample workbooks will be provided for some core units.

A subject advisor is available to answer teacher questions in relation to delivery. Please email teachingworkskills@pearson.com with queries.

19. If I have any further questions who should I contact?

The webinars held in early March will further explain the changes and also give an opportunity to ask questions. To register please follow this link:

<https://attendeegototraining.com/rt/5245723069469927425>

Other queries that are not covered in the FAQs or in the webinars should as usual be directed to the normal customer service contacts:

Teachers direct queries to the subject advisor teachingworkskills@pearson.com

Administrators please contact account specialists via examsofficers@pearson.com

Full details of all contacts are available on the Pearson website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support.html>

20. Will existing centres get automatic approval for registrations and certifications?

It is too early to provide this information as the final unit content is in the process of being agreed at the current time. We will confirm the arrangements for existing centres as soon as we are able to.