



Department
for Education

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS REFORM

GET READY FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

English and mathematics Functional Skills qualifications are both respected and well-known. They help students to gain important real-world skills for the future. Starting in September 2019, the current qualifications will be replaced by reformed Functional Skills qualifications to make them even more relevant and credible for the world of work. So what's changing?

The content of the reformed qualifications is more specific and detailed than before. It will be easier to compare Functional Skills with other qualifications.

ENGLISH



What's changing?

More emphasis on the underpinning knowledge and skills required to communicate well.

This includes a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar without dictionaries or computer aids.

At Entry Levels there are now detailed reading and spelling expectations based on the structured teaching of phonics.

MATHS



What's changing?

More emphasis on the underpinning knowledge and skills required to solve mathematical problems.

This includes using times tables and working with and without a calculator.



FUNCTIONAL SKILLS REFORM

HOW WILL THE REFORM WORK?

The reformed qualifications will be taught from September 2019. Here is a breakdown of what to expect and why it's happening.



WHY?

- Functional Skills qualifications allow people to demonstrate to employers the important skills they have acquired.
- Reforming these qualifications will make them even more relevant and credible.



WHAT?

- The reformed English and maths Functional Skills qualifications will focus on real-world skills and be more relevant to employers' needs.
- This will give them more credibility in the job market.



WHEN?

- We expect awarding organisations to make their new qualifications available by spring 2019.
- Learners registered from 1 September 2019 must register on the reformed qualifications only.
- Those currently learning have until 31 August 2020 to complete the legacy qualifications.



HOW?

- The Education and Training Foundation will be offering ongoing development opportunities to support practitioners in teaching the reformed qualifications. These will include a framework and resources for teaching phonics to adults as well as face-to-face courses.
- The Guided Learning Hours for the reformed qualification will increase from 45 to 55.



WHO?

- Functional Skills will continue to be taken by students in 16 to 18 study programmes, apprentices and adults.
- The minimum exit requirement to achieve a T Level will be a level 2 qualification in maths and English – the same as for level 3 apprenticeships.