

Moving forward with AQA Functional Skills

AQA's Functional Skills are already proving to be the most popular with teachers and the most engaging for students. That's why more centres have chosen AQA's pilot Functional English, ICT and Maths than any other awarding body.

AQA's Functional Skills:

- have content that is interesting and engaging for students and accessible to all levels of ability
- enable students to realise their full potential
- are manageable for schools and colleges.

Did you know that:

- AQA has the most experience and knowledge of Functional Skills because more teachers have already chosen AQA for their *pilot* qualifications than any other awarding body
- nearly half of all teachers already trust AQA to deliver their general qualifications
- we listen to your opinions and keep you updated with developments in Functional Skills
- we'll provide you with launch events, preparing to teach events, and ongoing support and training
- we'll provide you with materials, including specimen question papers, exemplar student answers, schemes of work, Teacher Resource Banks and much more.

Did you know that the reading level for Functional Skills exams in Maths and ICT is a level below the standard of the exam? For example, level 1 English is used in the Level 2 Maths and ICT exams. So a student's reading ability isn't a barrier to their attainment in Maths and ICT.

Did you know that AQA offers an exceptional Level 1 award to students entered for Level 2? This means that:

- an assessment isn't wasted if a student just misses out on Level 2
- AQA supports borderline Level 1/Level 2 students
- some of the pressure is taken off teachers when they're deciding which level to enter students.

Enhanced Results Analysis is a free online tool that helps you to understand how your students have performed. See a question by question analysis in an easy to understand graphical format, and compare results with those from similar centres and all AQA centres.

For more information or to register to use this free service visit aqa.org.uk/era



AQA's Pilot Functional English consists of three units which can be taken in the same or different series. Available in January and June.

Unit 1 Reading: available at Level 1 and Level 2. Multiple choice responses to a range of non-literary and media texts. Choice of on-screen or paper-based.

Unit 2 Writing: available at Level 1 and Level 2. Two short writing tasks to inform (Level 1) and inform or persuade (Level 2).

Unit 3 Speaking and Listening: internal assessment, presentation and discussion (Level 2), or discussion only (Level 1).

AQA's Pilot Functional ICT consists of two units which can be taken in the same or different series. Available in January and June.

Unit 1: externally set and marked test comprising several question types including multiple choice, sentence completion, matching pairs, ordering, searching and underlining. Choice of on-screen or paper-based.

Unit 2:

Section A Task: externally set and marked task, completed on-screen under controlled conditions in the centre.

Section B: Internet and e-mail skills assessment. Centre-assessed.

AQA's Pilot Functional Maths is one unit, which is available in January and June.

Level 2 – two components: Competency test, non calculator. Choice of on-screen or paper-based. Functionality tasks with a calculator allowed and pre-release materials.

Level 1 – one component: functionality and competency sections and pre-release material.

AQA's support package for pilot Functional Skills includes

Specimen question papers and mark schemes, past question papers, mark schemes and Examiners' Reports: aqa.org.uk/functionalskills

Delegate packs from previous training events: see contact details for subject departments below.

Free Maths teaching resources, which have been developed with Leeds University's Assessment and Evaluation Unit, *Functional Skills and GCSE Maths Teachers' Guide* and *Functional Skills and GCSE Maths Tasks*.

Free AQA training events for centres that are currently running the pilot Functional Skills qualifications.

Electronic and textbook resources from Nelson Thornes: www.nelsonthornes.com/aqa_functional_skills

Coming soon: even more resources and support, based on the valuable experience, feedback, knowledge sharing and best practice ideas of over 1000 pilot schools. This support will enable all teachers and their students to achieve more.



Just look at what pilot Functional Skills teachers have been saying about working with AQA

"AQA seemed to be the only board with a clear vision and structure for the Functional Maths pilot"

"I'm a big fan of what I've seen so far in the pilot work"

"This exam suits us better than the one we were using before and the pilot has been a positive experience"

"Last year 84% of our years 10 and 11 got a level 2"

"I have used AQA in the past and the standard of support is still high"

"Easy to plan lessons for all"

"The on-screen tests were very successful for all candidates"



Over 80% of teachers rated AQA's free pilot Functional Skills training as very useful

"Clear, and presenters demonstrated a good understanding of the spec and problems encountered"

"Very helpful"

"Very informative. Not just the speakers but talking to other teachers and exchanging ideas"

"Well structured, I learned a lot"

"Excellent, as usual"

Find out more ...

Functional Skills general e-mail: functionalskills@aqa.org.uk

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Tel: **0161 958 3848**

Maths e-mail: mathspathways@aqa.org.uk

Tel: **0161 957 3852**

AQA website: aqa.org.uk/functionalskills

AQA can keep you up to date with all the developments in English, ICT and Maths.

Register online now: aqa.org.uk/updates