

English and maths Q&A on functional skills and apprenticeships – summer 2020

The rules referred to here are under constant review. Find out more information from the [Department of Education](#).

Q: I've been told I can do my English and maths learning at home since the college isn't open. How is this going to work?

A: It is possible to continue with your learning. Your learning provider or college will tell you what their remote and online learning arrangements are. They can also tell whether they can do face-to-face support using online tools.

Q: Can I still do my functional skills assessments?

A: Yes, there are options of tutors and teachers calculating the results or if this is not possible doing adaptive assessments such as online tests this summer. If assessment retakes are needed there's a possibility of resits in the autumn depending on how the lockdown rules continue.

Q: What about GCSEs?

A: Because you cannot sit your exams this summer, the teachers are calculating the results for the GCSEs. The calculated grades are based on a range of evidence such as mock-exams, classwork or homework assessments.

Q: I am an apprentice on level 2 apprenticeship, what happens to my functional skills learning?

A: Normally you'd be required to work towards level 2 English and maths qualifications and try an assessment. Because of the coronavirus pandemic there is some temporary relaxation in the requirements so you don't have to attempt to take the assessment if you were due to take your end-point assessment (EPA) before 31 July 2020. The guidance is that you should be passed through gateway to sit your EPA without trying the English and maths assessments. Otherwise it's business as usual with learning and assessments continuing the way your learning provider sets it up and level 2 apprentices still needing to pass the level 1 English and maths to complete your apprenticeship.

Q: I'm on level 3 apprenticeship and need to achieve functional skills qualifications in English and maths to complete my apprenticeship. Do I still need to do this with all the coronavirus pandemic related changes?

A: Those on level 3 or higher apprenticeships need to achieve functional skills English and maths on level 2 or GCSE qualifications if you don't already hold them.

Q: I'm doing the so called legacy qualifications. What happens if I cannot complete my qualifications this summer? Do I have to start from the start with the reformed qualifications?

A: The end date for the legacy qualifications has been moved from 31 August to 31 December 2020 to give you more time to receive your certificate. But those who don't complete are will need to take up the reformed qualifications.

Q: I've been furloughed by my employer and they've asked me to continue with my English and maths learning for my apprenticeship. Is this ok?

A: Yes, like other staff who's been furloughed you can continue doing your apprenticeship training and English and maths while furloughed (laid off). However, English and maths doesn't count towards the off-the-job training (OTJ) in your apprenticeship. It is additional to that 20 per cent off working time OTJ.

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