

Functional Skills (4748)

Level 1 and Level 2

Mathematics and English

Pass rates 2022-23

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For external use

Document revision history

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1. Background

During 2022-23 we have continued to see a return to more familiar patterns of delivery and assessment across all settings.

We have delivered a wide range of centre support activities both remote and face-to-face to ensure teachers and managers are familiar with the DfE subject content and City & Guilds' approach to assessment. We have also focused on developing centres' confidence in using our Chief Examiners' reports, Guidance for Delivery documents and our interactive support resources and analytical tools to secure improvements in candidate performance.

We have also continued to support the adoption and delivery of Functional Skills through remote invigilation (RI) to deliver on screen tests.

Throughout this academic year, we have also been working to remove any remaining FLASH items from any Functional Skills tests. This has now been completed enabling a more engaging experience for all learners, but also a more seamless experience for learners using remote invigilation.

2. Information on pass rates

The **total pass rates** presented in this document are given as a percentage which is based on the number of pass grades awarded out of the number of times an exam has been attempted. It should be noted that re-sits are included within this calculation. Our Functional Skills exams are available on demand, and we have multiple exam question papers available at any one time. The data we publish here are at subject level, not question paper level.

Our Functional Skills exams are taken by a wide range of learners across different settings and using different programme lengths and delivery arrangements. Some of you are also adopting technology and more remote teaching and learning approaches to prepare learners for their exams.

The pass rates reflect the proportion of exam attempts which meet the required performance standard. It is not unusual for the number of learners taking the test and pass rates to fluctuate over the year as a result. Our pass rates are kept under continuous review, and we will update the information published here annually.

3. Total pass rates

The total pass rates for each Functional Skills subject and level are published for information and to help you gauge your centre's performance.

The data presented below reflect the total number of exams taken by candidates within all provider types and across all age groups, and the percentage of passes awarded. Alongside the total for all provider types, we also present data for the three main provider types – Further Education (FE), Independent Training Providers (ITP) and Adult and Community Learning (ACL).

The exams include all live versions of level 1 and level 2 Functional Skills Reading, Writing and Mathematics (4748) exams taken across all provider types, both on screen and on paper, between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023

Subject	Level	All provider % Total	FE % Total	ITP % Total	ACL % Total
Reading	L1	78%	70%	79%	78%
Writing	L1	73%	63%	76%	77%
Reading	L2	73%	71%	72%	76%
Writing	L2	84%	79%	85%	85%
Maths	L1	47%	34%	53%	62%
Maths	L2	45%	40%	45%	51%

While it is useful to see pass rates across provider types, we would suggest you interpret the data with caution. It is important to remember that any one provider type may be offering a range of different programmes in which Functional Skills is a component, eg study programmes, Apprenticeships, AEB funded adult skills provision, prison education etc. As an example, Apprenticeships are being delivered by FE, HE, adult and community learning and independent training providers. Therefore, there isn't necessarily a direct correlation between a provider type and a particular programme type.

Given a return to higher volumes and more predictable patterns of testing behaviour during 2022-23, total pass rates compared with 2021-22 are generally very steady. There is an increase in Writing at level 1 and Maths at level 2 where we see an improvement across all types of provider. There is also a marked overall improvement of 7% in level 1 Maths. This has been driven by positive increases in FE and Adult and Community Learning, with results in Independent Training Providers remaining steady.

More generally, our age range data also points to a lower percentage pass rate across all subjects and levels, but particularly level 1 and level 2 maths. We suspect lost learning resulting from the disruption of the pandemic to be a contributory factor.

4. First time pass rates

First time pass rates represent the percentage of exams taken by candidates and awarded a pass at the first attempt.

The data below show the percentage of first time passes awarded within all provider types and across all age groups. Alongside the total for all provider types, we also present data for the three main provider types – Further Education (FE), Independent Training Providers (ITP) and Adult and Community Learning (ACL).

Subject	Level	All provider % First time	FE % First time	ITP % First time	ACL % First time
Reading	L1	81%	75%	82%	82%
Writing	L1	78%	69%	79%	79%
Reading	L2	76%	75%	74%	81%
Writing	L2	86%	83%	87%	87%
Maths	L1	54%	42%	57%	67%
Maths	L2	48%	46%	46%	56%

For 2022-23, there are improvements in 4 of the 6 subjects, with 2 remaining steady. Maths level 1 shows a significant improvement of 6% on the previous year, and level 2 maths an overall improvement of 3%.

There are a number of factors we continue to consider in analysing performance:

- Ongoing impact from lost or disrupted learning due to the pandemic
- Candidates may be entered for exams without sufficient preparation
- Familiarity with pass standards for each subject when preparing candidates and marking practice tests.
- Variations in time and funding for delivery and preparation of learners for exams across settings
- Challenges presented by problem-solving questions in maths exams, particularly the higher order skills which candidates need to develop

Our Chief Examiners' reports provide more detailed information on overall performance by subject and level and can be found on our Functional Skills (4748) qualification page.

5. Reformed Functional Skills vs Legacy Functional Skills

We are often asked about how pass rates with reformed and legacy Functional Skills compare.

It is important to remember that the reform programme for Functional Skills led to changes in subject content which included the addition of new content and shifts in content between levels.

However, it may be useful to note.

Subject	Level	Reformed Functional Skills All provider % Total pass rate 2023	Legacy Functional Skills All provider % Total pass rate 2019
Reading	L1	78%	77%
Writing	L1	73%	77%
Reading	L2	73%	61%
Writing	L2	84%	75%
Maths	L1	47%	49%
Maths	L2	45%	50%

6. Results processing times

City & Guilds commits to returning results as swiftly as possible and will follow up any result not returned within 20 working days of receipt/upload of exam.

Delivery mode	Full year - 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023, results returned on average within:
On-screen exams	5.40 days on average
Paper-based exams	5.77 days on average

7. Support with Functional Skills

Technical Advisors: We have Technical Advisors who provide face-to-face and digital support and guidance free of charge to centres using City & Guilds' Functional Skills. They regularly host events which support best practice in maths and English delivery and help centres understand our assessment approach and the range of materials available to support exam preparation. You can contact our Technical Advisors by emailing pre-employment@cityandguilds.com.

We have also developed a comprehensive suite of tools and materials to help you set up, deliver and prepare candidates for success. You can access these through our qualification web page.

Guidance for delivery documents: Guidance for Delivery of Functional Skills Maths / English documents have been developed to enable candidates and centres to better understand the structure of the assessments and the types of items and breadth of range which could occur in live exams.

Examiner reports: These reflect any trends or patterns our examiners have observed in performance across all exams during that period and are intended to support centres in preparing learners to take the exams. We recommend these are read alongside the Guidance for Delivery documents.

Sample Assessments and mark schemes: We make available a number of sample assessments with mark schemes, which clearly reference subject content statements, for each Functional Skills subject area for centres to help prepare candidates for the exam. These are written and standardised using the same process and level of scrutiny as live papers. Our sample assessments draw content from across the whole syllabus and are therefore not exhaustive; we try to ensure that these cover as much breadth as possible and aim to familiarise learners with a variety of question types and assessment scenarios. We recommend that these are used in conjunction with the Guidance for Delivery documents. We would also encourage centres to make use of other resources which we make available to support delivery and exam preparation.

Performance feedback: We provide candidate and cohort feedback through our Centre Analytics platform. Centres can access feedback on performance and identify areas for remedial work if unsuccessful, or areas for development if progressing to the next level. This is available for both on screen and paper exams. Find out more here.

Digital resources:

SmartScreen: We have a wealth of maths and English digital learning resources on our SmartScreen platform to support face to face and remote learning at all levels.

e-Functional Skills: This tool supports learners specifically preparing for City & Guilds Functional Skills from Entry level 3 to Level 2. It takes learners through initial and diagnostic testing to a programme of personalised learning, and on to a range of City & Guilds practice test questions building confidence and familiarity with our assessment approach. Learners may also wish to build their confidence further using our Open Assess platform.

Open Assess: This platform provides an opportunity for learners to fully prepare for the onscreen experience and for tutors to mark onscreen tests and review their marking and feedback with learners.

It can be used as both a teaching and formative assessment tool.

Find out more: You can find out more about all the support available [here](#).

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We work with governments, organisations and industry stakeholders to help shape future skills needs across industries. We are known for setting industry-wide standards for technical, behavioural and commercial skills to improve performance and productivity. We train teams, assure learning, assess cohorts and certify with digital credentials. Our solutions help to build skilled and compliant workforces.

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