

# Delivering Functional Mathematics



# Functional Mathematics

Functionality in mathematics is essential if students are to get the most from education and training and participate fully as young adults in 21st-century society.

## Why choose Functional Mathematics?

- Students gain an **extra valuable qualification** with a little extra time required for teaching and studying, as functional elements are already included in the new Mathematics GCSEs.
- It provides students with the **mathematical skills which are most useful in everyday contexts and the world of work.**
- **Our specification promotes mathematical thinking and transferable skills** over rote learning, and encourages a **teaching approach that is enriching and engaging for all students.**
- **Flexible assessment available four times each academic year** and unlimited re-sit opportunities.



- Our Functional Maths tests and tasks are **based on a range of real-life contexts and scenarios.**
- Students will develop and refine their **problem-solving strategies** and build the **confidence and skills** required to tackle unfamiliar challenges.

Our **pre-release materials** (data books), supplied four working weeks before the examination, allow teachers to work with their students to address any literacy issues, ensuring they can access the context, and helping them think functionally before the examination.

## Our Functional Maths pilot experience

We are the only awarding body that has developed GCSE and Functional Skills pilots together within the same team, and within the 14-19 Curriculum Pathways Project, working closely with Leeds University Assessment and Evaluation Unit.

Over the three years of the pilot, we have gained a thorough understanding of the demands of this new qualification by working closely with teachers and students. This means that our specification and assessments have been extensively tried, tested and refined.

**'It's about improved, general, transferable skills, which they can apply to anything, whatever they choose to study, whatever direction they want to go in.'**

**Phil Eadie, Maths Teacher,  
The Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester**

Hear what our pilot centres and students have to say at [www.aqa.org.uk/functional-maths](http://www.aqa.org.uk/functional-maths)

## Functional Maths assessment

### Our Functional Mathematics assessment:

- provides realistic contexts, scenarios and problems
- specifies tasks that are relevant to the context
- requires the application of knowledge, skills and understanding for a purpose
- requires problem solving
- assesses process skills and the outcome of their application in different contexts
- is written in English at least one level below that being assessed, except for specialist vocabulary which is at the level being assessed.



### Specification and assessment at a glance – Functional Mathematics at Level 1 and Level 2

<b>Assessment scheme</b>	Externally set and marked
<b>Duration   Marks</b>	1 hour 30 minutes   60 marks (single exam at each level)
<b>Calculator</b>	Allowed and expected
<b>Assessment structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3-5 questions, all of which are compulsory:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- each question is subdivided into parts with marks allocated to each</li><li>- each question is based on one context drawn from everyday life, workplace or educational setting (some of the contexts are presented in advance as pre-release materials)</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Qualification titles</b>	Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1/2
<b>Certification and reporting results</b>	Pass certificate is awarded if requirements are met <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pass or ungraded (U)</li><li>• Unlimited re-sit opportunities</li></ul>
<b>Assessment windows</b>	November, January, March and June each academic year

**Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Entry 1, 2 and 3 (E1/E2/E3) will be available from September 2011**  
• Separate internal assessment at each level involving practical activity (especially at E1 and E2)



# AQA support and resources

## ... as and when you need it

You are in safe hands with AQA – teachers already trust us to deliver excellent support for teaching GCSEs and A-levels. We will uphold that standard with our Functional Skills qualifications.

We've worked closely with teachers to make sure the introduction of the new qualifications is straightforward, providing free resources to help you get ready to teach, and ongoing support throughout the life of the qualifications.

### Choose AQA Functional Skills and you will also benefit from:

- Access to our **dedicated Functional Skills subject teams**

<b>General Functional Skills enquires</b>	functionalskills@aqa.org.uk	0161 953 7561	www.aqa.org.uk/functionalskills
<b>Functional English</b>	functionalenglish@aqa.org.uk	0161 958 3856	www.aqa.org.uk/functional-english
<b>Functional ICT</b>	ictfunctionalskills@aqa.org.uk	0161 953 7563	www.aqa.org.uk/functional-ict
<b>Functional Maths</b>	functionalmaths@aqa.org.uk	0161 957 3852	www.aqa.org.uk/functional-maths

- **Training for teachers**, including practical teaching strategies and methods, presented by senior examiners – see the full range of our Teacher Support meetings at [www.aqa.org.uk/support/teachers.php](http://www.aqa.org.uk/support/teachers.php)
- **24-hour support** through our free online question and answer service **Ask AQA** ([www.aqa.org.uk/askaqa](http://www.aqa.org.uk/askaqa)), which enables you to find answers to your questions and send us new questions for personal answer
- **Specimen question papers** and **mark schemes** available in our Resource Zones
  - English Resource Zone: [www.aqa.org.uk/functional-english](http://www.aqa.org.uk/functional-english)
  - ICT Resource Zone: [www.aqa.org.uk/functional-ict](http://www.aqa.org.uk/functional-ict)
  - Maths Resource Zone: [www.aqa.org.uk/functional-maths](http://www.aqa.org.uk/functional-maths)
- **E-mail updates** on Functional Skills – register now at [www.2010ready.aqa.org.uk/register](http://www.2010ready.aqa.org.uk/register)

### External links for further information, support and resources:

- Functional Skills Support Programme: [www.fssupport.org](http://www.fssupport.org)
- Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA): [www.qcda.gov.uk](http://www.qcda.gov.uk)
- Department for Education: [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)
- Former Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) 14-19 Reform: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19)
- National Curriculum: <http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk/key-stages-3-and-4/skills/functionalskills>
- Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual): [www.ofqual.gov.uk](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk)
- Skills Funding Agency: [www.skillsfundingagency.com](http://www.skillsfundingagency.com)
- Nelson Thornes – our publishing partner: [www.nelsonthornes.com](http://www.nelsonthornes.com)