

ESOL

Qualification Structure

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Structure of the qualifications

The qualifications offered by Edexcel:

- Entry 1, 2 and 3
- Level 1
- Level 2.

These are based upon the National Standards for Adult Literacy and the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum. At all levels, assessment is based on the whole of the National Standards. The qualifications offered by Edexcel at Entry 1, 2, 3 conform to the requirements of the QCA Entry Level Criteria. The qualifications at levels 1 and 2 conform to the requirements of the QCA Common Criteria. There are three modes available at each level:

- Speaking and Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Each mode, at each Level, consists of one unit which is assessed by means of a unit test. Tests have specific time limits and these may vary between mode and level. It is important to stress that many candidates will not be ready for assessment of all modes at the same time or Level. Candidates are registered for five years and can seek final accreditation at any time over the five years. This flexibility enables learners to progress at their own rate. Some learners may take two or three years to progress from one level to another in all modes (e.g. from Level 1 to Level 2). Unit certification is available for each mode.

Entry 1, 2, 3

Candidates obtain the all mode qualification at Entry Level by passing in all three modes:

- Speaking and Listening (SL)
 - Listen and Respond
 - Speak to Communicate
 - Engage in Discussion
- Reading (R)
- Writing (W)

A separate Speaking and Listening qualification is available at Entry 1, 2 and 3.

Level 1 & Level 2

Learners can obtain the all mode qualification at Level 1 or Level 2 by passing in all three modes:

- Speaking and Listening (SL)
 - Listen and Respond
 - Speak to Communicate
 - Engage in Discussion
- Reading (R) The unit test will be assessed by means of the National Literacy Test

- Writing (W)

	ESOL	Adult literacy	Key skills
Level 2	Edexcel test and National Standards test	National Standards test	National Standards test and portfolio
Level 1	Edexcel test and National Standards test	National Standards test	National Standards test and portfolio
Entry	Edexcel test	Edexcel test	

Progression

It is recognised that adult ESOL learners are likely to have variable levels of knowledge, skills and understanding of their first language as well as English. Commonly, learners may be able to demonstrate their abilities confidently in some aspects of language and are less able to do so in others; that is, they evidence a 'variable' language skills profile at Entry Level. The structure of the Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life qualification at Entry Level is designed to reflect this, and to enable learners to progress at their own pace. Therefore, although the specification requires learners to demonstrate increasing levels of skills, knowledge and understanding and they may achieve Entry sub-levels at the same time, it is possible for centres to continue assessing learners in modes that progress through the sub-levels until they have reached Entry 3, before completing final certification. Ultimately, a learner may achieve all individual units in the specification at the same level.

The overall qualification at Entry Level is achieved by successfully completing all three units of the assessment at a given Entry sub-level. Certification is offered at Entry 1, Entry 2, or Entry 3.

Some learners may choose to be certificated on the achievement of one or two levels.

No prior knowledge or experience is required for learners at Entry 1. The prior knowledge and attainment required for Entry 2 is defined in the standards and curriculum for Entry 1. The prior knowledge and attainment required for Entry 3 is in the standards and curriculum for Entry 2.

Successful completion of the tests at Entry Level will allow the learner to progress to Level 1 and then to Level 2.

- The prior knowledge and attainment for Level 1 is in the standards and curriculum for Entry 3.
- The prior knowledge and attainment for Level 2 is in the standards and curriculum for Level 1.

It may also be appropriate, depending upon the associated education or training context, for the learner to progress onto a Key Skills programme, or to study for a GCSE/Advanced GCE, or other relevant qualification. Beyond Levels 1 and 2, progression will depend upon the associated education or training context.

Certification

Certification for the Entry Level qualification will be awarded at the level of the lowest achieved unit. Certification for the Level 1 and 2 will be awarded at the level of the lowest achieved unit.

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Contact us

For further information see the Guidance and National Standards document or contact us at:

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About Edexcel

Edexcel is one of the UK's largest providers of qualifications, with the widest portfolio of academic and vocational qualifications. Regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to offer qualifications, Edexcel works with over 5,500 education partners in over 100 countries