

# Edexcel Certificate in ESOL skills for life

## ESOL Summary Information

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## Edexcel : ESOL Skills for Life Qualifications

These qualifications are available to adult learners in education, the work place, on training schemes, in Adult and Community Learning programmes and in everyday life. They are designed to develop the literacy skills and capabilities that adults who are speakers of languages other than English need to take a full part in at work and in society.

### Aims

The certificate in ESOL Skills for Life qualifications have been designed to facilitate programmes that enable learners who are speakers of languages other than English to:

- Progress to the next level in manageable steps
- Achieve a level of attainment in English which is appropriate to their needs
- Use language at a level to function at work and in society in general
- Follow a structured course of study
- Become better qualified

These qualifications contribute to the government's Skills for Life initiative by providing assessment of ESOL, which is designed around the standards for adult literacy and the *ESOL Core Curriculum*. They are designed to cover the standards and curriculum with sufficient range and depth to properly reflect the use of the English language in real world situations, appropriate to the needs of the client groups and the NQF level in question.

### Structure of the qualifications

Edexcel offers Certificates in ESOL Skills for Life at the following levels:

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

They are based upon the National Standards for Adult Literacy and the *Adult ESOL Core Curriculum*. 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 learners will not be ready for assessment of all modes at the same time or level. Learners are registered for five years and can seek final accreditation at any time over the five years.

Unit achievement is available for each mode.

Learners obtain the whole qualification at each level by achieving all three modes.

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## Tutors

All tutors who are working on an ESOL programme should have or be working towards the relevant ESOL teaching qualifications, depending on their level of involvement, these are likely to be.

- A Level 2 - qualification for those engaged in Learner Support
- A Level 3 - qualification for those engaged in Subject Support
- A Level 4 - qualification for those who are primarily responsible in ESOL Learner Development

## Guided Learning Hours

There are no recommended guided hours attached to any of the suite of qualifications that constitute Skills for Life, of which ESOL is one of the qualifications. Learners are funded according to the needs identified at initial assessment, to ensure that the level of support fits with their particular learning goals. This will vary from learner to learner.

## Assessment of the Qualification

The ESOL qualifications have been assigned to support flexible assessment. The key features at each level are:

- No portfolio
- Tests can be taken on demand
- Tests administered in supervised conditions by the centre
- Internal marking with external verification

N.B. There will be test windows for 2004/5 to adhere with QCA accreditation conditions. The windows are as follows:

22 November - 10 December 2004

January - January

11 April - 29 April 2005

6 June - 24 June 2005

On-demand assessment will be available from September 2005

	Speaking and Listening	Writing	Reading
Entry 1	Test	Edexcel Test	Edexcel Test
Entry 2	Test	Edexcel Test	Edexcel Test
Entry 3	Test	Edexcel Test	Edexcel Test
Level 1	Edexcel Test	Edexcel Test	Adult literacy Test (multiple choice)
Level 2	Edexcel Test	Edexcel Test	Adult Literacy Test (multiple choice)

All Edexcel Tests and mark schemes are sent to centres on a CD-ROM before the test window. They are administered by the centres, internally marked and externally verified.

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Each assessment instrument has a pass mark of 66% and is not graded. Learners are reported as having passed or not passed.

The tests have been designed to be taken when learners and their tutors feel confident that they have achieved the learning outcomes detailed in the Adult Literacy Standards and the Adult ESOL Curriculum.

The reading mode for Level 1 and 2 is assessed by the Adult Literacy Test.

## Funding

The funding arrangements differ for learners who are part of an FE or adult learning programme, or if they are learning in the workplace. Essentially FE and community learning is load-banded funded, and has additional up-lift funding, whilst those funded under a workplace route need to seek clarification of the programme aims from the local LSC before funding is granted.

## Centre Approval

Existing Edexcel-approved centres are able to run these qualifications by completing the *Intention to Offer* form for the qualification(s) required. This form is available on the Edexcel website [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk). Centres new to Edexcel should contact the approval team at Edexcel via e-mail: [approvals@edexcel.org.uk](mailto:approvals@edexcel.org.uk).

It is recommended that centres will lead significant staff development as they embark on this programme and are encouraged to contact the Professional Development and Training Department.

Professional Development and Training Department

Telephone : +44 (0)207 758 5620

Fax: +44 (0)207 758 5951

E-mail: [trainingenquiries@edexcel.org.uk](mailto:trainingenquiries@edexcel.org.uk)

An extensive support network exists to provide guidance and training for teachers. As well as the national programme of training it includes information on the Edexcel website, support from Edexcel Regional offices and from the Edexcel Advisors attached to centres. Further information about the ESOL Skills for Life Qualification can be found on our website [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

The Edexcel Customer Services is available on +44 (0)870 240 9800 to answer any queries that you may have about this qualification and its implementation.