

ESOL

advancing learning, changing lives

Overview

Edexcel: ESOL Skills for Life Qualifications

These qualifications are available to adult learners in education, the workplace, 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 Edexcel Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life has 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.

Target groups

Learners who may benefit from the Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life qualifications are speakers of languages other than English, including, for example:

- learners from settled communities, including communities from the Asian subcontinent and Hong Kong
- refugees in the categories of asylum seekers and settled refugees migrant workers who work or settle in the United Kingdom for most of their lives

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.

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 (subject specialist)

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.

On-demand assessment can be taken from September 2005.

Assessment

	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. They are administered by the centres, internally marked and externally verified.

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 Levels 1 and 2 is assessed by the Adult Literacy Test. This can be taken monthly (paper-based) or onscreen, on-demand.

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.

Registration Costs

- Entry registration is £22.00 for all three sub-levels
- Level 1 and Level 2 registration is £22.00 combined
- Adult Literacy test is £7.75 per entry for either paper-based or onscreen

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 Centres new to Edexcel should contact the approval team at Edexcel via email: 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

Email: 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 Qualifications can be found on our website 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 these qualifications.

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Contact us

For further information see the Guidance and National Standards document or contact us at:
Edexcel,
Skills for Life Team,
8-50 Blundell St, London, N7 9ED
Email: skillsforlife@edexcel.org.uk
Tel: 0870 240 9800
CSP013

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