

★★★★★ 25,000+ five-star reviews on ★ Trustpilot

Functional Skills

Maths and English at Levels 1 and 2

GCSE-equivalent Functional Skills qualifications in maths and English for apprenticeships, employment and progression.

AT A GLANCE

Levels	Entry 3 to Level 2
Awarding body	Open Awards, NCFE
Duration	4 to 12 weeks
Study mode	100% online
Subjects	Maths and English

TRUSTED BY 4.5 MILLION+ LEARNERS

GCSE equivalent

Apprenticeship ready

Ofqual regulated

Speak to a course advisor

Free advice, no obligation. Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 6:00pm.

CALL US ON

01202 006 464

In plain English

Q. What are Functional Skills?

A GCSE-equivalent qualification recognised by every UK employer and university Functional Skills are Ofqual-regulated qualifications in English and Maths at Entry Level 1 through Level 2. A Level 2 Functional Skills pass is the recognised equivalent of a GCSE grade 4 (formerly grade C) and is accepted by universities, employers, the NHS, and apprenticeship providers. Online assessment makes them the fastest route to a recognised English or Maths qualification.

Inside this guide

A 20-page guide covering everything you need to choose your level, prepare for the exam, and pass first time.

- Level-by-level breakdown of what each test covers
- Sample exam questions for English and Maths Level 2
- 4-week study plan to pass first attempt
- University and employer acceptance list

How Functional Skills work

Three steps from enrolment to a recognised qualification on your CV.

STEP 1 STEP 2 STEP 3

Choose your level Study online at your Book your remote exam Level 2 is the GCSE pace Exams are sat online with equivalent and what most Self-paced online learning remote invigilation, so you universities and employers with diagnostic tests, practice can take them from home at require. Level 1 is a stepping questions, and tutor support. a time that suits you. Results stone for learners who need Most learners complete are issued within 5 working to build confidence first. Entry within 4 to 12 weeks. There days. Resits are unlimited. 1, 2, and 3 are available for are no scheduled lessons or foundational study. term dates.

Why study English, Maths & Functional Skills with learndirect 100% online, fully flexible Study from anywhere, anytime. No commute, no classroom hours. Designed to fit around full-time work, parenting, and shift patterns.

Tutor support throughout

Dedicated subject specialists mark your assignments, answer your questions, and guide you from enrolment to certificate.

Pay monthly with 0% interest Spread your fees across 9, 12 or 24 months with no credit checks and no hidden charges. Start your course today, settle the rest later.

Trusted by 25,000+ Trustpilot reviewers learndirect is one of the UK's largest and most established online learning providers, with a five-star rating across thousands of independent reviews.

Recognised qualifications

Every course leads to a regulated certificate from a UK awarding body, ready to share with employers, universities, or professional bodies.

Courses in English, Maths & Functional Skills This faculty currently offers 9 regulated qualifications. Prices below are full one-off fees. All courses also offer 0% monthly payment plans spread across 9, 12 or 24 months.

Course Awarding body From

Functional Skills English & Maths Level 2 Including

TQUK £1,199.99

Exams

Functional Skills Maths Level 2 Including Exams TQUK £799.99

Functional Skills English Level 2 Including Exams TQUK £999.99

Functional Skills English & Maths Level 2 Including

TQUK £79.99

Exams

Functional Skills Maths Level 2 Excluding Exams TQUK £489.99

Functional Skills English & Maths Level 2 Excluding

TQUK £799.99

Exams

Functional Skills English Exam TQUK £489.99

Functional Skills Maths Exam TQUK £379.99

Functional Skills English Level 2 Excluding Exams TQUK £499.99

See the full live list at pathways.learndirect.com/faculties/english-maths-functional-skills.

How payment works

Option How it works Best for

Pay in full Single one-off payment when you enrol. Learners who want the simplest option.

9-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 9 months. 0% interest. Most popular. Lines up with course duration.

12-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 12 months. 0% interest. Lower monthly outlay.

24-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 24 months. 0% interest. Longest, smallest monthly cost.

No interest, no credit checks, no hidden fees. If you ever want to pay off your balance early, you can settle the remainder at any time at no extra cost.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Is Functional Skills Level 2 equivalent to a GCSE?

Yes. Functional Skills Level 2 in English and Maths is the recognised equivalent of a GCSE grade 4 (formerly grade C). It is accepted by UK universities, the NHS, apprenticeship providers, and the majority of employers in place of a GCSE.

Q. How fast can I complete Functional Skills?

The fastest route is around 4 weeks if you study intensively. The average completion time is 8 to 12 weeks on a part-time basis. There are no fixed term dates, so you set your own pace.

Q. Are the exams online?

Yes. Both English and Maths exams can be sat online with remote invigilation. You take the exam from home at a time that suits you, supervised through your webcam by a qualified invigilator.

Q. Will universities accept Functional Skills Level 2?

The vast majority do, but some Russell Group universities prefer GCSE. Check your target university's admissions page, or contact our advisers to confirm before enrolling.

Q. How much does Functional Skills cost?

Course fees start from £279 for self-study with exam. Tutor-supported options are also available. Eligible learners (aged 19+, with low prior qualifications, on certain benefits) can study for free under the Adult Education Budget.

Q. Can I resit if I fail?

Yes. Resits are unlimited and can be booked within a few days. There is a small admin fee for each resit, but no penalty to your final result.

Q. Are these the same as the old Skills for Life qualifications?

No. Functional Skills replaced the previous Skills for Life and Key Skills qualifications in 2019. The current Functional Skills are reformed, regulated by Ofqual, and recognised in their current form.

Get your Functional Skills qualification

Speak to an adviser about which level you need and how fast you can complete it.

Speak to an advisor: 0800 101 901 | pathways.learndirect.com

This guide was prepared by content may change. For the latest details visit pathways.learndirect.com.