

Functional Skills

Functional Skills are qualifications in English and Maths that equip learners with the **practical skills** needed **to access GCSE**. They also provide student with essential **knowledge, skills and understanding** that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and work. Some **apprenticeships** and **post-16 pathways** accept students with Functional Skills qualifications.

The qualifications involve:

- applying knowledge and understanding to everyday life
- engaging competently and confidently with others
- solving problems in both familiar and unfamiliar situations
- developing personally and professionally as positive citizens who can actively contribute to society.

Who are they for?

Functional Skills are available to all learners from Key Stage 3 upwards, whatever learning pathway they are taking. The skills taught will help students to participate and progress in education, training and employment. Working on Functional Skills helps to develop and secure the broader range of aptitudes, attitudes and behaviours that will enable students to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live and work.

How will students be assessed?

Each subject area has a set of performance standards based on three key areas:

Maths

Key areas:

- Representing – making sense of a situation and representing it mathematically.
- Analysing – processing and using maths.
- Interpreting – interpreting and communicating the results of analysis.

Functional English

Key areas:

- Speaking and listening – making an oral presentation or report.
- Reading – reading and understanding information and instructions.
- Writing – writing accurately so that meaning is clear.