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Open consultation

# Guided learning in Functional Skills

Published 9 April 2019

From: [Ofqual](#)

Applies to: **England**

## Summary

A consultation on planned changes to the guided learning requirement for reformed Functional Skills qualifications

This consultation closes at  
**5pm on 30 April 2019**

## Consultation description

Since beginning our technical evaluation process, the Department for Education (DfE) has written to us about the number of hours of Guided Learning (GL) for the reformed Functional Skills qualifications (FSQs) in English and mathematics.

Although it is generally the role of awarding organisations to set the number of hours of GL of their qualifications, the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills has now agreed that the number of hours of GL for reformed FSQs in English and mathematics should be set at 55.

## Our proposed approach

We are proposing to make a minor change to our rules and guidance for reformed FSQs to include this GL requirement.

General Condition E7 requires awarding organisations to assign to each qualification that it makes available a number of hours for GL and Total Qualification Time (TQT).

As the DfE has set a specific expectation around GL for the reformed FSQs, we propose to replace this General Condition with a bespoke Condition for FSQs requiring awarding organisations to develop reformed FSQs with 55 hours of GL.

The draft Conditions putting this approach into effect are provided in Annex 1 (English) and Annex 2 (mathematics).

Draft Conditions FSE7.1 and FSM7.1 have the effect of dis-applying General Condition E7 for FSQs.

## **Impact of our proposals**

Our proposed change is designed to enable the development of reformed FSQs in English and mathematics in line with this requirement.

If our proposals are implemented, awarding organisations will need to make appropriate changes to any related documentation, including those submitted for technical evaluation, for the reformed FSQs.

Our proposed changes do not apply to existing FSQs.

We have not identified any regulatory or any equalities impacts (either on students who share protected characteristics or more widely) which would result from our proposed changes.

‘Protected characteristic’ is defined in the Equality Act 2010. Here, it means disability, racial group, age, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity, sex, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

## **Your views**

We are seeking your views on both the way we are proposing to change our Conditions for the reformed FSQs to reflect the new GL requirement, and on the detailed drafting of the proposed changes set out in Annexes 1 and 2.

We would also welcome your views on our assessment of the likely impact of our proposals – including whether there are any additional impacts we have overlooked, and any steps we could take to mitigate such impacts.

Please email your views to [consultations@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ofqual.gov.uk), including 'Functional Skills GL Consultation' in the subject line, no later than 5:00pm on 30 April 2019.

## Documents



### [Annex 1: Proposed new Conditions for Functional Skills Qualifications in English](#)

HTML



### [Annex 2: Proposed new Conditions for Functional Skills Qualifications in mathematics](#)

HTML

## Ways to respond

### Email to:

[consultations@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ofqual.gov.uk)

### Write to:

Functional Skills GL Consultation  
Ofqual  
Earlsdon Park  
53-55 Butts Road  
Coventry  
CV1 3BH

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