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Guidance

Essential Digital Skills qualifications: progress so far

Updated 18 September 2020

In April 2019 we published the rules against which we will regulate the new EDSQs. At the same time, the Department for Education published the national standards for essential digital skills which awarding organisation must use to develop their qualifications.

All new EDSQs will go through a technical evaluation process before being made available to centres (schools, colleges and training providers) to deliver. This is to ensure that the qualifications are valid and fit for purpose. Using a combination of subject and assessment experts, we review the materials submitted by each awarding organisation against our rules. These materials include the specification and the sample assessments. We consider issues such as their level of demand, coverage of the Department for Education national standards, and the quality of the questions and the associated mark schemes. We also review the awarding organisation's assessment strategy, the key document in which they explain the approach they are proposing to the design and delivery of their qualification.

Evaluation progress

The status, as at 17 September 2020, of each of the qualifications that awarding organisations have notified Ofqual they are developing is as follows.

Organisation	Entry Level	Level 1
Ascentis	4	4
BCS: for life ¹	3	3
BCS: for work ¹	3	3
Gateway	5	5
NCFE	3	3
NOCN	3	3
OCN London: daily life ¹	3	3
OCN London: work life ¹	3	3
OCR	3	3
Pearson	3	3
The Learning Machine	4	4

Key

1. Awarding organisation is yet to submit materials to Ofqual for technical evaluation
2. Currently undergoing technical evaluation by Ofqual
3. Has been through technical evaluation by Ofqual and is back with awarding organisation
4. Resubmitted to Ofqual and undergoing technical evaluation
5. Has completed Ofqual process of technical evaluation

We will update this table on a weekly basis, so that centres have a clearer idea about when they can expect to receive final versions of materials from awarding organisations.

1. BCS and OCN London are planning to develop multiple qualifications at each level. The qualifications will have different purposes as detailed above. [↩](#) [↩2](#) [↩3](#) [↩4](#)

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