

Get involved in...

Functional skills

You can help to shape the way in which functional skills qualifications in English, mathematics and ICT are developed to ensure that school leavers have the skills that employers need.

Why get involved?

When employers are asked what they want from school leavers, English, mathematics and ICT skills come high up on the list. We recognise this and have designed functional skills in consultation with employers to ensure that young people have the confidence, knowledge and skills they need in these subjects to succeed in life and work.

The new qualifications, to be introduced across England from September 2010, include the essential elements of English, mathematics and ICT that everyone needs to operate confidently in life and work. The new GCSEs in English, mathematics and ICT being introduced in 2010 will include functional skills. In addition, functional skills qualifications will be part of every Diploma qualification, Apprenticeship Framework and the Foundation Learning Tier.



Benefits for young people

Young people will get meaningful qualifications that are readily appreciated by prospective employers. Early indications are that young people are also finding functional skills a more engaging way to learn. Schools and colleges have told us that, by developing functional skills through practical experience and task-based learning, learners are able to think more clearly and are more confident.

Benefits for employers

More young people will be equipped with the essential skills they need on leaving school and entering the job market. Employers can expect future school leavers with functional skills qualifications to be able to demonstrate technical competence in the full range of English, mathematics and ICT skills and apply those skills in realistic scenarios to solve particular problems.

Next steps

If you want to know more about the development of functional skills, you can find out more from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) website www.qca.org.uk/functionalskills

For general information on functional skills, visit the DCSF website www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/functionalskills

