

Reformed Functional Skills Standards

The reformed Functional Skills will come into force in September 2019, with a transitional period of one year. bksb will be creating new Functional Skills courses written to the standards and these will be ready for September 2019.

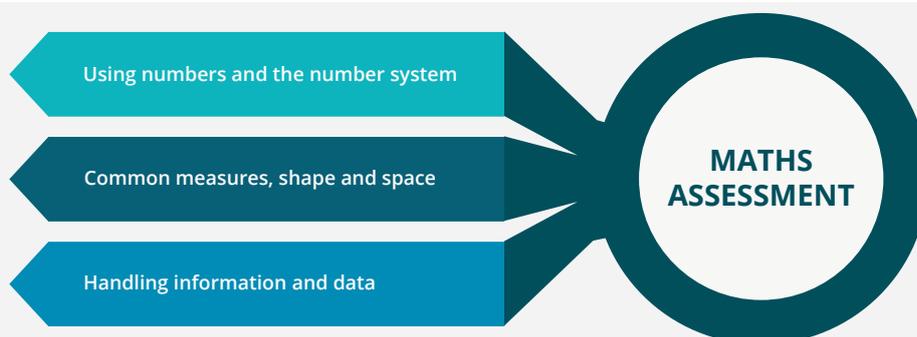
There are considerable changes to the content, with new content being added and some content being removed. Some of the content has moved levels and elements of GCSE have been added.

The levels will change with the reform: Level 1 will be more like a Level 1½ and Level 2 will be more like a Level 2½. The following table shows how the levels are aligned with the national curriculum key stages:

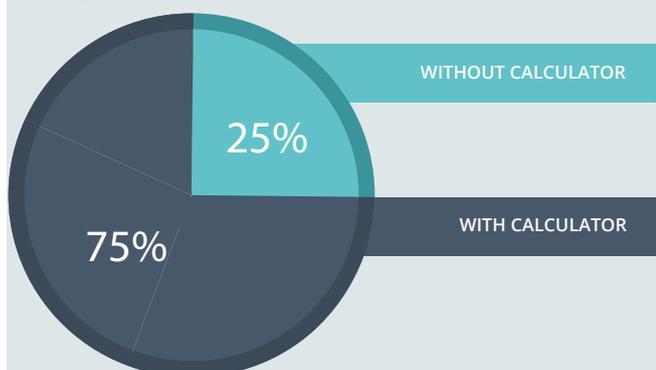
FS Level	Key Stage
Entry Level 1	Key Stage 1
Entry Level 2 and 3	Key Stage 2
Level 1	GCSE grades 3 to 1
Level 2	GCSE grade 4

Maths

The maths assessment will cover 3 separate content areas.

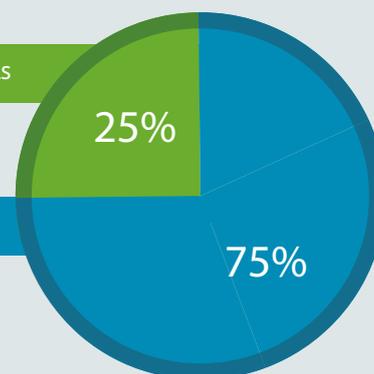


The assessment is allocated to questions or tasks that must be completed with or without a calculator.



ASSESS UNDERPINNING SKILLS

ASSESS PROBLEM SOLVING



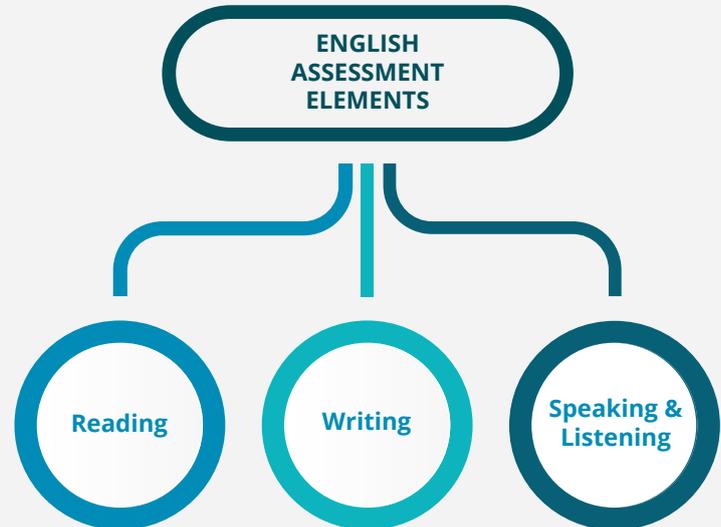
The assessment could take the form of 1 paper with 2 sections or 2 assessments.

Another change to the maths assessment is the length of time it takes to complete. Currently, levels 1 and 2 are around 1 hour and 30 mins minimum and 2 hours max, whilst at Entry levels the minimum amount for completion is an hour and the maximum is 1 hour 30 mins. The proposed times are 1 hour 45 mins – 2 hours 30 mins for levels 1 and 2, and 1 hour 15 mins – 1 hour 45 mins for Entry levels.



English

The English assessment will need students to take all 3 elements at the same level.



There will be an increased weighting of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar in the writing assessment, with access to spelling and grammar checks prohibited. Entry levels 1-3 will include phonics, word lists for reading and spelling, and a spelling task that samples 10 words from the relevant word list.



Speaking, listening and communicating assessments will be scrutinised annually, with the centre's processes and control being reviewed every three years.



The current amount of time it takes to complete an English assessment at levels 1 and 2 is 2 hours minimum and 3 hours maximum, and at Entry levels the current time is 1 hour minimum and 2 hours maximum. It is proposed that times for levels 1 and 2 will remain the same, whilst at entry levels the proposed times are 1 hr 30 mins minimum and 2 hours maximum.

Functional Skills Standards: bksb Updates

At bksb, we are updating all of our Functional Skills content to meet the reformed standards.

We will also support our clients with a range of free webinars, events and information to ensure you are completely ready for September 2019.

So, rest-assured that with bksb you are completely covered for the reforms.

Initial Assessment:

We will have an updated Initial Assessment which is mapped to the reformed standards.



Diagnostic Assessments:

New Diagnostic Assessments for English and maths E1 – L2, fully mapped to the reformed Functional Skills Standards, will be ready in June.

Interactive Learning Resources and Skill Checks:

We are updating our English and maths Functional Skills courses from E1 – L2 so that they cover the Reformed Functional Skills Content. These resources will have enhanced features and extensive video content.

