



**BASIC
SKILLS
QUALIFICATIONS**



IMPORTANT UPDATE ON OUR BASIC SKILLS QUALIFICATIONS

With much talk about possible changes to Basic Skills, it's important that we keep you updated with the latest on our qualifications to help take away some of the uncertainty.

Our Basic Skills (Skills for Life) qualifications at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 and Levels 1 and 2 are still live, and accreditation has been extended to 31 August 2012 with certification end date on 31 August 2014. This applies to Northern Ireland and England only.

Basic Skills qualifications in Wales have now expired and have been replaced by Essential Skills Wales.



IMPORTANT
UPDATE

OCR LAUNCHES NEW ENTRY LEVEL LIFE AND LIVING SKILLS QUALIFICATIONS

OCR has recently launched a new Entry Level QCF (Foundation Learning) qualification called Life and Living Skills, which is based on the popular Accreditation for Life and Living (ALL) and National Skills Profile (NSP) schemes.

The qualification offers over 150 'bite-sized' units across a wide range of skill areas, including Numeracy, Communication and ICT. Available at Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3, units in these skill areas are suitable for those students not able to achieve the full Entry Level Basic Skills, functional skills or Essential Skills Wales qualification.

This qualification has been designed to be completely flexible; any combination of units can be selected to build a personalised learning programme and qualification geared to the particular needs and interests of the student. It is suitable for both young people and mature individuals, including those with profound and multiple learning disabilities, and can be delivered within a wide range of learning contexts.

A range of qualification sizes at different entry levels provides the opportunity for students to progress to either a higher-level qualification or a larger-sized qualification at the same level. Certification is available on demand, enabling qualifications to be claimed at any time.

To introduce these new qualifications to centres, OCR is offering free training events. Details can be found in the 'Training' area of the website and places can be booked online through EventBooker.

For more information, please see our Life and Living Skills web page:

www.ocr.org.uk/lifeandlivingskills or email qcf@ocr.org.uk



STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
PROGRESS TO HIGHER
LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

ENTRY LEVEL CERTIFICATES

ICT Skills for Life

Literacy

Numeracy

These popular qualifications continue to be available to centres. Support documents – Tutor Handbooks, Evidence Record Sheets and standardisation guidance for all three qualifications – are available to download from the OCR website: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/bs/index.html

Importantly, two further documents have been made available to download from the OCR website for Numeracy (03393):

1: Using Common Measures, Shape and Space and Data (Units 2, 4 and 6) – Additional Tutor Guidance

This document provides additional assessment guidance for Units 2, 4 and 6 and must be referred to before submitting evidence for these units to your OCR Examiner-Moderator.

2: OCR Set and Marked Tasks

Please note that the OCR set tasks for Units 1, 3 and 5 (using number) are only available via OCR Interchange. Once logged into Interchange, click the 'Vocationally related' button which is listed beneath the 'By qualification' subheading. The OCR set tasks document will be displayed as a PDF. Please do not use any old set task booklets that were last provided by OCR approximately four years ago.

NEW IMPROVED SOFTWARE FOR ON-SCREEN LEVELS 1 AND 2 BASIC SKILLS TESTS

Great news – the new version of the installation software for the Basic Skills tests is available for download from the OCR website: www.ocr.org.uk/basicskills/etesting

The documentation has been updated so that a single Technician's Guide now covers download, installation, offline software configuration for memory sticks, and the approval installation task.

Improvements

- Additional live and practice tests – there are now seven practice tests for each skill (Literacy/ Numeracy) at Levels 1 and 2.
- A revised screen layout – the layout has been improved to keep the responses on screen at all times.
- Split installers – the Key Skills and Basic Skills tests have been separated to allow you to choose whether you want to install one or both sets of tests.
- Shorter installation time – the installation time has been cut from 20 minutes to less than five minutes.
- Three versions of the SNA (Secure Network Administrator) installer – there are now three options for the SNA installer to choose from depending on your network configuration.

The installation software can also be supplied on DVD. Please contact the Customer Administration Support Team (CAST) on **02476 470033** ext **5194** to request a copy.

OCR is offering FREE training events. Search and book training online at www.ocr.org.uk/eventbooker



BASIC SKILLS

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