

User-friendly NOCN Functional Skills

NOCN has played a major part in the QCA pilot of Functional Skills since it began three years ago, particularly at Entry Level. As a result it has developed a series of assessments that are rigorous, learner-friendly, and tutor-friendly. The assessments are available for all three skills at all levels from Entry 1 to Level 2.

Key features of NOCN Functional Skills

- Centres can choose when to assess learners
- All assessments are based around a theme relevant to everyday life and work
- Entry level assessments can be contextualised by centres to meet learner needs
- Entry level assessments are internally marked and externally verified
- Level 1 and 2 assessments are externally set and marked
- Level 1 and 2 assessments are marked at NOCN in a series of 'marking windows'
- NOCN Functional Skills easily combine with Step-UP to provide flexible programmes covering all three Foundation Learning strands

Sample papers

Sample papers are on the NOCN website at <http://www.nocn.org.uk/learning-providers/functional-skills/nocn-functional-skills-sample-assessments>

The wider picture

Functional Skills

- Are replacing Key Skills

- Provide school AAT points
- Are 5 credits each on the QCF framework

Join the pilot

The QCDA Functional Skills pilot ends in July, with a roll-out of the final qualifications in September. However, QCDA are still keen for centres to join the pilots. If you'd like to become involved in the final few months of the pilot, please contact OCNSWR.

'Full Level 2' for three major qualifications

NOCN's QCF Level 2 Certificate and Diploma in Progression and its Level 2 Certificate in Employability will be listed by the LSC for 2010-11 academic year as 'priority qualifications and target bearing in the Adult Learner Responsive funding stream' or 'full level 2' qualifications.

Full Level 2 for 13 credits

Learners can achieve the **Certificate in Employability** with 13 credits. They can choose from 22 units, with no mandatory unit requirement.

The NOCN QCF **Certificate and Diploma in Progression** need 21 and 42 credits respectively, chosen from over 400 units.

Find more information at <http://www.nocn.org.uk/qualifications/qcf-qualifications>

Step-UP gets level 2 units

Twenty-one Level 2 core/mandatory units have been added to the NOCN Level 1 Step-UP Certificate and Diploma.

This means that learners with 'spiky profiles' have the option to add level 2 units to their Level 1 Step-Up Certificate and Diploma.

A learner can now combine units at E3, Level 1 and Level 2 in a single Level 1 qualification, subject to the rules of combination.

The rules of combination and unit lists are in the QCF Qualifications section of the NOCN website, at <http://www.nocn.org.uk/qualifications/qcf-qualifications>

Five new jobs at OCNSWR

The popularity of OCNSWR's courses means we're expanding our staff teams in Plymouth and Cheltenham.

We're looking for two full time Development Managers, one for the North and one for the South of the region. We're also looking for two part-time Administrators to support the Business Development Team (one in our Plymouth Office and one in our Cheltenham Office) and a full time Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team in Plymouth.

Details of the Personal Assistant post are on the OCNSWR website (www.ocnswr.org.uk), and details of the remaining posts will be on the website shortly.

For more information contact your Development Manager

Bristol Colleges, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
Peter Oakley (01242 225517)

Bristol, BANES, Bournemouth and Poole, Dorset and Somerset
Chris Latham (01752 831500)

Devon and Cornwall
Vickie Bishop (01752 831507)

Alternatively, contact OCNSWR Office Manager
Lisa Otter (01752 831500)