

# Functional Skills and ESOL Skills for Life Update January 2021

Date : 12 January 2021

January update for Functional Skills English, Mathematics, ICT and ESOL Skills for Life.

COVID-19 continues to have a presence in the UK, we feel that it is important to update our customers to ensure things run as smoothly as possible for 2020/21. As we are facing new challenges going into 2021, NOCN will keep you updated on a regular basis.

We understand the challenges that our centres and your learners have faced and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and support in these unprecedented times.

The purpose of this update is to provide reminders to our centres of the things they should consider:

- CAG – The CAG process is currently not in place. If a CAG process is reintroduced, please make sure that you are in the best position possible. Keep copies of Initial Assessments, Diagnostic Assessments, Mock Papers, In-learning evidence, to be forwarded to NOCN if the Government has to reinstate CAG.
- Online tests – We are currently piloting online, on-demand, Functional Skills tests through our Calibrand platform.
- Paper-based tests – We continue to offer these and encourage you to plan the best timings to administer these, based on your local lock-down rules.
- Speaking, listening and communicating – Centres are now able to assess this element remotely, as long as they abide by the NOCN rules about conducting the assessments.
- Remote invigilation – We are offering remote invigilation as part of our online, on demand Functional Skills tests.

If you have any queries, please contact your local NOCN Business Development Manager, or email [NOCN@nocn.org.uk](mailto:NOCN@nocn.org.uk)