Adaptation Addendum

Academic Year 2021-2022

Introduction

The government's intention is that work placements, exams and assessments will take place in the academic year 2021 to 2022, therefore moving away from results being based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) used in 2020 to 2021, where this was permitted. This is because assessments and exams continue to be the fairest way for students to evidence what they know, all other things being equal.

The government recognises, however, that students who will be taking exams and assessments have experienced significant disruption to their education and that these students may also need continued support in the face of any further disruption.

We recognise that students who will be taking exams and assessments in 2021 to 2022 have had significant disruption to their education since March 2020, and we remain committed in continuing to support students in the face of any further disruption.

In the academic year of 2021 to 2022 under the 'Vocational and Technical Qualifications Contingency Regulatory Framework' (VCRF) all qualifications will move into Category A. This means all assessments are expected to continue but we are permitted to continue to make adaptations to assessments and qualifications to take account of the ongoing impact of the pandemic, where we can do so without undermining the validity and reliability of our qualifications.

Students must only access permitted adaptations where they are needed to mitigate the impact of learning loss, continued disruption and / or ongoing public health restrictions. This will be monitored through our external quality assurance process to support the validation of any adaptations adopted, ensuring they are not applied where not needed. Where adaptations are applied unnecessarily, centres may be given an action or downgraded in their EQA reviews, therefore be sure to check with your allocated EQA on the application of any adaptations.

This addendum contains further information on what specific adaptations are permitted for these qualifications in the academic year of 2021 to 2022, please see further details below.

Assessment adaptation

No.	Assessment	2021/2022 Academic Year Adaptations
7	Controlled assessment for speaking listening and communication (SLC)	As with other VTQs, we expect all Functional Skills qualifications (FSQs) exams and assessments to go ahead in 2021 to 2022 and the full subject content to be taught across all levels. We will continue to put in place adaptations relating to the delivery of FSQ exams and assessments where necessary, as we did in 2020 to 2021 academic session. Our Functional Skills qualifications in English have controlled assessments for the SLC component. These assessments require students to complete a presentation, question and answer session and a group discussion. We have continued the following adaptations into 2021-22 for the provision of the assessment, mark schemes and any source materials that students will need to use during their assessments. The controlled assessment is administered under specified assessment conditions, to ensure Functional Skills qualifications assessments can continue. In order to support you with delivering assessments we have: • advised that centres could accommodate students' SLC preparation time in advance of their reading/writing assessments to minimise the number of occasions the student would need to travel. Where these assessments take place in an on-demand format and can be delivered in line with public health guidelines, SLC assessments should continue to proceed remotely.

		To support centres, we: • allow preparation time to be completed under supervision via video conferencing if necessary For further information on our Functional Skills qualifications, please visit our website.
8	Controlled assessment for reading and writing	As with other VTQs, we expect all Functional Skills qualifications (FSQs) exams and assessments to go ahead in 2021 to 2022 and the full subject content to be taught across all levels. We will continue to put in place adaptations relating to the delivery of FSQ exams and assessments where necessary, as we did in 2020 to 2021 academic session. These assessments are completed in a set number of hours and the centre arranges supervised periods of external assessment within a set window. We have updated our assessment variation process to allow centres to use additional test centre locations. We've adapted our assessments so they can be delivered in line with public health guidelines. All relevant qualification content must still be delivered, and assessment criteria met. For further information, please see our updated external assessment timetable guide available from the 1st September 2021 on our website here: https://www.qualhub.co.uk/delivery-and-Student-support/external-assessment-timetable/

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