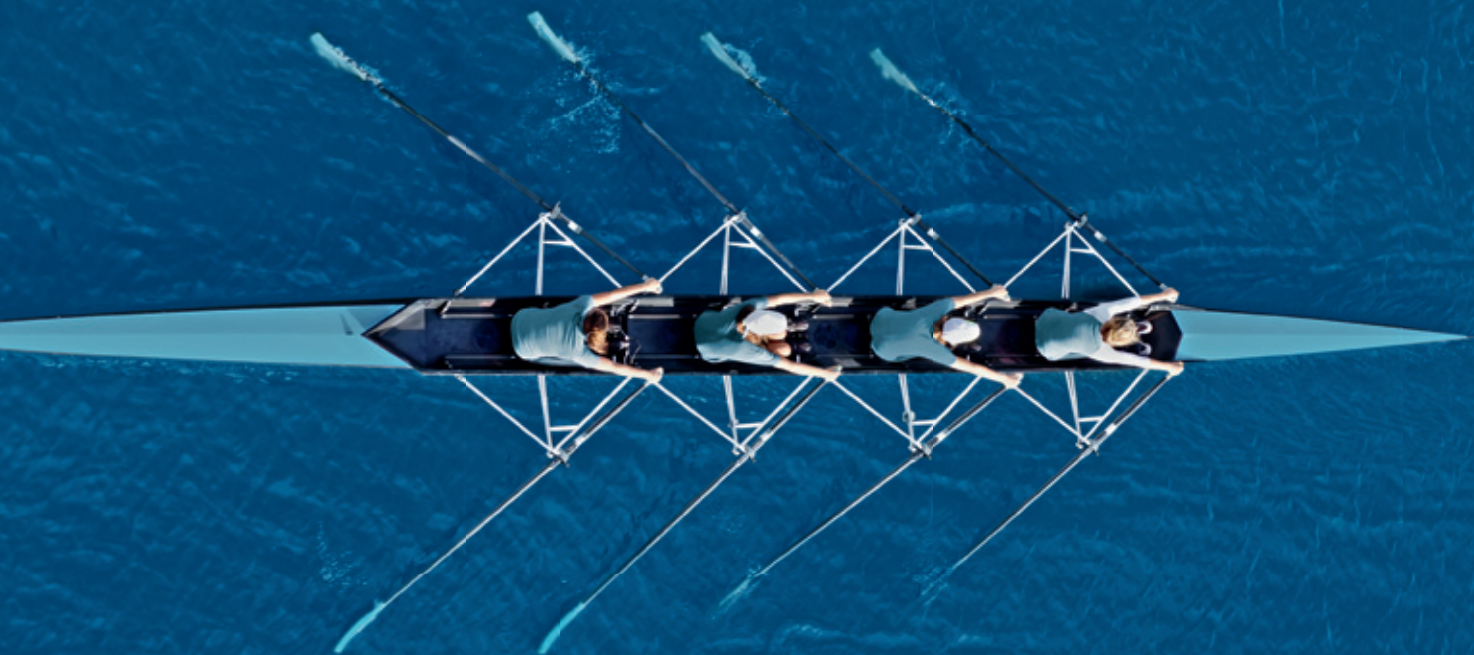


Let's Pull Together

Because together, we achieve more



Skills and Employment Update



CHARLOTTE BOSWORTH
DIRECTOR OF SKILLS
AND EMPLOYMENT



For us, at OCR, vocational education is not just about results. As you know, and like most FE colleges do, we feel passionately that we need to develop the values, habits and attitudes that enable individuals to succeed in education and work.

We have developed, and are continuing to develop, qualifications and resources that support teaching, learning and assessment to enable you to build and deliver an innovative and engaging curriculum. However, we know that

we can always do more, so please get in touch with us to talk about your curriculum planning or your plans for future programmes and let us know if we can do more to support your work

In this newsletter, we'll take a brief look at some of the ways in which our current qualifications can help you achieve your aims more effectively, and update you on some recent key developments. We'll also provide details on how FE colleges are using our qualifications.





The Cambridge Progression suite – HOW CAN IT BENEFIT YOUR CENTRE?

Our Cambridge Progression English and maths qualifications are part of a carefully integrated package of qualifications and support materials that make sure learners are secure in their underpinning English and maths skills on their journey towards a Level 2 qualification in Functional Skills or GCSEs.

HOW CAN YOU MEET THE FUNDING CONDITION?

For 16 to 19-year-olds, Cambridge Progression Awards and Certificates are approved on Section 96 and can be used in study programmes. However, in their own right, they don't meet the funding condition. To meet this, learners must be registered on a programme containing GCSE or Functional Skills English and Maths.

**Cambridge Progression – funded
by the SFA and the EFA.**

High quality assessment tools are standard

Centres are using our Functional Skills Diagnostic Assessment to assess underpinning and process skills. In the marking grid, if a learner shows a gap in a particular skill, our Diagnostic Assessment directs them to the appropriate Cambridge Progression Award. They're then placed on the appropriate Cambridge Progression Award(s) in the first academic term so they secure the underpinning skills needed for their Functional Skills qualification, done in the second term.

OFFERING YOU MORE

Our Diagnostic Assessment assesses the skills within the Adult Curricula Literacy and Numeracy, including skills left out by other IT-based Diagnostic Tools such as specific spelling, speaking and listening, and maths skills that can't be assessed by IT.



“ Our Cambridge Progression English and maths qualifications are being used by centres to secure the underpinning skills needed in Functional Skills. ”



“ Cambridge Progression English and Maths qualifications are being used by centres to secure the underpinning skills needed for GCSEs. ”

HOW CAN YOU USE CAMBRIDGE PROGRESSION WITH GCSEs?

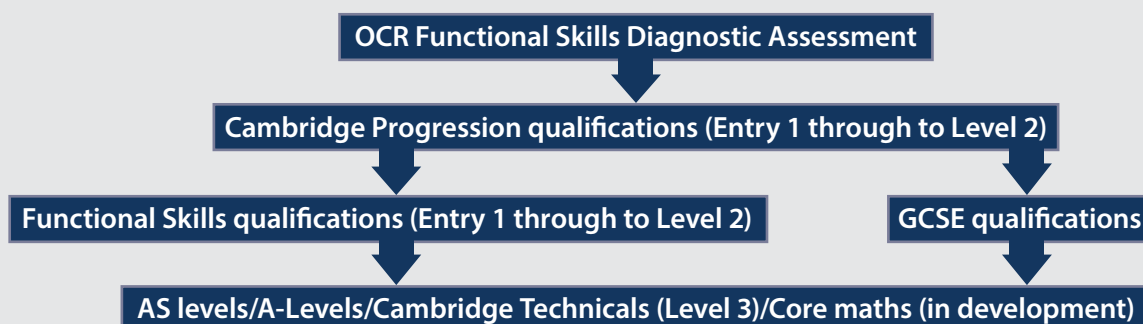
You can use Cambridge Progression units to support learners who haven't received a GCSE A-C grade – we've certainly seen centres doing this. You can deliver these units within the GCSE Learning Programme and equip learners with the specific English or maths skills they've been missing. The learners will also be certificated with a motivational Award in Cambridge Progression in their GCSE programme.

WHY CHOOSE THIS MODEL?

This is a good practice to break that cycle of retakes and the negative feeling these learners doing a retake programme can hold towards GCSEs. It gives the learners quick wins and the underpinning skills they've been missing to support them achieving a GCSE in English or Maths.

CLEAR PROGRESSION ROUTES

All our English and maths qualifications and supporting materials are carefully linked. Here's how:



Cambridge Employability – now even better

WHAT'S NEW?

- We've updated unit content to reflect changes in technology and to meet the needs of employers
- We've added two new units about preparing for and learning from a job search and learning about health and safety in the workplace
- We've updated assessment support materials to provide an even more comprehensive range of resources for you
- We've changed unit titles so it's now even easier for you to see the progression within each unit and across levels
- We've changed the way you can submit work to us to give you options on how to do it.

We can receive work by post and electronically by email or as an e-portfolio and you can change how you submit work to us with each cohort and for individual learners within a cohort. Our e-portfolio means learners can collect evidence towards their units while providing tutors **with the evidence of the time taken to develop the portfolio.**



FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about Cambridge Employability [here](#)



How should English and maths skills be taught within vocational qualifications?

FOR EXAMPLE

A learner on a Customer Service Apprenticeship should see most of their English and maths resources and delivery contextualised or mapped into their Customer Service programme.

WE CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE THIS...

Many of our vocational qualifications are already mapped to our English and maths qualifications and we're working towards this applying to all of them.

WORK SMARTER WITH OCR

Your centre can work smartly by delivering English and maths skills within vocational programmes, and your learners can also be prepared to achieve on a Cambridge Progression Award at the same time.

“ Ofsted and the SFA expect – and it's good practice – that English and maths skills need to be taught *contextualised within vocational skills for employment.* ”

So if your centre's short of hours to complete all the required qualifications within learning programmes, take a look at our website or call our Customer Contact Centre on 02476 851 509 to discuss how we can help.

Being Entrepreneurial – WE'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES!

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT TEEG?

It's designed to help teachers and lecturers to develop the skills and the mindsets that make young people more employable, and nurture the next generation of entrepreneurs to start their own business.

Launched in January 2014, The Entrepreneurial Education Group (TEEG, www.teeg.co.uk) is a fusion between Entrepreneurs, Business and Education to embed a more entrepreneurial mindset to the world of work.

COMMITTED TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We've worked with entrepreneurs to create a new suite of qualifications. These enable learners to develop the essential transferable skills associated with being entrepreneurial from identifying and evaluating opportunities to pitching ideas. Learners can find out about what it is to be entrepreneurial and to consider what skills and mindsets are valuable for working as part of a team and to employers. You can deliver Levels 2 and 3 at the same time.

WE'VE MADE DELIVERY STRAIGHTFORWARD TO IMPLEMENT

You don't need a business specialist to deliver these qualifications. We've created a range of resources and support for both the delivery and the assessment administration of these qualifications and **we're the first to offer the full package of qualifications and resources.**

For example:

- Our **delivery guides** provide a range of lesson ideas and associated activities structured by learning outcome so tutors can see how each activity helps them cover the specification
- We've produced **lesson elements** with task sheets and instructions for tutors to show creative ways of encouraging learners to engage with the topic and how developing English and maths skills can be embedded into delivery.

FREE RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR LEARNERS

We're committed to enabling customers to prepare learners to be ready and resilient for work and further learning, so claiming the qualification at the end is an option. To help you do that, we're offering you free access to our specification and teaching resources from our website or our web-based CPD hub. Being entrepreneurial isn't just about starting a business. We believe it's vitally important to embed the entrepreneurial mindsets (self-belief, taking initiative, risk-taking, determination, resilience/attitude to failure, passion and energy, etc) that are invaluable to an individual, working as part of a team and to employers within education.

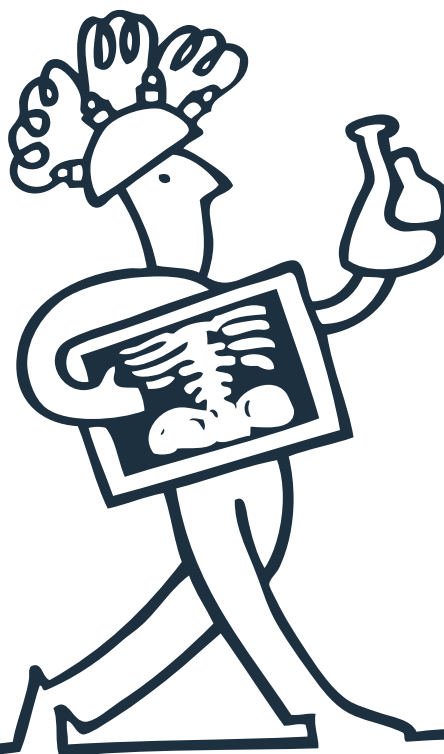
TAKE A LOOK INTO TEEG

Schools, colleges, universities and other organisations who sign up for TEEG will be able to tap into relevant services and benefits including training for teachers, seminars, relevant qualifications, a directory of approachable employers, business mentors and specialist careers guidance, as well as participation in the National Enterprise Challenge and YES' 12 Steps to Success programme. There is a membership fee that includes some services but many are on a 'pay as you go' basis, so members only pay for what they want.

What's new on Cambridge Nationals?

If you offer Cambridge Nationals, you'll be able to use some exciting new resources soon. They're designed to help you embed English and maths into the delivery of these qualifications and to identify where there are links between Cambridge Nationals and our GCSEs in related subjects.

For example, at the end of April 2014, we're launching a guide that maps content between our Cambridge Nationals in Engineering and GCSEs in Science and Maths and Cambridge Nationals in ICT.



Cambridge Technicals: CHANGE IS ON THE HORIZON...



We're redeveloping our suite of Cambridge Technicals in response to changes being brought in by the Government for Key Stage 5 School and College Performance Tables. The Government's proposing that, to be counted in future School and College Performance Tables, advanced qualifications must be defined in one of three distinct categories (Academic, Applied General and Technical Level) and meet certain characteristics.

WE'RE STAYING EXAM-FREE UNTIL 2016

We're redeveloping the Cambridge Technicals for first teaching in September 2016 to meet all the characteristics, including external assessment. In the meantime, we're extending the existing Cambridge Technicals to allow entries to be made up to the end of August 2016. Learners already on programmes and who have started one- or two-year

programmes in 2013 will carry on with no change to the qualification content or to our assessment model and its administration. A policy of 'wait and see' regarding the changes to Level 3 qualifications, in our opinion, allows time for a proper perspective on the changes to be obtained, so that FE colleges can be appropriately structured to adhere to the modifications when they come into force in two years.

WHAT ABOUT PERFORMANCE TABLES?

Most of our Cambridge Technicals are included on the KS5 School and College Performance Tables for 2016, and we are waiting to hear if more of them will be included when the list is republished later this year. See the list from [here](#)

Currently in development:

- L3 Cambridge Technicals Science
- L3 Cambridge Technicals Engineering
- Resources to support delivery of GCSE English and Maths within Cambridge Technicals