

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Withdrawal of Cambridge Awards/Extended Awards/Certificates in English and Mathematics (Cambridge Progression)

OCR constantly reviews the uptake and performance of all its qualifications. As a regulated awarding body, we have a responsibility to remove qualifications that no longer meet the needs of employers and students. We are therefore withdrawing some vocational qualifications at Entry Level and Levels 1 and 2 that have small and declining numbers of students.

OCR deeply regrets the withdrawal of these qualifications which we believe can play an important role in developing basic skills. The decline in uptake may be linked to the growing emphasis on Functional Skills and GCSE as the main publicly funded routes to achievement in Maths and English. OCR will of course continue to support and assess the qualifications up to the final assessments below:

Entry Code	Qualification Title	Assessment Type	Final Assessment
05425 - 05452	Cambridge Progression English	Examined Units	December 2016 Series
05721 – 05725 05443 - 05450	Cambridge Progression English	Internally assessed/OCR moderated units	January 2017
05736 – 05866	Cambridge Progression Maths	Examined	December 2016 Series

September 2016 to December 2016 Examination dates (Windowed Examinations)

Series	Entry window opens (paper-based only)	Entry deadline (paper-based only)	Testing window (paper and on-screen)	Results issued (paper and on-screen)
September 2016	22 August 2016	7 September 2016	19–23 September 2016	21 October 2016
October 2016	19 September 2016	30 September 2016	17–21 October 2016	18 November 2016
November 2016	17 October 2016	28 October 2016	14–18 November 2016	16 December 2016
December 2016	14 November 2016	25 November 2016	12–16 December 2016	20 January 2017

For the full list of relevant dates, please see Appendix A.

For the full list of units, qualifications numbers and scheme codes, please see Appendix B.

1. Why is OCR withdrawing these qualifications?

The use of Cambridge Progression as high stakes external qualifications leading to formal certification have declined sharply. However, feedback tells us that many institutions continue to value the rich resources and diagnostic tools which are widely used to support learning through formative assessment. We wish to continue to develop these resources and to make them available for use in developing skills in maths and English. We are exploring a range of models by which we can do this and further details will be published in due course.

2. When is the last date I can enter learners

For examined units, the entry deadline for paper tests for the final series (December 2016) is 25 November 2016. For computer based testing (CBT), tests can be scheduled up to and including the final day of the testing window (16 December 2016).

For computer based tests that are available on-demand, the final day of the December testing window (16 December 2016) will also be the final date to schedule and take an on-demand unit.

For English internally assessed/OCR moderated units, you should aim to enter all Learners by the end of December 2016 to allow for final submissions in advance of the last certification date of 31 January 2017.

3. When is the last date I can certificate learners?

The last series for paper and computer based testing (CBT) will be December 2016. For English internally assessed/OCR moderated units, your final submission should be received by your OCR moderator no later than 21 days prior to the last certification date of 31 January 2017. We are not able to issue any certificates after the last certification date.

4. Are all Awarding Organisations withdrawing QCF English and Maths units or is it just OCR?

No, this is an OCR decision.

5. Does this mean OCR is withdrawing all qualifications in this vocational area/sector?

No. Functional Skills are available and we will be developing new qualifications for the reform of Functional Skills in 2018. Please See Q10 for more details of alternative qualifications.

6. Can we still use the diagnostic, initial assessment tools and Cambridge Progression resources for formative assessment?

Yes, the diagnostic and initial assessment tools will still be available for use.

We are exploring methods of making the other Cambridge Progression resources available so you can still use the resources to support your learners towards Functional Skills (or GCSE). More details will be provided in advance of the final assessment session.

7. What will happen if a candidate fails and wants to resit/claim the unit/qualification?

The last date for examined tests will be **December 2016**, so would recommend entering candidates for the **October 2016** series if you anticipate resits or to use the CBT on demand tests up until 16 December.

For English moderated units, your final submission should be received by your OCR moderator no later than 21 days prior to the last certification date of **31 January 2017**. We are not able to issue any certificates after the last certification date.

8. We are currently teaching the new Mathematics units for first assessment September 2016 (schemes 05863–05866). Will these still be available as planned in September 2016?

Yes, we are aware that some centres have been delivering the new units so these will be available in the September to December windows. These will be paper based tests only.

9. *Moderated units only:* I want to enter learners now but don't know exactly how many I will have. If I enter them through the unnamed option and can't use them up by the last assessment date what happens with my unused entries?

For both unnamed and named routes, entries can be made at any time so it is advisable to purchase them as you need them. We advise that you plan any purchases of unnamed entries in line with the last assessment dates.

10. What alternative OCR qualifications could I offer to my learners instead?

Alternatives include:

Functional Skills, available from Entry Level 1 to level 2 in English and maths

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/functional-skills/>

Life and Living Skills, available from Entry Level 1 to Entry level 3. There are 19 English units and 15 maths units to choose from.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-qualifications-gcf-life-and-living-skills-entry-level-1-3/>

Entry level Certificates in English and maths

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/entry-level-english-r392-from-2010/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/entry-level-mathematics-r448-from-2010/>

Entry level Certificates in English and maths (New for 2016)

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/entry-level-english-r393-from-2016/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/entry-level-mathematics-r449-from-2016/>

11. Where do I get information on the alternative qualifications?

To find out more about **Functional Skills** or **Life and Living Skills**, visit the OCR website or contact:

Vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Telephone **02476 851509** (8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday)

To find out more about **Entry level Certificates in English and maths** visit the OCR website or contact:

General.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Telephone **01223 553998** (8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday)

12. What support material and training is available for the alternative qualifications?

Functional Skills, Life and living Skills

There will be training events in the Autumn term for both these qualifications, please see our [CPD Hub](#) for further details or e-mail cpdhub@ocr.org.uk or call 02476 496398

In addition, a snapshot of teaching and learning resources for Functional skills include Past Papers, Practice Tests, Activity Banks, Exemplar Responses, Mapping Documents, Contextualisation Resources, Progress Trackers, Resource links, Skills Guides, Delivery Guides, support videos and much more. Download these at

www.ocr.org.uk/supportingenglishandmaths

Entry level Certificate in Maths (R448)

There will be online CPD events in the Autumn term. Please see our CPD Hub for further details, or contact cpdhub@ocr.org.uk or call 02476 496398.

Teaching and learning resources available free from the OCR website include specimen assessment material, planning documents and interactive worksheets. You can also contact our Subject Specialist for specific queries and support at maths@ocr.org.uk.

Entry level Certificate in Maths (R449) – From 2016

This qualification is designed so that it can be co-taught with new **GCSE (9-1)** and is made up of 100% internally assessed tasks and tests that can be taken at any point during the course. Please see the [OCR website](#) or contact our Subject Specialist at maths@ocr.org.uk for further details.

Entry level Certificate in English (R392)

There will be online CPD events in the Autumn term. Please see our [CPD Hub](#) for further details or e-mail cpdhub@ocr.org.uk or call 02476 496398n

Teaching and learning resources are available for free on the [OCR website](#) include specimen assessment material, teacher handbooks and suggested reading materials. You can also contact our Subject Specialist for specific queries and support at English@ocr.org.uk

Entry level Certificate in English (R393) – From 2016

This qualification is designed so that it can be co-taught with the new **GCSE (9-1) in English Language** and is made up of 100% internally assessed tasks and tests that can be taken at any point during the course. Please see the [OCR website](#) or contact our Subject Specialist at English@ocr.org.uk for further details.

13. If our learners have only achieved half of the qualification in complete units, can they transfer that achievement over to the alternative qualification?

No, there is no transfer of credit between the Cambridge Progression and other qualifications.

14. What is the approval process for the alternative qualifications – am I already approved or what do I need to do to get approval?

As a Cambridge Progression centre, you are already approved to offer tests with OCR and will not require an additional inspection to add Functional Skills or Life and Living Skills approval. You will simply need to complete sections A, C and D only of the [application form](#) and send to ocrvocationalapprovals@ocr.org.uk

To offer the Entry Level Certificates in English and maths, you need to be approved for General Qualifications but do not need individual scheme approval. If you are already approved to offer GCSE, GCE or Cambridge Nationals you will already have sufficient approval. Otherwise email our [Centres Team](#) and we will send you the appropriate form.

15. Who can I talk to, to get more information on alternative OCR qualifications?

To learn more about the options available to you please talk to our Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851509** or email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk. Our Customer Contact Centre can explain the difference in administration of the alternative qualifications and help me understand how to make candidate entries.

You may also want to contact your Regional Account Manager whose details can be found here: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/contact-us/regional-account-managers/>

Appendix A

2016/2017 Examination dates (Windowed Examinations)

Series	Entry window opens (paper-based only)	Entry deadline (paper-based only)	Testing window (paper and on-screen)	Results issued (paper and on-screen)
September 2016	22 August 2016	7 September 2016*	19–23 September 2016	21 October 2016
October 2016	19 September 2016	30 September 2016	17–21 October 2016	18 November 2016
November 2016	17 October 2016	28 October 2016	14–18 November 2016	16 December 2016
December 2016	14 November 2016	25 November 2016	12–16 December 2016	20 January 2017

**All entries must be received by the end of Wednesday 7 September to enable the prompt despatch of examination papers.*

2016/2017 Examination dates (On-demand Computer Based Assessment)

Last date tests can be scheduled and taken in SecureAssess	Results issued (on-screen, on-demand)
16 December 2016	Results will be available to view electronically on the 'Results' tab of the SecureAssess administration website and via Interchange in as little as two working days of the test being taken.

English internally assessed/OCR moderated units: final submission

Entry Code	Qualification Title	Entries and Submission	Final Certification Date
05721 – 05725 05443 - 05450	Cambridge Progression English: Speaking Listening and Communication units.	Your final submission should be received by your OCR moderator no later than 21 days prior to the last certification date of 31 January 2017 . Entries should be made at least 48 hours before you intent to submit.	31 January 2017

Appendix B

OCR Cambridge Awards/Extended Awards/Certificates in English and Mathematics (Cambridge Progression)

OCR Cambridge Awards in English

Scheme Code	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	Unit reference number	Unit Title	Examined or moderated	Last Assessment
05425	600/7451/6	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Read simple texts (Entry 1)	J/504/5864	Read for purpose and meaning in simple texts	Examined	December 2016 series
05430	600/7452/8	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Understand words (Entry 1)	F/504/5863	Understand simple words and punctuation	Examined	December 2016 series
05435	600/7453/X	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Construct simple sentences (Entry 1)	Y/504/5898	Construct simple sentences	Examined	December 2016 series
05443	600/7454/1	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Speaking skills (Entry 1)	T/504/5570	Speak to provide information	Moderated	January 2017
05721	600/7455/3	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Listening and responding skills (Entry 1)	R/504/5530	Listen and respond to simple phrases	Moderated	January 2017
05426	600/7456/5	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Read straightforward texts (Entry 2)	H/504/5869	Read for purpose and meaning in straightforward texts	Examined	December 2016 series
05431	600/7457/7	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Understand sentences (Entry 2)	D/504/5868	Understand simple phrases and sentences	Examined	December 2016 series
05436	600/7458/9	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Construct straightforward compound sentences (Entry 2)	H/504/5872	Construct straightforward compound sentences	Examined	December 2016 series
05444	600/7459/0	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Speaking skills (Entry 2)	J/504/5573	Speak to provide and request information	Moderated	January 2017
05722	600/7460/7	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Listening and responding skills (Entry 2)	Y/504/5531	Listen and respond to detail	Moderated	January 2017
05427	600/7461/9	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Read straightforward texts (Entry 3)	D/504/5854	Read for purpose and meaning in straightforward continuous texts	Examined	December 2016 series

05432	600/7462/0	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Understand sentences (Entry 3)	T/504/5844	Understand meaning in compound sentences	Examined	December 2016 series
05437	600/7463/2	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Construct compound sentences (Entry 3)	A/504/5862	Construct compound sentences	Examined	December 2016 series
05440	600/7464/4	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Plan and sequence texts (Entry 3)	K/504/5856	Plan and sequence texts	Examined	December 2016 series
05445	600/7465/6	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Speaking skills (Entry 3)	L/504/5574	Speak to communicate information, ideas and opinions	Moderated	January 2017
05448	600/7466/8	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Discussion skills (Entry 3)	D/504/5580	Contribute to discussions	Moderated	January 2017
05723	600/7467/X	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in English: Listening and responding skills (Entry 3)	K/504/5534	Listen and respond to specific information	Moderated	January 2017
05428	600/7468/1	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Read a variety of straightforward texts	L/504/5865	Read for purpose and meaning in texts on a variety of topics	Examined	December 2016 series
05433	600/7469/3	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Interpret meaning in sentences	Y/504/5867	Interpret meaning in sentences in straightforward texts	Examined	December 2016 series
05438	600/7470/X	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Construct compound sentences	R/504/5866	Construct compound sentences	Examined	December 2016 series
05441	600/7471/1	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Plan and sequence texts	A/504/5893	Plan and sequence texts	Examined	December 2016 series
05446	600/7472/3	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Speaking skills	H/504/5578	Speak to communicate information, ideas and opinions	Moderated	January 2017
05449	600/7473/5	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Discussion skills	M/504/5583	Develop discussions	Moderated	January 2017
05724	600/7474/7	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Listening and responding skills	F/504/5541	Listen to actively respond in dialogue	Moderated	January 2017
05429	600/7475/9	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Read complex texts	A/504/5876	Read for implied purpose and meaning	Examined	December 2016 series
05434	600/7476/0	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Interpret meaning in sentences	K/504/5873	Interpret meaning in sentences in complex texts	Examined	December 2016 series
05439	600/7477/2	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Construct complex sentences	R/504/5883	Construct complex sentences	Examined	December 2016 series
05442	600/7478/4	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Plan and adapt texts	F/504/5877	Plan and adapt texts	Examined	December 2016 series

05447	600/7479/6	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Speaking skills	K/504/5579	Speak to communicate information, ideas and opinions	Moderated	January 2017
05450	600/7480/2	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Discussion skills	A/504/5585	Manage discussions	Moderated	January 2017
05725	600/7481/4	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Listening and responding skills	L/504/5543	Listen to respond in a constructive manner	Moderated	January 2017
05451	601/7475/4	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in English: Understand language in texts	Y/507/7041	Understand use of language in fiction and non-fiction texts	Examined	December 2016 series
05452	601/7476/6	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in English: Understand language in complex texts	D/507/7042	Understand use of language in complex fiction and non-fiction texts	Examined	December 2016 series

OCR Cambridge Extended Awards in English

Scheme Code	Qualification Number	Qualification Title
05458	601/5858/X	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin English (Entry 1)
05459	601/5859/1	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin English (Entry 2)
05460	601/5860/8	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin English (Entry 3)
05461	601/5861/X	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin English

OCR Cambridge Certificates in English

Scheme Code	Qualification Number	Qualification Title
05420	600/7779/7	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Certificate in English (Entry 1)
05421	600/7780/3	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Certificate in English (Entry 2)
05422	600/7781/5	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Certificate in English (Entry 3)
05423	600/7782/7	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Certificate in English
05424	600/7783/9	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Certificate in English

OCR Cambridge Awards in Mathematics

Scheme Code	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	Unit reference number	Unit Title	Last Assessment
05736	600/7674/4	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Number (Entry 1)	J/504/6108	Numbers from 0 to 10	December 2016 series
05737	600/7582/X	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Calculations with whole numbers (Entry 1)	L/504/6109	Add and subtract whole numbers	December 2016 series
05738	600/7560/0	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Money and time (Entry 1)	K/504/6117	Money and time	December 2016 series
05739	600/7722/0	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Shape and positional vocabulary (Entry 1)	J/504/6111	Understand common regular shapes and positional vocabulary	December 2016 series
05740	600/7573/9	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Measuring systems (Entry 1)h	A/504/5649	Compare and order items by measurement	December 2016 series
05741	600/7583/1	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Handling data (Entry 1)	D/504/6115	Extract and sort data	December 2016 series
05742	600/7561/2	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Calculations with whole numbers (Entry 2)	T/504/5827	Add, subtract and multiply whole numbers	December 2016 series
05743	600/7572/7	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Money, time and date (Entry 2)	K/504/5906	Time and date formats and simple money calculations	December 2016 series
05744	600/7571/5	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Shape and positional vocabulary (Entry 2)	F/504/5927	Understand common regular shapes and positional vocabulary	December 2016 series
05745	600/7569/7	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Fractions and measurement (Entry 2)	F/504/6091	Simple fractions and common units of measurement	December 2016 series
05746	600/7570/3	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Handling data (Entry 2)	Y/504/5917	Extract, sort and present data for interpretation	December 2016 series
05747	600/7575/2	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Fractions (Entry 3)	K/504/6070	Simple fractions	December 2016 series
05748	600/7563/6	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Decimals in money and length (Entry 3)	J/504/6058	Decimals in money and length	December 2016 series
05749	600/7574/0	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Calculations with whole numbers (Entry 3)	R/504/6046	Calculations with whole numbers	December 2016 series

05750	600/7564/8	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Measurement and time (Entry 3)	M/504/6071	Read and measure time, distance, weight, capacity, length and temperature	December 2016 series
05751	600/7675/6	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Handling data (Entry 3)	J/504/6089	Extract and interpret data	December 2016 series
05752	600/7562/4	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Shape and compass directions (Entry 3)	D/504/6079	Understand the properties and perimeters of regular shapes and compass directions	December 2016 series
05753	600/7568/5	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Shape and space	R/504/6015	Calculating shape and space of regular and non-regular shapes	December 2016 series
05754	600/7566/1	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Fractions, decimals and percentages	D/504/6034	Fractions, decimals and percentages	December 2016 series
05755	600/7577/6	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Measurement and time	D/504/6020	Read and calculate units of measurement and time	December 2016 series
05756	600/7565/X	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Calculations, ratio and direct proportion	T/504/5990	Calculations with whole numbers, simple ratio and direct proportion	December 2016 series
05757	600/7567/3	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Handling data and probability	R/504/5995	Interpret data and the outcomes of events	December 2016 series
05758	600/7576/4	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Money	M/504/6037	Calculate with money without a calculator	December 2016 series
05759	600/7580/6	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Handling data and probability	A/504/6087	Compare and interpret data and record probability	December 2016 series
05760	600/7579/X	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Fractions and decimals	M/504/6085	Fractions and decimals	December 2016 series
05761	600/7578/8	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Calculations, ratio and direct proportion	F/504/6088	Calculation with whole numbers, ratio and direct proportion	December 2016 series
05762	600/7581/8	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Shape, space and measure	H/504/6083	Using formula for shape, space and measurement conversions	December 2016 series

OCR Cambridge Awards in Mathematics (paper based tests only)

Scheme Code	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	Unit reference number	Unit Title	First Assessment	Last Assessment
05863	601/7477/8	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Simple algebraic linear expressions, equations and graphs	R/507/7037	Core Algebra. Simple linear expressions, equations, inequalities and graphs	September 2016 Series	December 2016 Series
05864	601/7479/1	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Factorising linear expressions, solving linear equations, inequalities, sequences and linear graphs	Y/507/7038	Further Core Algebra. Expressions, equations, formulas, sequences and linear graphs	September 2016 Series	December 2016 Series
05865	601/7488/2	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: angles, shapes and mensuration	A/507/7453	Core geometry, angles, simple shapes, reflection, rotation and mensuration	September 2016 Series	December 2016 Series
05866	601/7480/8	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Award in Mathematics: Properties of triangles and polygons, mensuration, simple transformations and similarity	R/507/7040	Further core geometry. Solving problems in triangles and quadrilaterals, calculating areas and volumes, transformations and similarity	September 2016 Series	December 2016 Series

OCR Cambridge Extended Awards in Mathematics

Scheme Code	Qualification Number	Qualification Title
05453	601/5853/0	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin Mathematics (Entry 1)
05454	601/5854/2	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin Mathematics (Entry 2)
05455	601/5855/4	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin Mathematics (Entry 3)
05456	601/5856/6	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Extended Award in Skills to Underpin Mathematics

OCR Cambridge Certificates in Mathematics

Scheme Code	Qualification Number	Qualification Title
05731	600/7729/3	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Certificate in Mathematics (Entry 1)
05732	600/7728/1	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Certificate in Mathematics (Entry 2)
05733	600/7727/X	OCR Entry Level Cambridge Certificate in Mathematics (Entry 3)
05734	600/7777/3	OCR Level 1 Cambridge Certificate in Mathematics
05735	600/7778/5	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Certificate in Mathematics