Functional Skills Key Dates

2025/26

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Timelines for New Paper Introductions and Result Releases

To ensure the integrity and consistency of our assessments, we regularly update our bank of live papers and retire our current set of papers for use as mock assessments. When we launch new papers, we conduct a standard setting and validation process called 'Awarding'. As we use actual learner responses and data to establish a pass threshold, we have to ensure we have sufficient responses and data to do this. Therefore, we temporarily extend our standard six-day result turnaround.

To assist you in organising assessments and planning results releases, we have provided a schedule for introducing new papers throughout the year. Every result from a newly introduced paper will have a predetermined release date, offering clarity on when to expect learner results. If a result isn't provided within six working days, it will be delivered by the designated date.

Timeframes

The below table shows the:

- date new assessment papers will be introduced
- awarding dates – within this time the 6-day results release will not apply as we build up the required data to set the pass mark
- results release from date – from this point all results will be available for those assessments sat between the awarding dates.

Any assessments sat from the last date in the "Awarding Dates" column will have the 6-day results release.

Delivery Mode	New Assessment Papers Introduced	Awarding Dates	Results Release From
Online*	17/02/2025	17/02/2025 – 23/03/2025	24/03/2025
	02/06/2025	02/06/2025 – 06/07/2025	07/07/2025
	29/09/2025	29/09/2025 – 02/11/2025	03/11/2025
	30/03/2026	30/03/2026 – 03/05/2026	04/05/2026
	28/09/2026	28/09/2026 – 01/11/2026	02/11/2026
Paper based	14/04/2025	14/04/2025 – 18/05/2025	19/05/2025
	04/08/2025	04/08/2025 – 07/09/2025	08/09/2025
	03/11/2025	03/11/2025 – 07/12/2025	08/12/2025
	04/05/2026	04/05/2026 – 07/06/2026	08/06/2026
	02/11/2026	02/11/2026 – 06/12/2026	07/12/2026

For online assessments, this includes both centre invigilation and/or remote invigilation by TQUK.

Online assessments are available from 9am on the 'New Assessment Papers Introduced' date listed in the table above. This is due to routine maintenance on our exam system.

This document is under regular review and dates may change. In cases where changes are made, the latest version of the document will be made available on the [Functional Skills Resources page](#) of our website, and communicated by email via our Spark newsletter.

Notes on TQUK's Functional Skills Results Release Process

TQUK's process for releasing results for online Functional Skills assessments creates more timely outcomes for centres and learners.

At the start of each new exam paper cycle, TQUK continues to conduct an awarding process to determine the pass mark based on real learner responses and performance data. While this process traditionally took 5–6 weeks, we now issue definitive pass or fail results approximately two weeks after new papers are introduced.

This has been made possible through the use of comparative and historical data to establish an Awarding Parameter Range. For example, in Level 2 Functional Skills Maths (out of 60 marks), a typical pass mark might range between 33 and 36. We now apply a range that extends 2–3 marks on either side of this, allowing scores outside this range to be treated as a definitive pass or fail.

Learner scripts with scores within the range continue to be reviewed as part of the full awarding process, while those clearly above or below the range receive an earlier outcome, following a short quality assurance exercise including review by Subject Chairs and Principal Examiners.

What this means for you:
- Centres and learners receive results more quickly, typically within two weeks of the paper's release.
- This supports faster progression for learners and enables centres to plan more effectively.

This process is now fully embedded and forms part of TQUK's ongoing commitment to timely, reliable results and continuous service improvement.