

Advance Information Sheet - ESOL Skills for Life (2014)

Trinity's ESOL Skills for Life qualifications are changing

We have recently worked with six other awarding organisations to produce common units for the QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) revision of our ESOL Skills for Life qualifications. These qualifications should go live to tie in with funding arrangements for the 2014/15 academic year. We anticipate that the new qualifications will consist of three individual Awards at each level, making up one overarching Certificate. Each mode would therefore be a qualification in its own right.

Once approved by Ofqual, we will be able to publish full details of the qualifications and their related sample materials.

Why are they changing?

New accreditation and funding requirements specified by Ofqual, BIS and SFA require ESOL Skills for Life qualifications to sit on the QCF.

The QCF has a different model of assessment to the NQF (National Qualifications Framework) - each unit has a number of learning outcomes and assessment criteria, and each assessment criteria must be met to pass the qualifications.

The awarding organisations working together to write the core QCF units have been very alert to this and great care has been taken to write units so that assessments could be created which ensure candidates are provided with every opportunity to fulfill each of the assessment criteria.

What does this mean for Trinity centres?

All the new qualification units are mapped to the National Literacy standards and closely reference the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum so there should be no major changes to teaching focus. Qualifications will continue to be available at all levels from Entry 1 to Level 2.

As is already the case with our current exams, Trinity will continue to offer:

- 100% external assessment
- Support for administrative and teaching staff
- Exams that test what candidates can do, not what they can't
- The option to request only male or only female examiners
- On-demand options

Additional information

Trinity has developed new Level 1 and Level 2 reading tests which are a bridge between the NLT (National Literacy Test) and QCF-style reading test. These tests are now available.

The revised Level 1 and Level 2 reading tests take the form of a 60-minute exam paper taken under controlled conditions at a Trinity registered exam centre. For more information about these Reading tests visit www.trinitycollege.co.uk/skillsforlife

Trinity also offers ESOL Step 1 and Step 2 Certificates in Speaking and Listening to learners who are not yet ready for Entry 1. These qualifications are popular among beginners looking to boost their confidence in English. If you are interested in Trinity's Step 1 and Step 2, visit www.trinitycollege.co.uk/steps

About Trinity

Operating in over 60 countries worldwide, Trinity College London is an international exam board with a rich cultural heritage and over 75 years' experience in assessing English language proficiency. Trinity Certificates in ESOL Skills for Life are external assessments designed to reflect the use of English language in real-life situations, appropriate to the needs of learners living in the UK. The certificates cover a wide range of topics and tasks, which are inclusive and relevant to every learner - regardless of nationality, culture or gender. Recognised by regulatory authorities, our Skills for Life qualifications are widely accepted as robust evidence of English language skills.

Where can centres find the latest updates?

Once approved by Ofqual, Trinity will publish full details of the revised ESOL Skills for Life qualifications including sample materials. As regards to the recent SFA statement announcing that they are extending funding of the current qualifications until December 14, we shall provide centres with details of the switchover to our proposed QCF qualifications as soon as we can. To keep informed on progress visit our website www.trinitycollege.co.uk/skillsforlife

You can also sign up for regular updates on these qualifications and news on launch events and support seminars for teaching staff at www.trinitycollege.co.uk/keepmeinformed

Are you interested in becoming a Trinity centre?

If you are a teacher or institution wanting to offer Trinity's ESOL Skills for Life qualifications, you will need to become a Registered Exam Centre. Registration is simple and free - visit www.trinitycollege.co.uk/register or email us at esol@trinitycollege.co.uk

Once your application has been approved, you will receive a Trinity Registered Exam Centre pack, which includes qualification specifications and posters