Questions for consultation on Regulating Digital Functional Skills Qualifications

# Audience

This consultation is for anybody with an interest in improving digital skills for adults, including:

* awarding organisations
* education and training providers, including further education colleges, independent training providers, adult and community education providers
* teachers and tutors
* subject specialists
* learners
* employers

# Consultation arrangements

These questions should be answered after you have read [our proposals in the consultation document](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulating-digital-functional-skills-qualifications).

## Duration

This consultation will be open for 10 weeks starting on 16 May 2019 and ending on 26 July 2019.

## Respond

Please respond to this consultation by using one of the following methods;

* complete the online response at [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulating-digital-functional-skills-qualifications](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulating-digital-functional-skills-qualifications)
* email your response to [consultations@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ofqual.gov.uk) - please include the consultation title in the subject line of the email and make clear who you are and in what capacity you are responding

For information on how we will use and manage your data, please see Annex A in [the main consultation document](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulating-digital-functional-skills-qualifications).

We can only consider your response if you fill in the ‘About you’ section at the end of the document.

## How we will use your response

1. Your response will be used to help us shape our policies and regulatory activity.
2. After the consultation ends, we will publish a summary of responses received.
3. We will not include your personal details in any published list of respondents, although we may quote from your response anonymously.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation and you are happy for Ofqual to attribute your response in our publications to your organisation, please provide the name of your organisation below.

**Organisation name:**

## Sharing your response

We may share your anonymised response with the Department for Education.

## The information you provide in response to our consultations, including personal information, may need to be disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

## Confidentiality and contacting you

To maintain your confidentiality, you are not required to provide your name or any information that will identify you. However, Ofqual may sometimes follow-up responses received. If you are happy to be contacted with regard to your response please complete the details below.

**Name:**

**Position (if applicable):**

**Telephone number:**

**Email:**

# Questions

Question 1 Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to regulating Digital FSQs?

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the qualification purpose statement for Digital FSQs?

Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should adopt the DfE’s subject content into our regulatory framework?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should set rules and guidance around how awarding organisations should interpret and treat the subject content statements for the purpose of assessment?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require certain content statements to be covered within the course of study, rather than in the formal assessment?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should set rules around the sampling of subject content?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not set rules around weighting of skills areas but should instead require awarding organisations to ensure a reasonable balance across the different skills areas?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 8: Do you have any comments on the principles set out above, or as to the form the assessments should take?

Question 9: Are there any regulatory impacts arising from the proposed principles?

Question 10: Are there any equalities impacts arising from the proposed principles?

Question 11: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should set rules around the number of components within Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 12: To what extent do you agree or disagree that Digital FSQs should be made up of a single overall component?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 13: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should set rules around the number of assessments within Digital FSQs at both qualification levels?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 14: Do you have any comments on the number of assessments that should be permitted or required?

Question 15: What do you consider are the benefits and risks of permitting Entry level learners to split their assessments into different sessions? Are there any equalities issues that we should be aware of?

Question 16: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not introduce rules around assessment times for Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Question 17: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should prohibit paper-based, on demand assessment in Digital FSQs at both qualification levels?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 18: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should **not** place any other restrictions around availability of assessments in Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 19: Are there any regulatory impacts arising from our proposal to prohibit paper-based, on-demand assessment in Digital FSQs, at both qualification levels?

Question 20: Are there any equalities impacts arising from our proposal to prohibit paper-based, on-demand assessment in Digital FSQs, at both qualification levels?

Question 21: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should set a bespoke Condition which requires the hours of Guided Learning for Digital FSQs to align with the figure set by the DfE?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 22: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require a compensatory approach to assessment within Digital FSQs at both qualification levels?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 23: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we require Digital FSQ assessments at both qualification levels to use mark-based approaches to assessment?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 24: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require awarding organisations to set assessments for Digital FSQs at both qualification levels?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 25: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require Level 1 Digital FSQ assessments to be marked by the awarding organisation?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 26: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should allow, but not require, Entry level Digital FSQ assessments to be centre marked?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 27: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should allow, but not require, adaptation of contexts within assessments for Entry level Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 28: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should prohibit adaptation of contexts within assessments for Level 1 Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 29: What are the costs, savings or other benefits associated with our proposals for setting, marking and adaptation of assessments? Please provide estimated figures where possible and any additional information we should consider when evaluating the impact of our proposals.

Question 30: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require a single grading approach across Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 31: To what extent do you agree or disagree that, if a single grading approach is required, that a pass/fail grading model should be used for Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 32: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require the Digital FSQs to be awarded at Entry level 3 and Level 1 only?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 33: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals around the setting and maintenance of standards in Digital FSQs?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 34: To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should regulate differently for the first year of awards for Digital FSQs to ensure initial standards are set appropriately?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 35: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals around, post-results scrutiny of outcomes?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 36: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to require awarding organisations to put in place and comply with an assessment strategy?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 37: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals around the technical evaluation process?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 38: What are the costs, savings or other benefits associated with our proposals which we have not identified? Please provide estimated figures where possible and any additional information we should consider when evaluating the impacts of our proposals.

Question 39: To what extent do you agree or disagree that once Digital FSQs are available, we should allow awarding organisations to make current FSQs in ICT at Entry level 1 to 3 and Level 1 available for a maximum of 12 months, which would include all resists?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 40: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to disapply General Conditions E1.3 to E1.5, E7 and E9?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please provide any comments:

Question 41: Are there any regulatory impacts that we have not identified arising from our proposals? If yes, what are the impacts and are there any additional steps we could take to minimise the regulatory impact of our proposals?

Question 42: Are there any costs, savings or other benefits associated with our proposals which we have not identified? Please provide estimated figures where possible.

Question 43: Is there any additional information we should consider when evaluating the costs and benefits of our proposals?

Question 44: Do you have any comments on the impact of our proposals on innovation by awarding organisations?

Question 45: Are there any other potential impacts (positive or negative) on learners who share protected characteristics that we have not identified?

Question 46: Are there any additional steps we could take to mitigate any negative impact, resulting from our proposals, on learners who share a protected characteristic?

Question 47: Do you have any other comments on the impacts of our proposals on learners who share a protected characteristic?

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# About you

To evaluate responses properly, we need to know in what capacity you are responding to the consultation. We will only consider your response if you complete the following section. Questions marked with a **\*** are required.

**Organisation (if applicable): \***

**Is this a personal response or an official response on behalf of your organisation? \***

[ ] Personal response (please answer the question ‘If you ticked ‘Personal response’’)

[ ] Official response (please answer the question ‘If you ticked ‘Official response’’)

**If you ticked ‘Personal response’, which of the following are you? \***

[ ] Student

[ ] Parent or carer

[ ] Teacher (but responding in a personal capacity)

[ ] Other, including general public (please state below)

**If you ticked ‘Official response’, which of the following are you? \***

[ ] Awarding organisation

[ ] Local authority

[ ] School or college (please answer the question ‘School or college type‘ below)

[ ] Academy chain

[ ] Private training provider

[ ] University or other higher education institution

[ ] Employer

[ ] Other representative or interest group (please answer the question ‘Type of representative group or interest group’below)

**School or college type**

[ ] Comprehensive or non-selective academy

[ ] State selective or selective academy

[ ] Independent

[ ] Special school

[ ] Further education college

[ ] Sixth form college

[ ] Other (please state below)

**Type of representative group or interest group**

[ ] Group of awarding organisations

[ ] Union

[ ] Employer or business representative group

[ ] Subject association or learned society

[ ] Equality organisation or group

[ ] School, college or teacher representative group

[ ] Other (please state below)

**Nation\***

[ ] England

[ ] Wales

[ ] Northern Ireland

[ ] Scotland

[ ] Other EU country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Non-EU country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find out about this consultation?**

[ ] Ofqual’s newsletter

[ ] Ofqual’s social media channels

[ ] Other social media channels

[ ] Ofqual’s website

[ ] Internet search

[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_