BASIC SKILLS
BASIC SKILLS WITHIN SKILLS
FOR LIFE AND TRAIN TO GAIN
ELIGIBLE QUALIFICATIONS

Version 2 (June 2008)
BASIC SKILLS WITHIN SKILLS FOR LIFE

Skills for Life

Key Skills
- Application of Number Level 1 & Level 2
- Communication Level 1 & Level 2
- Literacy Entry Level to Level 2
- Numeracy Entry Level to Level 2
- Language (ESOL) Entry Level to Level 2

Adult Basic Skills

GCSE’s
- Maths grades A* - G
- English grades A* - G

PLEASE NOTE: Only a selection of the above qualifications can be funded through train to gain
Background
In 1999, Sir Claus Moser reported that around 7 million adults in England (1 in 5 or 20%) had literacy skills below Level 1, and even more (around 40%) had problems with numeracy. An updated survey in 2003 highlighted that the situation was even worse than Moser’s first survey, 17.8 million adults had literacy skills at level 1 and below, 5.2 million adults had literacy skills at Entry Level 3 and below. In terms of numeracy 23.8 million adults had numeracy skills at Level 1 and below, 15 million had numeracy skills at Entry Level 3 and below.

In 2006 the Leitch Review of Skills set stretching targets for the percentage of adults that would need to achieve skills at functional level and levels 2, 3, and 4 by 2020 in order that the UK economy remain competitive internationally. These goals have been formalised into Public Service Agreement (PSA targets), pertinent to the area of basic skills are the targets for functional literacy and numeracy. A target of 95% has been set for both literacy (functional is Level 1) and numeracy (functional is Entry Level 3).

The LSC has targets for 597,000 people of working age to achieve a first level 1 or approved literacy qualification, and 390,000 to achieve a first entry level 3 or approved numeracy qualification over the 3 years between 2008/09 and 2010/11.

Only qualifications achieved for the first time at Entry Level 3 in numeracy and to Level 1 in literacy count towards the target.

The Strategy is not just about the target as it aims to help people with Basic Skills needs at all levels from Entry Level 1 to Level 2 in particular in the following priority groups: the unemployed, offenders in custody and in the community, the low-skilled in employment, public sector workers, lone parents and those living in disadvantaged communities.

The diagram above shows the Skills for Life family of qualifications funded under the Strategy and the supported subjects and levels for Key Skills, adult Basic Skills and GCSEs.

All literacy and numeracy adult Basic Skills provision is free to eligible learners i.e. it is fee-remitted. (Eligibility is defined in the latest Funding Guidance for FE available on the LSC website and intranet.) ESOL provision is not eligible for automatic fee remission and a fee is chargeable to employers under Train to Gain. The LSC in 2008/09 still provides 57.5% of the funding for ESOL courses. It is expected the remaining 42.5% of the funding is charged to employer under TTG.

Providers receive a higher payment rate for delivery of Basic Skills provision than for other provision – Basic Skills has a programme weighting factor of 1.4.

Between April 2001 and March 2005 the LSC spent more than £2.5 billion on Skills for Life provision
A selection of basic skills qualification

The table below shows a selection of the qualification which can be funded through Train to Gain including example guided learning hours required for the learner to complete. For a more complete list of qualifications please refer to: [http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk](http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk), for exact length of stay please refer to individual training providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification name</th>
<th>Awarding body</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Guided learning hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESOL for work</td>
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<td>Entry Level Certificate in ESOL for Work</td>
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<td>Entry 3</td>
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<td>Level 1</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>ESOL Skills for Life</td>
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<td>Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life</td>
<td>OCNW</td>
<td>Entry 1</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life</td>
<td>TCL</td>
<td>Entry 2</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Entry 3</td>
<td>240</td>
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<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life</td>
<td>EDEXCEL</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Certificate in Adult Literacy</td>
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<td>Entry</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Level 1</td>
<td>120*</td>
</tr>
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<td>Certificate in Adult Literacy</td>
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<td>Level 2</td>
<td>150*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate in Adult Numeracy</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy</td>
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<td>Level 1</td>
<td>120*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy</td>
<td>ASDAN</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>150*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Guided learning hours are variable according to the needs of the learner, the actual length of the course depends on the ability of the learner and number of hours learning undertaken each week.
Train to Gain and Eligible Qualifications

This diagram below shows that only adult Basic Skills qualifications are eligible for funding from discrete Train to Gain funds and that only nationally approved qualifications can be supported i.e. Certificates in Adult Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL Skills for Life and ESOL Skills for Work.
TRAIN TO GAIN ELIGIBLE QUALIFICATIONS

Train to Gain

Adult Basic Skills

- Certificate in Adult Literacy
  - Entry Level (E1, E2, E3)
  - Level 1, Level 2

- Certificate in Adult Numeracy
  - Entry Level (E1, E2, E3)
  - Level 1, Level 2

- Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life
  - Entry Level (E1, E2, E3)
  - Level 1, Level 2

- Certificate in ESOL Skills for Work
  - Entry Level 3 Level 1

Nationally approved qualifications