



Functional Skills Key Dates

2026/27



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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*	30/03/2026	30/03/2026 – 03/05/2026	04/05/2026
	28/09/2026	28/09/2026 – 01/11/2026	02/11/2026
	08/03/2027	08/03/2027 – 05/04/2027	05/04/2027
	11/10/2027	11/10/2027 – 07/11/2027	08/11/2027
Paper based	04/05/2026	04/05/2026 – 07/06/2026	08/06/2026
	02/11/2026	02/11/2026 – 06/12/2026	07/12/2026
	05/04/2027	05/04/2027 – 09/05/2027	10/05/2027
	08/11/2027	08/11/2027 – 12/12/2027	13/12/2027

*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.