

Annex 1: Proxies for Level 2 and Level 3

Level 2

Where Essential Skills qualifications are specified in a foundation apprenticeship framework, the apprenticeship framework must specify as a Welsh certificate requirement, the acceptance of one of the recognised proxy qualifications as outlined in the tables below:

Communication	Level / Grade criteria
Essential Communication Skills or Essential Skills Wales in Communication 1	Minimum Level 1
GCSE/IGCSE English - any with English in the title. Including: English Literature, English Language, English Studies and English Communication Welsh Language Short courses, Pilot courses Double Awards (minimum grade acceptable E or F)	Minimum Grade 1 or Minimum Grade G
English as a Second Language is not acceptable	
Functional Skills – English	Minimum Level 1
A/AS Level English - any with English in the title. Including: - English Language, English Literature or English Language and Literature, Welsh Language	Minimum Grade E or pre 1986 A Level “O” grade (Ordinary Grade equivalent)
O Level English, English Language, English Literature or English Language and Literature	Minimum Grade E or pre 1975 evidence of a Pass
Key Skills Communication / Literacy (Welsh Key Skills only consist of portfolio. English Key Skills require achievement of test and portfolio)	Minimum Level 1

Communication	Level / Grade criteria
CSE English	2 or 3
Pre U Certificate Literature in English	P3
Northern Ireland Certificate in Essential Skills Communication	Minimum Level 1
British Sign Language - regulated qualification (only where British Sign Language is the Apprentice's primary language)	Minimum Level 1 or Minimum SCQF Level 4
Scottish Advanced Higher in English (SCQF Level 7)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Higher in English (SCQF Level 6)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish National 4 in English (SCQF Level 4)	Pass
Scottish Intermediate 1 in English (SCQF Level 4)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Standard Grade General in English (SCQF Level 4)	Minimum Grade 3
Scottish National Certificate Unit Communication (SCQF Level 6)	Pass
Scottish Core Skill Unit in Communication (SCQF Level 4)	Pass
Scottish Workplace Core Unit in Communication (SCQF Level 4) (Oral Communication and written communication)	Pass
Scottish National Unit in Literacy (SCQF Level 4)	Pass
Scottish Ordinary Grade in English (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum Grade C
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Level 1 / 2 Certificate in Language and Literature	Minimum Grade 2

Communication	Level / Grade criteria
International Baccalaureate Diploma Standard or Higher Level Qualification in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English A: Literature; • English A: Language and Literature; or • English Literature and Performance 	Minimum Grade 3
Overseas qualifications are acceptable with clear evidence from NARIC (a certificate / statement of comparability) that qualification is an equivalent level to the minimum SASW requirements and additional information that confirms qualification is equivalent to GCSE A*-C	Minimum Grade equivalent to GCSE A* - C
Welsh Baccalaureate – Only where Essential Skills Wales or Essential Skills Qualifications Communication element is demonstrated	Minimum Level 1

Application of Number	Level / Grade criteria
Essential Application of Number Skills or Essential Skills Wales in Application of Number	Minimum Level 1
GCSE/IGCSE Mathematics - any with Mathematics in the title. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short course, Pilot courses • Double Awards (minimum acceptable EF) • Linear Mathematics, Modular Mathematics • Application of Mathematics • Methods in Mathematics • Additional Mathematics • Use of Mathematics 	Minimum Grade 1 Or Minimum Grade G
Functional Skills – Mathematics	Minimum Level 1
A/AS Level Mathematics - any with Mathematics in the title. Including: Pure	Minimum Grade E or pre 1986 A

Application of Number	Level / Grade criteria
Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Use of Mathematics	Level "O" grade (Ordinary Grade equivalent)
O Level Mathematics	Minimum Grade E Or Pre 1975 evidence of a pass
Key Skills Application of Number (Numeracy) Welsh Key Skills only consist of portfolio, English Key Skills require achievement of test and portfolio	Minimum Level 1
Northern Ireland Certificate in Essential Skills Application of Number	Minimum Level 1
CSE Mathematics	Minimum Level 2
Core Mathematics Level 3 (where included in performance tables)	Minimum Grade E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical Studies • Using and Applying Mathematics • Quantitative Problem Solving • Quantitative Reasoning • Mathematics in Context • Mathematics for Work and Life 	
Level 2 Freestanding Mathematics qualification - Foundations of Advanced Mathematics	Minimum Grade E
Pre U Certificate in Mathematics or Further Mathematics	Minimum P3
Scottish Advanced Higher in Mathematics or Further Mathematics	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Higher in Mathematics (SCQF Level 6)	Minimum Grade C

Application of Number	Level / Grade criteria
Scottish National 4 in Mathematics or Life Skills Mathematics or Applications of Mathematics (SCQF Level 4)	Pass
Scottish Intermediate 1 in Mathematics (SCQF Level 4)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Standard Grade General in Mathematics (SCQF Level 4)	Minimum 3
Scottish Core Skill Unit in Numeracy (SCQF Level 4) Graphical Information and Using Number	Pass
Scottish Workplace Core Skill Unit in Numeracy (SCQF Level 4)	Pass
Scottish National Unit in Numeracy (SCQF Level 4)	Pass
Scottish Ordinary Grade in Mathematics (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum Grade C
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Level 1/2 Certificate in Mathematics or Mathematics Extended	Minimum Grade 2
International Baccalaureate Diploma Standard or Higher Level Qualification in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical Studies; • Mathematics; or • Further Mathematics 	Minimum Grade 3
Overseas qualifications are acceptable with clear evidence from NARIC (a certificate/statement of comparability) that qualification is an equivalent level to the minimum SASW requirements and additional information that confirms qualification is equivalent to GCSE A* - C.	Minimum Grade equivalent to GCSE A* - C
Welsh Baccalaureate – Only where Essential Skills Wales or Essential Skills Qualifications Application of Number element is demonstrated”	Minimum Level 1

Digital Literacy	Level / Grade criteria
Essential Skills Wales in Information and Communication Technology	Minimum Level 1 'Pass' or above
Functional Skills – Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Minimum Level 1
GCSE ICT either with or without Enhanced Functional Content (EFC) at any tier - including the following:	Minimum Grade 1 Or Minimum Grade G
•International GCSEs	
•Short courses/Pilot courses	
•Double Awards (minimum acceptable GG)	
•Applied ICT	
GCSE in one of the following:	Minimum Level 1 Or Minimum Grade G
• Computing or Computing Studies	
• Computer Science (from 2016)	
• Digital Technology	
Key Skills ICT	Minimum Level 1
NB: Key Skills awarded by the Northern Ireland and England's Awarding Organisations are also acceptable.	
A/AS level in one of the following:	Minimum Grade E
• ICT	
• Applied ICT	
• Computing	
• Computer Science	
Digital Technology	
O Level ICT	Minimum Grade E

Digital Literacy	Level / Grade criteria
Level 1/2 qualifications – one of the following:	
• BTEC First in Information and Creative Technology (Award, Certificate, Diploma or Extended Diploma)	Level 1 outcome or above
• Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology	At 'Level 1 Pass or above
• OCR Cambridge National in ICT (Award, Certificate or Diploma)	At 'Pass at Level 1 (P1)' or above
• WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in ICT (Technical Award)	At 'Level 1 Pass or above
Level 2 Cambridge Technical in IT (Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate or Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above
Level 3 qualifications – one of the following:	
Pearson BTEC in IT (Certificate, Extended Certificate, Subsidiary Diploma, Foundation Diploma, Diploma, Extended Diploma or 90-credit Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above
Pearson BTEC in Computing (Certificate, Extended Certificate, Foundation Diploma, Diploma or Extended Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above
Cambridge Technical in IT (Certificate, Extended Certificate, Introductory Diploma, Foundation Diploma, Subsidiary Diploma, Diploma or Extended Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above

Level 3

- a. Where Essential Skills qualifications are specified in apprenticeship frameworks, the apprenticeship framework must specify as a Welsh certificate requirement, the acceptance of one of the recognised proxy qualifications outlined in the tables below:

Communication	Level / Grade criteria
Essential Communication Skills or Essential Skills Wales in Communication 1	Minimum Level 2
GCSE/IGCSE English - any with English in the title. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Literature, English Language, English Studies and English Communication • Welsh Language • Short courses, Pilot courses • Double Awards (minimum grade acceptable C/D) 	Minimum Grade 4 or Minimum Grade C
English as a Second Language is not acceptable	
Functional Skills – English	Minimum Level 2
A/AS Level English - any with English in the title. Including: English Language, English Literature or English Language and Literature, Welsh Language	Minimum Grade E or pre 1986 A Level “O” grade (Ordinary Grade equivalent)
O Level English, English Language, English Literature or English Language and Literature	Minimum Grade C or pre 1975 evidence of a Pass
Key Skills Communication / Literacy (Welsh Key Skills only consist of portfolio. English Key Skills require achievement of test and portfolio)	Minimum Level 2

Communication	Level / Grade criteria
CSE English	Minimum Grade 1
Pre U Certificate Literature in English	P3
Northern Ireland Certificate in Essential Skills Communication	Minimum Level 2
British Sign Language - regulated qualification (only where British Sign Language is the Apprentice's primary language)	Minimum Level 2 or Minimum SCQF Level 5
Scottish Advanced Higher in English (SCQF Level 7)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Higher in English (SCQF Level 6)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish National 5 in English (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum Grade D
Scottish Intermediate 2 in English (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Standard Grade General in English (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum 2
Scottish National Certificate Unit Communication (SCQF Level 6)	Pass
Scottish Core Skill Unit in Communication (SCQF Level 5)	Pass
Scottish Workplace Core Unit in Communication (SCQF Level 5) (Oral Communication and written communication)	Pass
Scottish National Unit in Literacy (SCQF Level 5)	Pass
Scottish Ordinary Grade in English (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum Grade C

Communication	Level / Grade criteria
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Level 1 / 2 Certificate in Language and Literature	Minimum Grade 3
International baccalaureate Diploma Standard or Higher Level Qualification in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English A: Literature; • English A: Language and Literature; or • English Literature and Performance 	Minimum Grade 3
Overseas qualifications are acceptable with clear evidence from NARIC (a certificate / statement of comparability) that qualification is an equivalent level to the minimum SASW requirements and additional information that confirms qualification is equivalent to GCSE A*-C	Minimum Grade equivalent to GCSE A*- C
Welsh Baccalaureate – Only where Essential Skills Wales or Essential Skills Qualifications Communication element is demonstrated	Minimum Level 2

Application of Number	Level / Grade criteria
Essential Application of Number Skills or Essential Skills Wales in Application of Number	Minimum Level 2
GCSE/IGCSE Mathematics - any with Mathematics in the title. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short course, Pilot courses • Double Awards (minimum acceptable CD) • Linear Mathematics, Modular Mathematics • Application of Mathematics • Methods in Mathematics • Additional Mathematics • Use of Mathematics 	Minimum Grade 4 or Minimum Grade C
Functional Skills – Mathematics	Minimum Level 2

Application of Number	Level / Grade criteria
A/AS Level Mathematics - any with Mathematics in the title. Including: Pure Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Use of Mathematics	Minimum Grade E or pre 1986 A Level "O" grade (Ordinary Grade equivalent)
O Level Mathematics	Minimum Grade C Or Pre 1975 evidence of a pass
Key Skills Application of Number (Numeracy)	Minimum Level 2
Northern Ireland Certificate in Essential Skills Application of Number	Minimum Level 2
CSE Mathematics	Minimum Level 1
Core Mathematics Level 3 (where included in performance tables) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical Studies • Using and Applying Mathematics • Quantitative Problem Solving • Quantitative Reasoning • Mathematics in Context • Mathematics for Work and Life 	Minimum Grade E
Level 2 Freestanding Mathematics qualification - Foundations of Advanced Mathematics	Minimum Grade C
Pre U Certificate in Mathematics or Further Mathematics	Minimum P3
Scottish Advanced Higher in Mathematics	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Higher in Mathematics (SCQF Level 6)	Minimum Grade C
	Minimum Grade D

Application of Number	Level / Grade criteria
Scottish National 5 in Mathematics or Life Skills Mathematics or Applications of Mathematics (SCQF Level 5)	
Scottish Intermediate 2 in Mathematics (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum Grade C
Scottish Standard Grade General in Mathematics (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum 2
Scottish Core Skill Unit in Numeracy (SCQF Level 5) Graphical Information and Using Number	Pass
Scottish Workplace Core Skill Unit in Numeracy (SCQF Level 5)	Pass
Scottish National Unit in Numeracy (SCQF Level 5)	Pass
Scottish Ordinary Grade in Mathematics (SCQF Level 5)	Minimum Grade C
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Level 1/2 Certificate in Mathematics or Mathematics-Extended	Minimum Grade 3
International Baccalaureate Diploma Standard or Higher Level Qualification in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical Studies; or • Mathematics; or • Further Mathematics 	Minimum Grade 3
Overseas qualifications are acceptable with clear evidence from NARIC (a certificate/statement of comparability) that qualification is an equivalent level to the minimum SASW requirements and additional information that confirms qualification is equivalent to GCSE A* - C.	Minimum Grade equivalent to GCSE A* - C
Welsh Baccalaureate – Only where Essential Skills Wales or Essential Skills Qualifications Application of Number element is demonstrated”	Minimum Level 2

Digital Literacy	Level / Grade criteria
Essential Skills Wales in Information and Communication Technology	Minimum Level 2 'Pass' or above
Functional Skills – Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Minimum Level 2
GCSE ICT either with or without Enhanced Functional Content (EFC) at any tier - including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •International GCSEs •Short courses/Pilot courses •Double Awards (minimum acceptable GG) •Applied ICT 	Minimum Grade 4 or Minimum Grade C
GCSE in one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computing or Computing Studies • Computer Science (from 2016) • Digital Technology 	Minimum Level 4 Or Minimum Grade C
Key Skills ICT	Minimum Level 2
NB: Key Skills awarded by the Northern Ireland and England's Awarding Organisations are also acceptable.	
A/AS level in one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT • Applied ICT • Computing • Computer Science Digital Technology	Minimum Grade E
O Level ICT	Minimum Grade C

Digital Literacy	Level / Grade criteria
Level 1/2 qualifications – one of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEC First in Information and Creative Technology (Award, Certificate, Diploma or Extended Diploma) 	At Level 2 'Pass' or above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology 	At 'Level 2 'Pass' or above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCR Cambridge National in ICT (Award, Certificate or Diploma) 	At 'Pass at Level 2 (P2)' or above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in ICT (Technical Award) 	At 'Level 2 Pass or above
Level 2 Cambridge Technical in IT (Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate or Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above
Level 3 qualifications – one of the following:	
Pearson BTEC in IT (Certificate, Extended Certificate, Subsidiary Diploma, Foundation Diploma, Diploma, Extended Diploma or 90-credit Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above
Pearson BTEC in Computing (Certificate, Extended Certificate, Foundation Diploma, Diploma or Extended Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above
Cambridge Technical in IT (Certificate, Extended Certificate, Introductory Diploma, Foundation Diploma, Subsidiary Diploma, Diploma or Extended Diploma)	'Pass' grade or above