

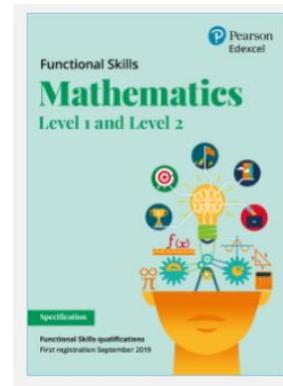
Writing Edexcel Functional Skills Mathematics worksheets

Setting the scene

The **Edexcel Reformed Functional Skills Mathematics NEW 2019 specification** introduces new topics to Entry Level and Levels 1 and 2, and it includes a non-calculator paper.

For **Edexcel Functional Skills Level 1**, the Exam structure is:

Underpinning skills	25%
Problem solving	75%



From the specification:

'The qualifications give learners the opportunity to:

- *demonstrate a sound grasp of the underpinning skills and basics of mathematical skills appropriate to the level, and*
- *apply mathematical thinking to solve simple problems in familiar situations.'*

Writing for Functional skills mathematics

Here are some of our **tips** for writing good Functional skills mathematics worksheets to help your students practise and develop the skills they need.

1 Provide a mix of skills practice and problem-solving questions
This helps students practise and develop the skills required in the exam.

2 Skills practice questions:

- cover the skills students need to succeed in the problem-solving questions that follow – *no nasty surprises!*
- start easy to build confidence, and get progressively more challenging, but in small steps – no big 'jumps' in difficulty or understanding.
- Where appropriate, use minimal variation¹ to give lots of practice and help students discover the underlying patterns and concepts in mathematics.

Download our **FREE** sample Functional Skills Level 1 worksheet to see these tips used in practice.
writingforeducation.co.uk

Tip

Sometimes it is easier to write this section after you have written the problem-solving questions.

¹ A technique of writing questions with a very minimal changes from question to question, in order to highlight an important aspect of a concept. For example $67 - 36 = \underline{\quad}$ $67 - 37 = \underline{\quad}$ $67 - 38 = \underline{\quad}$ $67 - 48 = \underline{\quad}$

3 Provide problems that require a range of problem-solving skills

From the Edexcel programme of study description of problem-solving skills:

Learners at Level 1 are expected to be able to:

- 1. read, understand and use mathematical information and mathematical terms used at this level;*
- 2. recognise and obtain a solution or solutions to a straightforward problem;*
- 3. use knowledge and understanding to a required level of accuracy;*
- 4. analyse and interpret answers in the context of the original problem;*
- 5. check the sense, and reasonableness, of answers; and*
- 6. present results with appropriate explanation and interpretation demonstrating simple reasoning to support the process and show consistency with the evidence presented.*

See examples of some of these on our FREE sample Functional Skills Level 1 worksheet.
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A problem-solving question:

- is any question that does not tell you how to find the answer
- may (or may not) be in a real-life context
- may involve more than one area of mathematics.

A problem-solving question is not:

- only for more able students – you can include them in all levels of a worksheet.

4 Provide problem-solving questions in a range of contexts and with different levels of complexity

From the Edexcel specification:

Functional Skills mathematics qualifications at these levels should:

- *indicate that students can demonstrate their ability in mathematical skills and their ability to apply these, through appropriate reasoning and decision making, to solve realistic problems of increasing complexity;*
 - *introduce students to new areas of life and work so that they are exposed to concepts and problems which, while not of immediate concern, may be of value in later life;*
- Use a wide range of real-life contexts, both familiar and less so, to help prepare your students for the types of questions they may meet in the exam.

Edexcel will be using these contexts in exams:

Games Social media Planning a party
Holidays Renting a flat Sporting events
Personal Budgeting Shopping Fundraising
DIY Finding a job Decorating
Health and fitness Buying a car
Mobile phones Budgeting Healthcare
Music Festivals Learning to drive

Taken from *The Reform of Functional Skills Maths*,
from the Edexcel website
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-functional-skills/maths-2019.html>

5 Provide a mix of calculator and non-calculator questions

Level 1 Exam structure

Assessment structure	Duration	Number of marks	Percentage of qualification
Section A: Non-calculator	30 minutes	14	25%
Section B: Calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	42	75%
Content areas			
Using numbers and the number system – whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages			
Using common measures, shapes and space			
Handling information and data			

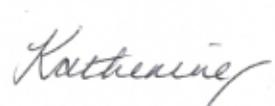
Note: questions on the calculator paper will not always require a calculator for every part.

6 Write in the exam style

- Look at the sample assessment materials on the Edexcel website.
- Follow their style of writing questions, referring to diagrams, and providing space for working.
- Generally, mathematics exam questions use short sentences and keep the reading level simple.

Want to learn more?

For more hints, tips and practical advice on how to write good underpinning and problem-solving questions for worksheets, homework sheets, maths challenges, etc for the classroom and home-school learning - and how this creative skill can be used beyond the classroom for maths writing for textbooks, digital products, e-learning, commercial education programmes, charities and more – **sign up for one of our Writing for Education one-day courses at www.writingforeducation.co.uk**




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