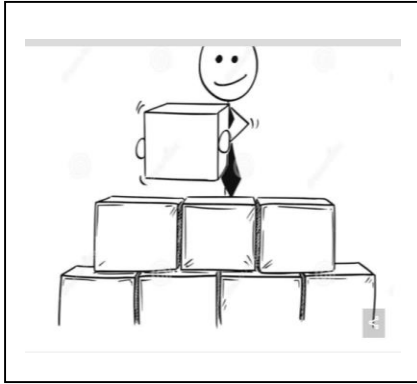




Sixth Form Preparation for Success

Functional Skills in Literacy and Numeracy

(for students taking A levels)



Introduction

Retaining and developing your literacy and numeracy skills is very important. These skills are the building blocks for all sixth form courses as well as every career path. In 'Preparation for Success' for your sixth form studies, you will work through Maths and English Functional Skills papers to keep these essential skills fine-tuned and sharp. There may be an opportunity to take the Level 2 Functional Skills qualifications in Y12 so your work may be doubly useful!

Functional Skills in Maths and English to be completed May – Sept

The sections highlighted yellow were added in June to provide more practice resources

Functional Skills in Mathematics tasks

Maths is applied in **real life situations** every day; it is for **everyone** and having **sharp numeracy skills** is **extremely useful** whatever your career plans! Since the government introduced the new specification A levels that you are studying, there is additional maths content in every A level subject so it is essential that you keep your numeracy skills sharp by completing, marking and reflecting on these Functional Skills papers.

Task 1 –To get started, watch this inspiring TED talk on 'how Maths is our real sixth sense?'
https://www.ted.com/talks/eddie_woo_how_math_is_our_real_sixth_sense?language=en

Task 2 – Past papers

The link below will take you to a past papers search. Mark schemes are accessible to check your answers. There are level 1 and 2 resources. Start with the easier level 1 (to ease you in) but you are aiming for success at level 2 which is the standard needed to support your sixth form studies. There are plenty of papers available so we suggest you do a paper each week maybe alternate paper 1 and paper 2 each week??!!

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

– search by selecting Subject – mathematics, Qualification – Functional Skills, Specification – Mathematics (4367)(4368) Series – All available series

The link below will take you directly to sample practice papers and mark schemes to check your answers.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/functional-skills/mathematics-8361-8362/assessment-resources>

Online resources to support your learning and progress in numeracy

(email mtwitchell@mcauley.org.uk if you need your login details):

- ✓ mymaths - <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>
 - view online lessons and homeworks for GCSE resit and Functional Skills
 - you will be doing Foundation tier so do anything from Level 1 to Level 5
- ✓ <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>
 - Watch the videos, pause as needed (take notes??), do the questions, check by viewing the answers.

Books to support your learning and progress (newest and cheapest in red)

- ✓ AQA Functional Mathematics Student Book (AQA Functional Maths) by Mr Harry Smith Paperback ISBN 978-1408260005
- ✓ **Functional Skills Maths Level 2 - Study & Test Practice (for 2019 & beyond) (CGP Functional Skills) Paperback ISBN 978-1782946335**
- ✓ **New Functional Skills Maths Level 2 - 10 Minute Tests ISBN 978-1789084863**

Functional Skills in English tasks

By regularly completing Functional Skills work in English in the weeks/months before starting in Year 12, you will keep your literacy skills sharp which will help you make a success of your sixth form studies whatever subjects you are studying.

Task 1 - Watch the inspiring TED talk, 'Why language is humanity's greatest invention'

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_peterson_why_language_is_humanity_s_greatest_invention

Task 2 – Past papers

The link below will take you directly to past papers and mark schemes to check your answers. There are level 1 and 2 resources. You could start with level 1 (to ease you in) but you are aiming for success at level 2 which is the standard needed to support your sixth form studies. There are plenty of papers available so we suggest you do a paper each week maybe alternate paper 1 and paper 2 each week??!!

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

– search by selecting Subject – English, Qualification – Functional Skills, Specification – English (4720)(4725) Series – All available series

The link below will take you directly to sample practice papers and mark schemes to check your answers.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/functional-skills/english-8720-8725/assessment-resources?f.Sub-category%7CF=Sample+papers+and+mark+schemes>

You may get the option to take the Functional Skills qualification which assesses your communication skills both verbal and written formats. The qualification assessment focuses on reading, writing and speaking, and listening. More details can be found at:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/functional-skills/english-8720-8725>

Books to support your learning and progress

- ✓ CGP Functional Skills- New Functional Skills English Level 2 - Study & Test Practice (for 2019 & beyond) Paperback ISBN 978-1782946304
- ✓ New Functional Skills English Level 2 - 10 Minute Tests (for 2020 & beyond) (CGP Functional Skills) Paperback ISBN 978-1789084870

The **rationale** behind this guidance is that;

- A good acquisition of Maths and English skills underpins **all** A level courses regardless of subject. For instance; did you know that all new specification subjects have a 10% increase in maths content? English is important in every subject and maths skills take on added importance in subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Criminology, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Business Studies etc which include specific maths questions.
- In recognition that you did not have the chance to secure your GCSE grade there may be an opportunity for you to opt into taking the Level 2 Functional Skills qualification in Y12. This will be 'optional' and more information will be shared early in Y12 to help you make the right decision for you.
- The Sixth Form Team recommend that as part of 'good study practice' you schedule a regular block of time to accommodate Functional Skills practice into your home school routine during lockdown.
- The temptation can be strong to do little if any school work. However the overwhelming advice and guidance from the Sixth Form Team and leading experts is that, in these unusual times keeping some structure to your time is good for your mental health. it also provides a good opportunity to develop your independent learning skills which are essential to any successful sixth former.