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Our skills assessment tools

WHO WE ARE

NCFE's portfolio of diagnostic and skills assessment tools provide leading eLearning solutions for Functional Skills, GCSEs, apprenticeships, employability and digital skills.

Our unique assessments, resources and summative assessments can transform your approach to Functional Skills, GCSEs, employability and digital skills assessment for the future development of your learners.

Our digital learning and development platform software is used by colleges, training providers and employers who want accurate visibility of learner progress across a variety of work-based learning programmes and to digitally capture evidence of a learner's skills, knowledge and occupational competency.

Last year, we provided over 1.3m initial and diagnostic assessments to learners. On average 8,500 daily users log in to use our Skills Builder platform.

To find out more about how we could help support you and your learners, contact a member of our business development team for an individual needs assessment consultation.

Our product experts can offer free online demonstrations, platform trials and face-to-face demonstrations.

A consistent, excellent customer experience

93% customer retention rate

When it comes to our skills assessment tools, we pride ourselves on our customer experience, technical support and account management.

We are proud to offer our customers the following account management support:

- Bespoke URL and company branding to your own specification
- Face-to-face training days with a member of our user-interface training team
- Complimentary training webinars at any time throughout your licence period (on request)
- Complimentary CPD programme for your learners
- Full support of our expert customer engagement and technical support team
- Dedicated Account Manager throughout the duration of your licence agreement

- Access to our live chat functionality on the website, for staff and learners
- Helpdesk ticket system for any development or out of office requests or queries.

"Having used these skills assessment tools for a number of years in different organisations, I was a real advocate for Babington to use them to support our learners and trainers in a year of changes as far as English and maths are concerned."

**Barbara Van der Eecken,
Babington Quality and Services Director**



Leading the way for English, maths and digital skills

Skills Builder is a comprehensive eLearning solution for Functional Skills and GCSEs, Essential Digital Skills and ESOL that incorporates Ofsted and ESFA compliant assessments, detailed skills diagnostics, video tutorials, progression tracking and innovative resources to aid skills development and increase workforce productivity.



Our eLearning platform is accessible 24/7, here learners and tutors can access all of the teaching and learning resources, progression tracking and reporting dashboards.



Accessible
24/7

The engaging, modern and reform-approved learning content has proven to significantly raise standards of teaching, learning and assessment across a variety of vocational and educational environments. Our customers, on average, experience higher achievement and retention rates for their learners, according to the 18/19 National Achievement Rate Tables (NARTs).



Target setting

Track your learner journeys with options for target setting, e-portfolio evidence capture and integration. Also track distance travelled from starting points which can be measured by topic, individual and group.

Skills Builder is designed for colleges, training providers and employers who teach English, maths and Essential Digital Skills and ESOL to learners at all ages and levels.



Evidence
capture

We include assessments of learning styles, and Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) as well as providing indicators of dyslexia and dyscalculia to support you to make any further investigations to seek additional funding.

Build your learners' skills with standardised, industry-leading assessments and access to the highest quality curriculum, whilst collecting the data and evidence needed to demonstrate compliance and learner progression.



Upload your
own resources

Upload your own resources to our platform for all of your learners to access.

One Assessment

Our revolutionary **One Assessment** assesses a learner's levels in both English and maths in **under 30 minutes.**

Mapped to the reformed **Functional Skills standards**, One Assessment will provide a 'spiky-profile' breakdown each of your learner's levels in English and maths as well as their overall working-towards levels.

If your organisation offers GCSEs, the assessment can be configured to provide a GCSE result which gives your learners' a 'working at level' at an industry-leading level of accuracy from ungraded to 9* or, if preferred, the assessment can evaluate the best route for the learner – Functional Skills or GCSE.

You will only ever need **One Assessment.**

"The One Assessment software has been utilised across the whole college group and has enabled us to provide our learners with a fast and effective plan for their skills gaps. The integration of the English and maths initial assessment has meant that it is an efficient use of time to assess all-round performance and support learners in subjects, even when they are not intending to continue their studies in those areas specifically."

Robin Makey - Doncaster College
Director of Further Education



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

SKILLS PORTFOLIO

Bespoke e-portfolio

Designed for anyone undertaking training, **Skills Portfolio** is an e-portfolio system that manages the complete end-to-end learner journey and allows you to assess remotely, monitor learner progress, create immediate dashboard reports, and manage your quality assurance. It is fully compliant with Ofsted and ESFA audit requirements, giving you the evidence needed during inspection.

Benefit from the following:

- Access to a bank of preloaded work-based learning qualifications and apprenticeship standards
 - Bespoke programmes built to your specific delivery model/learner journey
 - Integration into your MIS/CRM and IT systems
 - Built-in Individual Learning Plan (ILP) functionality or option to use your own specified ILP
 - Customisable digital forms that can be built and added to your requirements
 - Add your own resources, course handbooks, learner guides and other company information at the touch of a button
 - Monitor learner progress, participation in learning and generate real-time reports from a variety of custom-built data dashboards
- Review success criteria and export reports modelled on ESFA/EIF methodology
 - Unlimited tutor, assessor, IQA, EQA and centre manager access
 - Variety of quality sampling plans for IQA/ EQA
 - 20% 'off the job' training calculator and activity log
 - Evidence showcasing of learner work for employers and end-point assessment (EPA)
 - 360° feedback function to review and feedback on pieces of learner work/evidence.



Upload your own resources



Access to preloaded qualifications



Reports modelled on ESFA methodology



360° feedback function



Institute for Apprenticeships
& Technical Education

Preparing for apprenticeships

Skills Review is a self-assessed skills gap analysis that enables a learner and their employer to review, input and evidence prior learning against the key areas of knowledge, skills, competence and behaviours that are part of the apprenticeship standard.

Our **Skills Review** software has been built specifically to self-assess that the apprenticeship is an appropriate training programme for the individual, and what is needed to reach occupational competency. This is validated remotely by the employer and training provider.



**SKILLS
REVIEW**

Benefits:

A detailed self-assessment skills gap analysis of the knowledge, skills and behaviours within the apprenticeship standard.

Employer and provider validated to accurately capture an individual's true starting point.

Making initial assessment more than English and maths by assessing against the knowledge, skills and behaviours of the standard and not just functional maths and English.

Evidencing prior learning and supports dialogue with the employer on how the programme will be delivered to reflect any relevant existing knowledge, skills and behaviours.

Skills Review helps you keep the employer up to date on the apprentice's progress throughout their apprenticeship to continuously monitor gateway readiness.



Determine a learner's starting point



Designed to meet ESFA funding rules



Developed with EPAOs



Employability assessment

Skills Work is our psychometric test that will quickly, accurately and objectively measure a learner's core employability skills. We have mapped the key sought after employability skills as identified by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) into our assessment.

Our **Skills Work** assessment has been endorsed by the **Institute of Employability Professionals**.



Skills Work as a product supports the most recent expression of the **CBI** strategy, as well as being suitable to use as a part of the **Gatsby Benchmark** process for evidencing high quality careers advice and guidance.

Identify and agree your learners' baseline strengths and weaknesses, and then design tailored and personal learning plans based on those areas for further development. **Accurately track** distance travelled from the start to the end of their course to support action planning and measure impact.

Learners receive a skills plan based on the skills gaps indicated in their assessment that will direct them to the specific resources they need to improve their skills. Included with the assessment is a set of innovative resources: video tutorials, practice skills which include interactive games, and summative assessments **covering 9 topics within 3 specific categories.**



Developed with employability specialists



Tailored learning plans



Innovative resources



Competency

Communications
Creativity
Collaboration



Personal Quality

Initiative
Persistence
Motivation
Personal presentation



Practice Skills

Job seeking
CV writing





Mobile app

Enjoy the distinctive features of Skills Builder and Skills Portfolio on Skills Go. Our easy to use mobile app allows you to record visits, add evidence, update Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and capture real signatures, wherever you are.

With the added bonus of free access to our excellent bank of video resources in English, maths and digital skills, it's the perfect tool for assessors and tutors working in industry.

Simply download your caseload of learners for the day and use your e-portfolio offline to capture and map evidence into each learner's portfolio.

It makes working offline efficient and easy with the functionality of a live site. All work carried out on the **Skills Go** app can be uploaded once you have an internet connection.

Learners can also download their portfolio and work on it offline and, like the assessors, upload any changes made.

The new **Skills Go** app is available on iOS, Android and Windows phones. Simply download from the App Store, Play Store or Windows Store and use your usual login details and go!



Excellent video resources



Efficient offline working



Portfolio downloading

Your brand stands out

We appreciate that your visual identity and brand will be well-recognised by your learners and with this in mind, we offer all of our customers bespoke branding based on your own requirements and branding guidelines.

Our experts in graphic design will ensure the platform promotes your brand and visual identity.

Benefit from the following :



Custom login page



Different colour features



Bespoke URL



Logo deployed across platform



Personalised webpage headers

ETC.



Trusted by the sector

Our expertise in digital assessment over the last 15 years is why some of the most recognised educational institutions use our skills assessment tools to support their digital learning and assessment requirements.



Satisfaction guaranteed

With a dedicated platform implementation service and well-established account management team, you're guaranteed to receive the highest standards of customer support. Customer excellence is at the heart of our business model, ensuring we provide the best support and technical advice to everyone who uses our tools.



"Having used these skills assessment tools for a number of years in different organisations, I was a real advocate for Babington to use them to support our learners and trainers in a year of changes as far as English and maths are concerned.

We are at the start of the journey and the team truly hasn't disappointed at any stage of the due diligence process. They came in to support with information gathering, ensuring all teams could ask questions and support in tailoring their solution to us."

Barbara Van der Eecken
Quality Services Director
Babington



"The customer support has been always available to train our staff in both the hierarchy of the platform and the optimal use of the assessment, diagnostics and skills plan resources. This was accomplished by a series of webinar sessions as well as face-to-face coaching sessions at locations UK-wide."

Guy Little
Educational Development
Manager
CITB Apprenticeships



"We've implemented the platform across the DN Colleges Group this year after we had detailed discussions with the team, engaged in user feedback and took part in a short trial. The support in this implementation, which involved technical integration, training and guidance has been exemplary.

Responses to our queries post implementation whether they were for further training, administrative guidance or technical support have been rapid and comprehensive. We are very pleased that we have decided to integrate the platform into our delivery for the continued skills development of our learners. "

Robin Makey
Director of Further Education
Doncaster College



"Further Education has always struggled with delivering maths and English for students who have not done well in their years at school so it is particularly challenging to produce successful outcomes in less than a year.

Using the skills assessment tool helps to ensure every learner has a bespoke set of resources based upon their specific needs. It enables us to see progress and measure "distance travelled" as well as gauge exam readiness."

Ashley Garner

**Group Head Systems and Innovation
New City College**



"We have been using skills assessment initial and diagnostic assessment tools for just over a year now across our Adult Education and Apprenticeship programmes. The first thing that I want to compliment is the service. The team is so helpful and solution focused – nothing is too much trouble.

As an organisation, our growth has been substantial and the team has worked with us, whilst gaining our corporate approvals (for new contracts) to ensure that our learner assessments can continue timely and efficiently."

Emma Shipstone

**Director of Skills and Apprenticeships
Maximus Training**



"We have recently started using the skills assessment tools to support our Functional Skills offer and are using their initial and diagnostic assessments and learning materials for Functional Skills; English, maths and ICT.

The team has made this transition a really smooth process for us; working with us beforehand to ensure that the system was everything we needed it to be for our business."

Sarah Taylor

**Functional Skills Lead
HIT Training Ltd**

Data, reporting and management

Our reporting suite and custom data breakdown is invaluable for Ofsted inspection and demonstrating funding compliance.

Our Skills Builder (eLearning platform) and Skills Portfolio (digital portfolio) produce vital data for individual learners and collated information for learner cohorts.

You can clearly evidence distance travelled from starting points with our learner progress indicators and monitor resource use and assessment readiness, as well as in year progression.

We have worked directly with Ofsted Inspectors to develop our Ofsted MI pack against the new education special framework, which allows you to see who is working at pass, merit and distinction grades, participation in learning; and what your first time pass rates and high grades are.



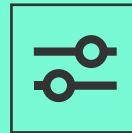
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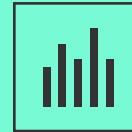
Implementation



Impact



Providing an easy to understand visual data dashboard which is displayed in a logical way to draw attention to important data sets.



Placing numbers in context- where percentages may not be the most appropriate way of presenting comparator data of low volumes.



Allowing tutors and managers to identify areas of slow progress and make interventions where required.



INSTITUTE OF THE
MOTOR INDUSTRY



ENDORSED

This assessment has been designed to test the knowledge and aptitude of learners who are studying in engineering industries, which rely on mechanical skills.

The majority of the questions in the assessment are multiple-choice and focus on the learners' understanding and interpretation of the featured mechanical engineering diagrams.

The assessment concentrates on many mathematic concepts, such as volume, area, and trigonometry. It's primarily able to gauge the level of understanding in mathematical and engineering principals.

Our Mechanical Comprehension Assessment was originally developed for Jaguar Land Rover, and should take around 30 minutes to complete.

Mechanical Comprehension

Complimentary CPD Programme

Maths					
January	February	March	April	May	June
Close skills gaps	Close the gap between Entry Level 3 & Level 1	Stretch & challenge	Maths methods	Calculate interest	Teaching tips
July	August	September	October	November	December
Common misconceptions	Standardisation activities	Structuring summatives	Structuring multi-stage process	Developing the Learner Journey using new Ofsted framework	Provide formative assessments on all standards at Level 1 & Level 2

English					
January	February	March	April	May	June
Close skills gaps	Close the gap between Entry Level 3 & Level 1	Stretch & challenge	Supporting ESOL Learners access FS English	SMART targets to support SL&C	Spelling strategies & contextualisation Entry Level 3, Level 1 & Level 2
July	August	September	October	November	December
Standardisation for writing at Entry Levels	Standardisation for writing assessments at Level 1 & 2	Structuring summatives	Phoenics and how to embed in contexts	Developing the Learner Journey using new Ofsted framework	Provide formative assessments on all standards at Level 1 & Level 2

Working together..

Our diagnostic and skills assessment tools focus heavily on integrations with other platforms, third party software, and content providers. We are always open to integrating with new systems, no matter how big or small, because our focus is making your teaching, assessment, and data work for you.



Stronger together

NCFE is an educational charity and leader in vocational and technical learning, committed to powering a smarter education eco-system. We combine over 170 years of education experience with deep insight into what is needed and what works. In the last year we have:

Awarded **hundreds** of technical qualifications in a range of sectors for both NCFE and CACHE



Registered **4000+** members on lifelong learning platform, CACHE Alumni



Worked with more than **3000 organisations**



Won T Level bids for:
Digital Business Services,
Digital Support Services,
Education and Childcare,
Health, Healthcare & Science and Science



Provided **8000+** learners with opportunities to progress to higher education



Registered **7,500 apprentices** and completed EPA for over 1,100 apprentices with a **99% pass rate**



Launched **more than 50 new** qualifications to the market



Worked with **30 stakeholders**



Issued more than **480,000 certificates** to learners

