

## EDI is first to deliver on-screen Functional Skills for UK pupils as part of QCDA pilot

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Teachers keen to learn more about Functional Skills at BETT 2010 should visit the UK's first Awarding Body to be delivering Functional Skills on-screen during the three year Qualification and Curriculum Development Agency's (QCDA) pilot.

Experts from EDI - which has led the way by using on-screen technology to assess these essential skills - will be on-hand to deliver seminars and one-to-one advice to delegates on the implementation and integration of Functional Skills.

EDI (exhibiting at stand D109) has built a wealth of knowledge and expertise throughout the pilot and can offer fit-for-purpose Functional Skills assessments to ensure educators experience a smoother transition from Key Skills in September 2010.



Functional Skills consist of the core elements of English, ICT and Mathematics, providing learners with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding to help them work effectively and independently in education and the workplace. They will form a compulsory component of Diplomas, Foundation Learning and Apprenticeships will be and built into GCSEs. This shake up of the previous Key Skills qualifications came after employers in the UK called for young people entering the workplace to be equipped with more targeted and relevant skills.

Currently in its third and final year, the Functional Skills pilot is made up of more than 2,800 centres including schools, colleges and training providers. EDI has delivered its Mathematics, English and ICT qualifications throughout the three-year trial.

Available on-demand in English and Mathematics, the on-screen assessments allow schools and colleges to deliver the qualifications via an online site making the qualifications more interactive and accessible to learners and teachers. Assessments are submitted to EDI for marking, reducing paperwork for teachers and enabling results to be processed swiftly. The assessments are also fully customisable to allow for comfortable use by learners with special education needs.



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Sarah Pallett, Qualifications Manager at EDI said “EDI is an expert in technological innovation and support within education and has established itself as a leader in online delivery. Being part of the pilot from the start has enabled us to incorporate client feedback and further develop the delivery to meet the QCDA’s evolving standards.

“By offering most tests on demand teachers can benefit from our flexible approach and excellent levels of service and support.”

EDI will also be on-hand to discuss its new SEAL Measures; a powerful new online package designed to help schools meet the requirements of the national Social Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Programme. Developed in conjunction with Professor Katherine Weare, SEAL Adviser to the DCSF, and Professor Robin Banerjee, EDI’s SEAL Measures will help teachers assess the aspects of SEAL – social skills, self awareness, managing feelings, empathy and motivation.

Good social and emotional skills will ultimately help pupils to make friendships, work in teams, solve problems, deal with conflict, manage strong feelings, to be calmer and optimistic, recover from setbacks, compete fairly, and respect others' rights and value diversity.

EDI will be delivering two seminars in the Innovation Theatre at BETT on Thursday 14 January at 10:45 on **Functional Skills Made Easy** and **A New Approach to SEAL** on Friday 15 January at 17:00.

For more information about Functional Skills or SEAL, please contact the EDI Customer Enquiries Team on 024 7651 6560 or email [enquiries@ediplc.com](mailto:enquiries@ediplc.com).



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