

Essential Skills Wales



Agored Cymru is the Welsh awarding body of choice for Essential Skills

As a registered charity and social enterprise, we are committed to developing talent in Wales, for Wales.

We have over 30 years of unparalleled experience and expertise in developing learning opportunities in Wales.

We work with a wide range of partners throughout Wales to develop learning packages and qualifications that reflect the changing needs and requirements of businesses and communities in Wales.

Currently, we work with over 200 centres across Wales to design and deliver qualifications and award credit to learners.

We offer over 400 nationally recognised, quality assured qualifications across a wide range of subjects, ranging from Essential Skills to Sustainability.

Agored Cymru qualifications are widely recognised, valued and respected by employers. This means that Agored Cymru accredited learners are in a strong position to find employment or to progress in their chosen careers.

Our organisation is committed to supporting and championing the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Agenda, proudly offering all of our qualifications in Welsh and investing in the development of Welsh language qualifications.

Our expert staff have an in-depth knowledge of the labour market forces in Wales, national agendas and Welsh Government education priorities and lead on progressing education excellence for Wales.

Find out more
www.agored.cymru

What are Essential Skills?

Essential Skills are considered as those skills required for progression and success in education, the workplace and life in general. They are widely recognised as being fundamental to the successful implementation of the skills agenda in Wales.

They include:

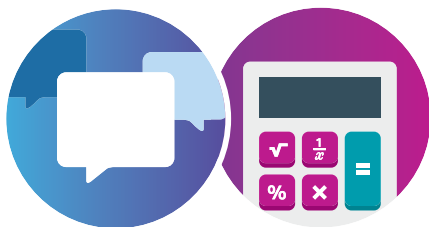
- Communication
- Application of Number
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness

We support the Essential Skills Agenda in Wales by providing qualifications of different sizes and levels with a choice of assessment methods, thus catering for all learners, whatever their requirements or learning situation.

We also help to ensure that these skills are delivered effectively by offering practitioner qualifications in all subject areas.



Agored Cymru's Essential Skills Qualifications



Essential Communication Skills

These qualifications, which are available at Level 1, 2 and 3, focus on skills in:

- Speaking and Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Learners will demonstrate their skills by passing a controlled task and a short confirmatory test

Agored Cymru Entry Level Essential Skills Wales in Communication

Learners working at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 will have their communication skills assessed by completing set tasks which include activities set in a variety of familiar contexts.

All of these qualifications will be available on demand

Essential Application of Number Skills

Available at Level 1, 2 and 3, these qualifications are mapped to the Essential Skills Wales Standards and demonstrate that learners can:

- Understand Numerical Data
- Carry out Calculations
- Interpret and Present Results and Findings

Learners are assessed by completing a controlled task and short confirmatory test.

Agored Cymru Entry Level Essential Skills Wales in Application of Number

Set tasks are available at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 which assess application of number skills through activities placed in familiar contexts. These may be drawn from everyday life, work or educational settings so that they are relevant to the learners' own experiences.



Essential Digital Literacy Skills

Essential Digital Literacy is about knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours in the use of digital devices.

There are six strands to Essential Digital Literacy from Entry 1 - Level 3

- Digital Responsibility - knowing how to stay safe and act appropriately online
- Digital Productivity – knowing which technologies, tools and techniques to use and how to organise, share and protect digital information
- Digital Information Literacy- being able to find, critically evaluate and use digital information safely
- Digital Collaboration - sharing knowledge and collaborating with others to complete tasks and solve problems
- Digital Creativity - being able to use digital media to complete tasks, generate content and develop opportunities



- Digital Learning – understanding how technology can extend learning opportunities

In order to gain the Essential Digital Literacy skills qualification, learners will need to demonstrate their skills in a controlled task which are available in a variety of contexts. The assessment also includes a structured discussion.

Essential Employability Skills

These skills are vital for employees if they are to collaborate successfully with their colleagues and progress in the work place. They include:

- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Personal Effectiveness

The Essential Employability Skills qualifications enable learners working at Entry 3 and Levels 1, 2 and 3 to accredit their skills by completing a pre-set controlled task and structured discussion.

Qualifications Available and Assessment Method

	Essential Application of Number Skills	Essential Communication Skills	Essential Digital Literacy Skills	Essential Employability Skills
Entry 1	Controlled Task	Controlled Task	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion	N/A
Entry 2	Controlled Task	Controlled Task	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion	N/A
Entry 3	Controlled Task	Controlled Task	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion
Level 1	Controlled Task and Confirmatory Test	Controlled Task and Confirmatory Test	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion
Level 2	Controlled Task and Confirmatory Test	Controlled Task and Confirmatory Test	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion
Level 3	Controlled Task and Confirmatory Test	Controlled Task and Confirmatory Test	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion	Controlled Task and Structured Discussion

Essential Skills for Work and Life

These qualifications are made up of individual units that can be chosen specifically to meet the needs of the learner. The qualifications are available at Entry 1 through to Level 3 however within a specific qualification, the units may be at different levels and in different subject areas including communication, numeracy and digital literacy.

As the units are context free they can be applied to any setting making them truly relevant to the learner's situation whether it be workplace, education or leisure.

Non Qualification Units

We also offer a range of bespoke communication and numeracy units. These are not part of a qualification but will provide learners with an opportunity to work towards a curriculum that suits their needs

Essential Skills Practitioners Qualifications

The Level 3 **Essential Skills Practitioners - Numeracy, Literacy, Digital Literacy and Employability** qualifications give practitioners the knowledge and practical skills required to assess, plan and deliver essential skills learning.

The Level 2 Award in **Supporting Adults and Young People in Essential Skills** develops the skills needed to engage and support adults needing to improve their communication and numeracy.

In addition to these qualifications, we have a wide range of units which support CPD in key areas of essential skills delivery.

Why Work with Agored Cymru?

- Our Essential Skills qualifications are designed to support the development of skills needed for education, work and life
- We use innovative and flexible approaches to developing qualifications to meet skills needs in Wales
- Our specialist staff use their expertise and experience to anticipate the requirements and needs of businesses and employees
- Our specialist staff provide expertise, support and guidance throughout the qualification development and delivery process
- You will work with the most knowledgeable and experienced Quality Managers and Curriculum Specialists in Essential Skills, so you can be confident that you are delivering your learning to the highest standard possible
- We offer personalised customer service support which helps you get the best results for your learners
- All of our qualifications are mapped directly to Welsh Government priorities



For a full list of qualifications visit agored.cymru
For more information contact BDTeam@agored.cymru