

Updated Product Notice for Centres

We are very pleased to announce the development of an updated and improved ESB Level 2 Award in Speech (Grade 4), which will be launched for the academic year 2019/2020.

We conducted a Product Development survey last year and we heard that you wanted to give your learners greater choice and more opportunities for developing and advancing their communication skills. We have listened to you, and we have re-designed our ESB Level 2 Award in Speech (Grade 4), so that it contains four exciting pathway options.

Below is a short description of each planned pathway option:

- **Traditional Pathway** – This option is the existing Grade 4 assessment, which includes the following sections: Biographical Talk, Speaking by Heart; Commentary on a Prepared Reading; and Open Exchange of Ideas.

Planned additional pathways

- **Speech to Inform** – This option will support learners who wish to expand their knowledge of an important Key Stage 3 curriculum topic in a wide range of subjects and develop their interest in current affairs.
- **Speech to Perform** – This option will support learners who are passionate about the arts, and who want to build their confidence in performing. In particular, it will give learners a chance to write and perform their own self-composition.
- **Speech for Employability** – This option will support learners who are planning to enter the job market after centre and want to deepen their understanding of a particular career. The option will also provide learners with a mock job interview as preparation for the 'real world'.

This pathway-based qualification will be part of our Graded Examinations in Speech portfolio and it is predominantly targeted at Key Stage 3 learners, but it is not restricted to this group. We will be piloting this qualification over the next few months, and we will be reviewing its effectiveness based on feedback from our pilot centres.

What happens now?

As part of launching this updated and improved ESB Level 2 Award in Speech (Grade 4), we are withdrawing the existing qualification (Ofqual number: 501/1666/6) to remain regulatory compliant. For the existing qualification, the last date of registration is **30/06/2019** and the last date of certification is **31/08/2019**.

We would like to reassure you that your learners can still choose the traditional route to obtain the ESB Level 2 Award in Speech (Grade 4). Please note that your learners can continue to prepare for, and undertake, the established assessment as they have done in the past. We will simply be adding three new pathway options to the qualification.

We recognise the importance of effective communication skills and we strongly believe that this updated and improved qualification will help learners to fulfil their potential and thrive in both education and in the workplace.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions, but if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at: product@esbuk.org or alternatively you may wish to speak to us on: 01695 573439 (extension 221)

Frequently asked questions

Q: Will withdrawing the existing ESB Level 2 Award in Speech (Grade 4) at the end of the academic year 2018/19 have a significant impact on my centre and learners?

A: No. We will withdraw the existing qualification, and replace it with an updated and improved version, in a smooth and timely manner. There will be no disruption to your centre and learners.

Q: When will the updated ESB Level 2 Award in Speech (Grade 4) come into effect and be available to book?

A: The updated qualification will be launched, and be available to book, on the 1st September 2019.

Q: Can my learners continue to take the current Grade 4 assessment, which involves the Biographical Talk, Speaking by Heart, Commentary on Prepared Reading and Open Exchange of Ideas?

A: Yes, your learners can continue to take the traditional pathway route.

Q: Do I need to prepare my learners differently for the assessment of the updated qualification?

A: For the traditional Grade 4 pathway, you should prepare learners for the assessment as you have done previously. There is no need to change your teaching for the updated qualification. However, if you choose one of our additional pathways, you will need to adjust your teaching, so that it reflects the requirements of the new assessment sections. We will be providing you with teacher guides and support materials in due course, so as to ensure that your teaching of the new pathways is as smooth as possible.