

Centre guidance for adapted ESB (International) Ltd. ESOL Skills for Life assessments under the Extended Extraordinary Regulatory Framework 2020: Synchronous adaptation using video conferencing during the November 2020 lockdown

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1. Qualifications covered by this document

This guidance relates to the following regulated qualifications:

ESB Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 1) 601/5445/7
 ESB Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 2) 601/5447/0
 ESB Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3) 601/5407/X
 ESB Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) 601/5465/2
 ESB Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) 601/5467/6

This guidance also relates to the following unregulated qualification:

Pre-Entry Assessment in Speaking and Listening

2. Introduction

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on the 31st October that a lockdown would begin in England on Thursday 5th November, English Speaking Board (International) Ltd. (ESB International) will be replacing face-to-face assessments with synchronous, remote assessments using the video conferencing platform that your centre habitually uses, from 2nd November until 2nd December 2020.

This is a synchronous i.e. live, remote assessment – the assessor conducts and assesses the learners' assessment in real-time. The assessment has the same content and procedure as face-to-face assessments. This adaptation covers the following situations: 1) whilst schools, colleges and universities remain open, learners and teachers can be together in class but the assessor cannot go to the centre, 2) one or more year groups are not attending the school, college or university and teaching and learning are now taking place remotely, 3) some learners are attending classes in person and some are shielding at home.

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) introduced an [Extended Extraordinary Regulatory Framework \(EERF\)](#) from October 2020, which allows Awarding Organisations to adapt assessments, if it is necessary, for learners to access and achieve qualifications. This guidance is for teachers and support staff who are preparing learners for assessments which will take place between Monday 2nd November and Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

3. Content and form of the assessment: Synchronous assessment using video conferencing

Synchronous adapted assessments follow the same format as the face-to-face assessment.

Entry 1 and Entry 2 Task 3 - Photographs

The assessor will show the photographs to the learners using screen share, i.e. the learners will be able to see digital versions of the photographs.

Level 1 and 2 Presentations

Learners can:

- 1) share their screens to show a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. Please train learners how to do this, and how to still be visible to the assessor.
- 2) send their presentations to the tutor, who can send it to the assessor. The learner can then refer to it in their talk, but remain in full screen.
- 3) use a whiteboard or display board and stand back from the camera **if** this does not affect the sound quality. Check this with your learners before the assessment.

All levels - Listening

The assessor will play the audio through the computer.

4. Setting up adapted assessments

Centres are likely to already be using a safe and secure video conferencing platform, which is used for the assessment.

As a centre, you are responsible for:

- ensuring that all the learners, the teacher and the assessor can access the platform;
- ensuring the platform conforms to the centre's safeguarding, security and privacy policies;
- booking the call and setting it up; **and**
- arranging a short practice call with the assessor at least 24 hours before the assessment.

It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that an ESB International assessor can clearly see and hear the learners' performance during the video conference.

If the assessment takes place in a classroom or IT room with both of the learners, and you are using a laptop, or a desktop with camera and microphone, both the learners should be seen and heard when they are speaking individually, asking questions and discussing together. Please provide the login details to the assessor 24 hours in advance.

If the assessor and learners are all joining the assessment from home, please ensure that the rooms at home have good internet connection and a power supply.

- Please remember that the assessor needs to be able to see and hear the learners' performances clearly to award valid grades.
- Ensure the room is quiet and the door is shut.
- There should be no mobile phones, smartwatches, technology with communication storage, or unauthorised notes or revision materials in the room, apart from those required for the assessment.
- The assessment area should be well-lit without dark shadows or bright light. Learners should not be silhouetted against bright light so their faces are in darkness.
- The learner should be in the centre of the screen and the assessor should be able to see their head and upper body.

5. Accommodating learners with special educational needs and disabilities

Where learners have an agreed reasonable adjustment or an agreed access arrangement, the assessment should be conducted accordingly. Please contact product@esbuk.org if you wish to discuss further.

6. Security of assessment

The assessor will check the learner's names and identity at the start of the assessment and if they are not in their centres, will remind learners that they must not have mobile phones, smartwatches, technology with communication storage, or unauthorised notes or revision materials in the same room. Assessors will be observing learners throughout the assessment and will identify any inconsistencies in performance that may indicate malpractice, which will then be pursued following the ESB International Preventing and Managing Malpractice and Maladministration Policy which can be seen at <https://esbuk.org/web/app/uploads/2019/06/ESB-POL-05-Malpractice-and-Maladministration-Policy-v3.pdf>

7. Booking and planning assessments

Please book your assessment as normal, and contact customer experience at customer@esbuk.org as soon as possible. In addition, you need to:

- Make contact with the assessor at least 48 hours before the assessment date. The assessor will contact the named person at the centre, and you can also find your assessor's contact details on the Hub.
- Send the video conferencing details to the assessor.
- Have a practice meeting online with the assessor 24 hours before the assessment.
- Hold the assessment at the booked time.
- Results and certificates will be issued as normal.

8. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to prepare my learners differently for an adapted assessment?

A: No. You should prepare learners for the assessment as you have done previously. There is no need to change your teaching for an adapted ESOL Skills for Life qualification. It would be helpful if you could complete some mock or practice assessments using your usual online delivery platform before an online assessment, so that your learners know what to expect.

Q: Do we need to have an adult present for our learners who are under 18 or vulnerable adults?

Yes, a tutor or other staff member needs to be on the video call.

Q: Are there any significant changes to the sections of an adapted Skills for Life Speaking and Listening assessment?

A: No, the assessment tasks remain the same.

Q: Are there any changes to the timings of an adapted Skills for Life Speaking and Listening assessment?

A: No. There are no changes to the timings of the assessment.

Q: Are there any changes to the assessment criteria of an adapted Skills for Life Speaking and Listening assessment?

A: No. The assessment criteria remain exactly the same for each qualification.

Q: Can my learners still use a visual aid for their talk?

A: Learners can still use PowerPoint presentation or a display board as a visual aid. If they are using a PowerPoint presentation, they can share the screen. All images should be seen clearly by the assessor.

Further Information

If centre staff have any questions about delivering adapted Speaking and Listening assessments or the contents of this document, please contact product@esbuk.org.