

English and Maths

Bromley Adult Education College offers English and maths classes up to GCSE level at the college's main centres: the Kentwood Centre in Penge (Kingsdale Road, SE20 7PR, 020 8659 7976) and the Poverest Centre in Orpington (Poverest Road, BR5 2DQ, 01689 822886).

English and maths qualification programmes are fully funded for individuals who meet the residency criteria and have not previously attained any qualifications or a GCSE grade A* to C or grade 4, or higher.

English and maths courses are categorized into the following levels:

ESOL (English for speakers of other languages)

Bromley Adult Education College has a thriving ESOL department.

You are welcome, if you are looking for one or more of the following:

- develop your English
- improve your chances of getting a job
- help your children with their homework
- increase your confidence
- or gain the language skills needed to talk to a doctor for example, or friends and neighbours

Classes take place at the college's main centres: the **Kentwood Centre** in Penge (Kingsdale Road, SE20 7PR, 020 8659 7976) and the **Poverest Centre** in Orpington (Poverest Road, BR5 2DQ, 01689 822886). You can choose to attend classes in the morning, afternoon or evening, depending on availability.

These programmes are fully funded (FREE) for those unemployed and looking for work (for example, in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment & Support Allowance)

Please note that for those learners who are employed, these courses are FREE if you are on a low income of £20,962 per year. Otherwise fees will be payable, £3.49 per hour.

If you are interested in joining our ESOL classes, please book an interview. You need an initial assessment first. Please contact Pat Johnson either by email (patricia.johnson@baec.ac.uk) or by phone 020 8659 7976 or 01689 822886 to book an interview.

Classes start in September, January and after Easter.

The ESOL classes are for eligible UK or EU citizens who can evidence that they have lived in the UK/EU for the past three years.

Functional Skills (Level Entry 1 to Level 2)

These classes are ideal for students who wish to improve their English and maths for everyday life, advanced study, or to help them get a job. One session per week, either in the morning, afternoon or evening. All students work towards nationally recognised qualifications.

Any student who would like to join a functional skills class need to attend an initial assessment session. Please contact Pat Johnson by email (patricia.johnson@baec.ac.uk) or by phone on 020 8659 7976 or 01689 822886 for further details or to book an assessment.

Pre-GCSE

These classes are suited to students who have already reached the level 2 but may not be ready to do GCSE.

This is a non-qualification course. The topics covered should provide students with a good introduction to GCSE and should help them to pass the GCSE initial assessment.

All sessions are between two and three hours.

There are two routes of entry onto the course:

- 1) you already have a functional skills Level 2 qualification obtained within the last 5 years
- 2) you take the GCSE initial assessment and pass the baseline tests but not the GCSE test itself.

For more information on pre-GCSE, please contact gcse.english@baec.ac.uk for English or gcse.maths@baec.ac.uk for maths.

GCSE

Bromley Adult Education College has successfully offered GCSE English and maths courses for many years. All courses commence in September and finish at the end of May each academic year.

In both GCSE maths and English you will work towards grades 9 to 4.

These courses will be free to any adult who does not already have a GCSE pass at grades A* to C (or 4 or above)

Those interested in GCSE need to take an initial assessment first to check levels of English and/or maths.

To book an initial assessment, please call the Kentwood Centre on 020 8659 7976 OR email the relevant GCSE team.

Please note that if you decide to take both the English and maths initial assessments and manage to pass both, it is the college's policy that you can only take one GCSE course in an academic year (you can defer the other to the following year).

For any further GCSE English queries, please contact the GCSE English team: gcse.english@baec.ac.uk

For any further GCSE maths queries, please contact the GCSE maths team: gcse.maths@baec.ac.uk

General GCSE (maths and English) FAQ

Q: How much does a GCSE course cost?

A: GCSE courses are FREE if you meet the residency criteria and have not previously attained a GCSE grade A* to C or grade 4 or higher (i.e. a 'pass' grade).

If you already have a GCSE 'pass', but would like to improve on your previous grade, you can pay to do the course. Please contact the office on 020 8659 7976 for more details.

Q: I would like to apply to go on a GCSE course. How do I get a place on the course?

A: Entry to the course is by sitting and passing an initial assessment. As GCSE is a challenging course (effectively fitting a 2-year course into a single year), you will need to be at a certain starting level to be accepted on to the course. The initial assessment is used to check your starting level.

If you pass the initial assessment, you will be offered a place on the course which starts in early September. If you are unsuccessful, we will use your assessment results to determine an alternative maths /English course for you which may help as a bridging course (e.g. functional skills, pre-GCSE).

Q: Do I need to buy anything for the courses?

A: Each course will require you to buy course text books. For maths, you will also need to purchase some mathematical equipment (e.g. scientific calculator, protractor)

Q: When do the GCSE initial assessments take place?

A: The latest dates are available on our website

<https://baec.ac.uk/index.php/information-english-maths-esol-gcse/>

Q: Where do the classes take place?

A: The GCSE classes will be held at the Kentwood Centre (Penge). Maths GCSE classes may also be held at the Poverest Centre (Orpington). Please indicate your preferred Centre during your initial assessment.

Q: When do the courses start?

A: GCSE courses start in early September and last until Mid-May when the external exams take place.

Q: What if I want to join a course after September?

A: You are too late to start the course for the current academic year. However, you can be put on a waiting list ready for when assessments take place in the summer ready for the next September intake. Please either email the relevant GCSE team, or ring the office on 020 8659 7976, giving your name, subject that you want to study and a contact telephone number and email.

Q: How do I book an assessment?

A: Please call the Kentwood Centre on 020 8659 7976 OR email the relevant GCSE team. When booking, please specify which subject you wish to take, the assessment date you would like and include a contact telephone number and email address. Please note that you can only book one assessment in a given session (i.e. you cannot book a maths AND English assessment in one session)

Q: What happens if I don't pass the GCSE initial assessment?

A: You will be offered a place on an alternative course below GCSE level depending on your performance in the initial assessment. It will either be a pre-GCSE course or a Functional Skills course. These courses should help you to bridge the gap between your current level and the level required to pass the GCSE initial assessment.

Q: What is Functional Skills?

A: Functional Skills consists of several different levels/courses ranging from Entry beginners to Level 1 and through to Level 2. Each course level is a recognised qualification with employers and further education providers containing exams and a certificate if you successfully pass the course.

Q: What is Pre-GCSE?

A: Pre-GCSE is designed to bridge the gap between Level 2 and GCSE in which there is no exam, no qualification or certificate and is much shorter lasting less than 2 terms.

Q: What is the difference between Functional Skills and Pre GCSE?

A: Functional Skills courses contain formal exams and lead to a formal qualification/certificate. Each course level lasts one academic year. Pre GCSE is designed to bridge the gap between Level 2 and GCSE. There is no exam or qualification/certificate and the course lasts less than 2 terms.

Q: What day and time do your classes run?

A: The exact days and times of the classes will not be determined until late July as classes are dependent on the number of successful applicants. We hope to run a minimum of one daytime class and one evening class. These are expected to be either on a Monday or Tuesday. Daytime classes last 4 hours from 9.30 am – 2.30 pm (includes a lunchtime break). Evening classes last 3 hours from 6.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

GCSE maths FAQ

Q: Can I prepare for the GCSE maths initial assessment?

A: Yes. You will be tested on your core operations ($\times \div + -$) skills without the use of a calculator and applying these skills to different contexts. To pass the assessment you would be expected to be at least at level 2. This means some or all of the following (note that this list is not exhaustive):

- Confidence in adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimal numbers of any size without a calculator
- Knowing when to add, subtract, multiply or divide
- Confidence in dealing with fractions, decimals and percentage
- Understanding of shapes (concept of area, volume, angles in shapes)
- Properties of numbers (even, odd,)
- Rounding numbers (e.g. to nearest 10, 100, etc.)
- Converting between different metric units
- Proportion
- Basic algebra

Q: What's involved in the GCSE maths initial assessment?

A: The initial assessment lasts around 2 to 2 ½ hours. It consists of a set of written tests. Calculators cannot be used for the assessment.

GCSE English FAQ

Q: Can I prepare for the GCSE English Initial assessment?

A: Yes. Reading skills will be assessing your ability to read a piece of literature and identify a range of language features, such as similes, metaphors, personification, verbs and adjectives etc. Also, your reading ability to form an interpretation will also be assessed. Writing skills will be assessing such things as spelling, punctuation, grammar, use of paragraphs, range of vocabulary etc.

Q: What is involved in the GCSE English Initial assessment?

A: You will be given two papers. One is a baseline assessment to assess your reading and writing skills and ability below GCSE at Functional Skills level. The second paper is the actual GCSE English paper. The initial assessment lasts around 2 to 2 ½ hours.

Q: I want to improve my English so which course is more suitable for me?

A: If you have recently moved to the UK and feel your English skills need improving in terms of speaking and listening and grammar for example then ESOL is probably more suitable to begin with.

Q: What is the difference between Functional Skills English and ESOL?

A: Functional Skills is designed for people who plan to progress to more advanced forms of study, such as GCSEs, degrees, teacher training or other professional forms of training. Functional Skills is widely recognised by employers and universities as a form of Entry and is a more advanced form of qualification. ESOL is aimed for people who have recently moved to the UK and need to acquire English skills for daily living including work.

Q: If I decide I want to do an ESOL course instead how can I get onto the course?

A: You need to ring the main general office at Kentwood (020 8659 7976) and book an interview/assessment and NOT email the GCSE team listed on the website.

GCSE ASSESSMENT DATES

Please check our website for further details and updates.

<https://baec.ac.uk/index.php/information-english-maths-esol-gcse/>