

Production of written evidence in assessments policy

Note: IBSL examinations and assessments will mainly be conducted through BSL, but if there is any occasion where a written format is produced, for example in BSL Awareness assessments, the following criteria adapted from City & Guild's Regulations & Policies will apply.

Learners who are Deaf and whose first language is British Sign Language (BSL) may choose to present their own written work although they may also have the option of presenting the work in video-recorded format. Those who do choose to present their work in written form should have the content of their work assessed, not the standard of English, unless they are being assessed for English or literacy skills or the quality of English is stipulated in the standards or scheme criteria. A Learner should not be penalised for the quality of English if s/he can demonstrate competence in order to obtain the qualification.

Where the Learner produces written material, either by hand or by computer, a transcript of the whole or part, may be prepared if all or part of the material cannot be easily read. Alternatively, orally questioning of the Learner can be undertaken.

The provision of support personnel and application for extra time for Learners with hearing impairments is the responsibility of the centre to provide and obtain. It is also the centre's responsibility to ensure authenticity of a Learner's work and to ensure that any special assessment arrangements do not give unfair advantage over other Learners.

Written materials should only be requested where it is a requirement of the standards or scheme criteria. Alternative evidence other than written should be considered at all times, for example, witness testimony, questioning or the use of audio and visual devices.

As long as the Learner can demonstrate the skills and attributes required to achieve a qualification, then the lack of written or literacy skills (unless specifically stated in the standards/criteria) should not prove to be a barrier to the Learner obtaining the qualification.