

## Understanding Initial Assessments

### What is an Initial Assessment?

Initial assessments are used to help Corndel to find out about you, as an individual, in terms of your English and mathematical skills. They provide Corndel with an idea of your 'starting point' and we do this prior to the programme commencing. This will allow Corndel time to ensure your selected course is right for you.

- Initial Assessment is a short two-part English and Mathematical skills assessment
- each assessment should take no more than 30 minutes per subject

Initial Assessments can:

- aid differentiation and allows individual requirements to be planned for and met
- ascertain student capability to achieve their selected programme
- give your Tutor the tools to set and negotiate suitable targets
- identify any information which needs to be shared with your PDE
- identify any specific additional support needs

Initial Assessments should be:

- Completed by the student alone with no additional support
- Conducted in a quiet environment
- Seen as a support tool rather than a 'test'
- Not considered an 'official qualification'

Corndel uses a system called 'Skills Forward' to conduct the Initial Assessment.

### Why do I have to complete it?

- Your training programme receives significant funding from the Government
- It is a mandatory government requirement that everyone undertakes this assessment before they start the course

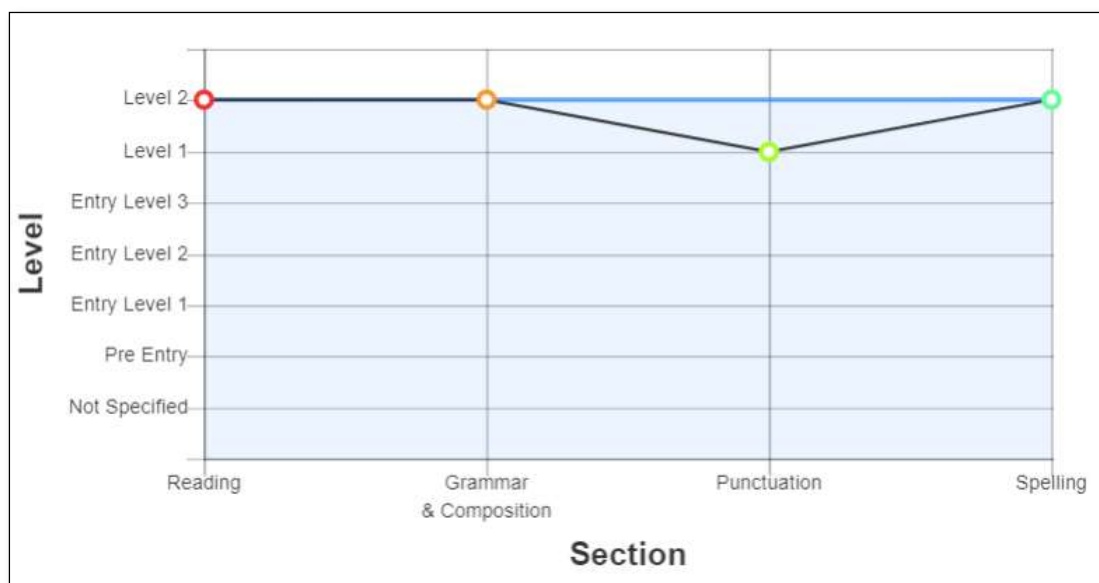
### Understanding your Initial Assessment result

Functional Skills qualifications are split into five different levels: Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3 and Levels 1 and 2. All of our Apprenticeships require students to be at Level 2 standard by the end of their course.

Qualification Category	Definition	Qualification Comparison
<b>Entry Level 1 to 3</b>	An entry level result may be obtained if you have been away from learning for a long time and need robust help to build your skills. It is pre-GCSE standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x GCSE below grade G or 1</li><li>• Foundation learning – entry level</li><li>• Functional Skills – entry level</li></ul>
<b>Level 1</b>	This is defined as being at GCSE standard, grades D – G or 1 – 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NVQ Level 1</li><li>• GNVQ Foundation</li><li>• Key Skills L1</li><li>• Functional Skills L1</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QCF Level 1</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	This is defined as being at GCSE standard, grades A* - C or 4 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NVQ Level 2</li> <li>• GNVQ Intermediate</li> <li>• Key Skills L2</li> <li>• Functional Skills L2</li> <li>• QCF L2</li> </ul>

Upon completing your Initial Assessment your PDE or Tutor will gain access to a graph (such as the English example below) which provides information about each section in the subject:



### What happens next?

Students will be asked to provide evidence of their current qualifications that may be deemed equivalent to GCSE 4 – 9 standard.

If you are unable to provide certification, as listed above, you will be guided towards one of the following routes depending on your Initial Assessment level:

Student Initial Assessment Level	Description/Time Commitment	Verdict
Level 2	Engage in a <b>3 to 6 month</b> support plan	Deemed suitable for a L3, L4 or L5 Apprenticeship  Diagnostic to be conducted
Level 1	Engage in a <b>6 month</b> support plan	Deemed suitable for a L3, L4 or L5 Apprenticeship  Diagnostic to be conducted  Signposted to optional Cognassist Assessment
Entry Level 3	Engage in a <b>12 month</b> support plan, committing to 4 hours	<b>May</b> be deemed suitable for a L3, L4 or L5 Apprenticeship after conversation with

	per month (2 x 1 hour visits/2 x 1 hour independent study)	<p>student and employer about time commitment involved</p> <p>Diagnostic to be conducted</p> <p>Signposted to mandatory Cognassist Assessment</p>
Entry Level 1 and 2	<p>Signposted to Skills Forward for independent study.</p> <p>Signposted to local colleges for Entry Level 1 and 2 courses.</p>	Deemed unsuitable for a L3, L4 and L5 Apprenticeship course at this stage.