

# Qualifications for wholetime firefighters

## Why we require these qualifications

The qualifications we ask for help us to recruit people with the broad range of skills necessary for the role.

Wholetime firefighters need to self-educate on subjects like: firecraft, the science of fire behaviour, IT equipment and software and the mechanics of a wide range of operational equipment.

We don't currently have multi-level entry criteria, so we aim to employ a mix of staff: those who will be content to remain as wholetime firefighters, plus those who will reach senior levels of management.

## What evidence we need

We need your original GCSE (or equivalent) certificates. Please have these ready for the interview stage of the selection process. We won't accept results sheets.

If you don't have your originals, you can request replacements from your awarding organisation. This takes around 4 weeks and costs around £45.

If you don't know who your awarding organisation was, ask your school. If the organisation doesn't exist anymore, or they don't offer certificates, we'll accept an original copy of a [certified statement](#) (not a photocopy).

**If you got your qualifications outside the UK**, please request a statement of comparability from [UK NARIC](#). This takes up to 20 days and costs around £60.

## If you don't have these qualifications

- Consider a role as an on-call firefighter. We don't require these qualifications from on-call firefighters because their role doesn't require such a broad range of skills. They also have less time for training and fewer opportunities for specialist roles.
- [SPS Training Solutions Ltd](#) offer training on level 2 functional skills English and maths, which we accept as equivalent qualifications to GCSEs. Contact them to find out if you qualify for funding.

### Acceptable equivalent qualifications

Qualifications	English*****	Maths	Minimum acceptable grade
International GCSE	Any International GCSE with English in the title	Any International GCSE with Mathematics in the title	C or 4
Functional Skills level 2	English	Mathematics	Pass
Key Skills level 2	Communication (Literacy)	Application of Number (Numeracy)	Pass
A Level	Any A Level with English in the title	Any A Level with Mathematics in the title	E or Ordinary Grade (pre 1986)
AS Level	Any AS Level with English in the title	Any AS Level with Mathematics in the title	E
Core Maths level 3***	-	Mathematical Studies	E
		Using and Applying Mathematics	
		Quantitative Problem Solving	
		Quantitative Reasoning	
		Mathematics in Context	
		Mathematics in Work and Life	
Pre U Certificate	Literature in English	Mathematics	P3
		Further mathematics	
Free-Standing Mathematics level 2		Level 2 Free-Standing Mathematics Qualification - Foundations of Advanced Mathematics	C
O Level	English language	Mathematics	C (pre 1975 evidence of a Pass)
	English literature		
CSE	English	Mathematics	1

### Acceptable equivalent qualifications

British Sign Language**** (Regulated Qualifications Framework level 2) (Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework level 5)	British Sign Language		Pass
Essential Skills Wales level 2	Essential Communication Skills or Essential Skills Wales in Communication	Essential Application of Number Skills or Essential Skills Wales in Application of Number	Pass
Essential Skills (Northern Ireland) level 2	Certificate in Essential Skills Communication	Certificate in Essential Skills Application of Number	Pass
Scottish Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7)	English	Mathematics	C
Scottish Higher (SCQF level 6)	English	Mathematics	C
Scottish National 5 (SCQF level 5)	English	Mathematics	C
		Life skills Mathematics	
		Applications of Mathematics	
Scottish Intermediate 2 (SCQF level 5)	English	Mathematics	C
Scottish Standard Grade Credit (SQC level 5)	English	Mathematics	2
Scottish National Certificate Unit (SCQF level 6)	Communication		Pass
Scottish Core Skill Unit (SCQF level 5)	Communication	Numeracy	Pass
Scottish Workplace Core Skill Unit (SCQF level 5)	Communication	Numeracy	Pass
<i>Scottish National Unit</i>	Literacy	Numeracy	<i>Pass</i>
(SCQF level 5)			
Scottish Ordinary Grade	English	Mathematics	C

### Acceptable equivalent qualifications

(SCQF level 5)			
IBO Middle Years Programme level 1/level 2 Certificate	Language and Literature	Mathematics	Grade 3
		Mathematics - Extended	
International Baccalaureate Diploma	Standard or Higher level qualification in:	Standard or Higher level qualification in:	Grade 3
	English A: Literature	Mathematical Studies	
	English A: Language and Literature	Mathematics	
	Or English Literature and Performance	Further Mathematics	
<p><b>English and maths qualifications at higher levels</b></p> <p>English and mathematics qualifications at a higher level (e.g. level four and above) will be acceptable. For Scotland this would be an English or Mathematics qualification at SCQF level 7 and above (e.g. Advanced Higher)</p>			

\* Regulated by Ofqual, CCEA and Qualifications Wales

\*\* From 2017; where 9 to 1 grading scale is used

\*\*\* Where included in Performance Tables

\*\*\*\* Where British Sign Language is primary language

\*\*\*\*\* All English qualifications should refer only to those qualifications where English is the primary language, unless explicitly stated.