

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Accounting 9706

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2026-2028

Understanding the examination pathway

AS candidates take two papers. Full A Level candidates complete four papers through their chosen route. All papers are compulsory within the relevant route and externally assessed. Paper 1 uses multiple-choice questions; the other papers use structured written questions. There is no coursework component in this syllabus.

Papers, marks and weighting

Paper	Duration	Marks	Required responses	AS weighting	Full A Level weighting
1: Multiple Choice	1 hour	30	All 30 questions	28%	14%
2: Fundamentals of Accounting	1 hour 45 minutes	90	All four structured questions	72%	36%
3: Financial Accounting	1 hour 30 minutes	75	All three structured questions, 25 marks each	Not applicable	30%
4: Cost and Management Accounting	1 hour	50	Both structured questions, 25 marks each	Not applicable	20%

For AS, Paper 2 contributes most of the qualification result. For the full A Level, Papers 1-2 together contribute 50%, while Papers 3-4 contribute the remaining 50%. Do not treat the advanced papers as optional extensions if you are pursuing the full qualification.

Examinations are available in June and November, with March available in India. AS grades run from **a to e**; full A Level grades run from **A* to E**. Diagnostic marks and course completion are separate from these official awards.

Paper 1: Multiple Choice

The 30 questions cover AS content only: 22 focus on financial accounting and eight on cost and management accounting. You must answer all questions. Practise choosing the correct treatment before calculating and checking the significance of dates, signs and units. During review, identify the misconception behind each wrong answer rather than merely recording the correct letter.

Paper 2: Fundamentals of Accounting

All four questions are compulsory. Questions 1-3 focus on financial accounting: Question 1 carries 30 marks and Questions 2-3 carry 15 marks each. Question 4 covers cost and management accounting and carries 30 marks.

Prepare for several tasks within a question, including calculations, statements, explanations and recommendations. Use suitable international accounting terminology and formats. Where asked to recommend or decide, provide a balance of relevant reasons and justify the conclusion. A repeated numerical result does not, by itself, explain why an action is suitable.

Paper 3: Financial Accounting

The three compulsory questions assess additional A Level financial accounting, assuming your AS knowledge. Source information is supplied in a separate insert, with further information in the question paper.

Practise combining the insert with the question's adjustments and requirements. Organise workings so you can follow each figure into the statement or conclusion. Prepare to discuss regulation, ethics, systems and the limitations of accounting information alongside numerical work.

Paper 4: Cost and Management Accounting

The two compulsory questions assess additional A Level cost and management accounting, again assuming AS knowledge. Source information is provided in a separate insert and within the question paper.

Study activity based costing, standard costing, budgeting and investment appraisal as methods serving different decisions. Practise interpreting the result, considering assumptions and explaining relevant non-financial factors. The appropriate recommendation depends on the question's circumstances, not just on selecting the largest or smallest calculated figure.

How the objectives operate across the papers

Objective	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Paper 4
AO1	70%	60%	54%	44%
AO2	30%	23%	33%	28%
AO3	0%	17%	13%	28%

These are approximate component weightings. Evaluation appears in every written paper and is particularly prominent in Paper 4. Build a habit of asking what a calculation means, what assumptions it uses and what other information a decision-maker would need.

Calculation, explanation and judgement

Use the accounting-ratio formulae specified in the syllabus appendix. For Papers 2 and 3, the syllabus explicitly states that these are the accepted ratio formulae in responses. Calculators are essential for the papers, but practise checking whether your answer is reasonable and whether you have selected the correct inputs.

For a **prepare** task, use the correct format and clear workings. For **explain**, give a contextual reason. For **analyse**, interpret the evidence and relationships. For **evaluate**, **advise** or **justify**, consider relevant advantages, disadvantages or limitations and support your conclusion. Treat these as response habits, not a replacement for each question's specific instructions and mark scheme.

Time management

Practise untimed work until the method is reliable, then introduce timed questions and full papers. Use the marks to guide relative time and response depth. Read both the insert and requirements carefully, and retain time for checking labels, omitted adjustments and unanswered parts. Any personal minutes-per-mark strategy is preparation guidance, not an official Cambridge rule.

Key pointers

- Know the papers and weightings for your route.
- Answer all questions in each required paper.
- Maintain AS knowledge when preparing for Papers 3 and 4.
- Practise written reasoning alongside financial and costing calculations.

Next: Use **Learning Resources** to build an organised study toolkit.