

CAMBRIDGE O LEVEL

Bengali 3204

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2027

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. All candidates take the required components described below. A component's raw mark is the total available on that assessment; its weighting is the share of the qualification result, which may differ from its share of raw marks.

Paper or component	Duration	Raw marks	Weighting	Question or task structure
1: Composition	2 h	90	45%	One directed-writing task and one essay from the stated choices
2: Language Usage and Comprehension	1 h 30 min	110	55%	Language usage, multiple-choice comprehension and open responses

Read the weighting against your qualification route. A longer paper or a larger raw-mark total does not automatically mean a greater final weighting. Prepare for every component that applies to you, including practical, oral or coursework requirements where specified.

What each component requires

All candidates take two externally assessed papers.

Paper 1 is Composition. It lasts two hours, carries 90 marks and contributes 45 per cent of the qualification.

In Section A, you choose one of two topics and write approximately 120 words. The required format may be a letter, report, dialogue or speech. This section is worth 30 marks.

In Section B, you choose one of three topics and write an essay of approximately 200 words. This section is worth 60 marks and assesses the organisation, accuracy and effectiveness of your extended writing.

Paper 2 is Language Usage and Comprehension. It lasts one hour and thirty minutes, carries 110 marks and contributes 55 per cent.

Section A is worth 50 marks and tests areas such as word formation, idioms, proverbs, paired words, sentence transformation and completion of a cloze passage.

Section B carries 14 marks and contains seven multiple-choice questions based on a prose passage of approximately 280 words.

Section C carries 46 marks. It contains six open-ended comprehension questions based on a passage of approximately 270 words, followed by a vocabulary task.

The examination papers are set entirely in Bengali, and dictionaries are not permitted. Final grades range from A star to E.

Preparing the right kind of response

In comprehension, locate the information that answers the exact question and distinguish a writer's opinion from fact. In writing, address the requested audience, purpose and content before checking language accuracy. For these written papers, practise accurate comprehension, purposeful composition and the prescribed language tasks.

The assessment objectives are visible in the response itself: relevant knowledge, appropriate use of the stimulus or task, a clear method or explanation, and a conclusion where requested. The command word and mark allocation help show the depth required. An answer should respond to the actual question, not reproduce a memorised passage that only partly fits.

Timing and examination arrangements

Begin preparation with accurate, untimed work, then move towards the duration and conditions of your required component. Use mark allocations to guide pacing while allowing time to read instructions and check the response. Any practice pacing advice is study guidance, not a new Cambridge time rule.

Examinations are available in the June series. However, this syllabus is not offered in every administrative zone, so you should confirm its availability for your location. Private candidates are permitted to enter.

An approved examination centre confirms entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. This is Cambridge O Level Bengali, not IGCSE Bengali. There are no listening or speaking examination components.

Key pointers: Know your required components, follow question choices precisely and practise the relevant response formats. **Next:** Open **Learning Resources** to see which materials support this preparation.