

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Business 0264

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

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: Short Answer and Data Response	1 h 30 min	80	50%	Four compulsory questions
2: Case Study	1 h 30 min	80	50%	Four compulsory questions using an insert

Both papers have equal weighting and both cover the complete syllabus. Neither is optional. There is no coursework, speaking test or practical component in this qualification.

What each component requires

All candidates take two externally assessed papers.

Paper 1 is Short Answer and Data Response. It lasts one hour and thirty minutes, carries 80 marks and contributes 50 per cent of the qualification. It contains four compulsory questions combining short answers with structured data-response tasks. Each question uses stimulus material, which may include written information, tables, graphs or images. Each question has four subparts under the 0264 format. Use the mark allocation and command word to decide how much explanation is required.

Paper 2 is the Case Study examination. It also lasts one hour and thirty minutes, carries 80 marks and contributes the remaining 50 per cent. You answer four compulsory questions based on a business case study supplied as an insert. Its appendices may include tables, graphs, advertisements and newspaper extracts. All part (a) questions require application to the business context. Read the case and the relevant appendix carefully before developing a response.

Both papers draw on the entire syllabus and assess your ability to apply business concepts to realistic situations, analyse evidence and support your recommendations with clear reasoning.

Final grades range from A star to G.

Assessment objectives within the papers

Assessment objective	Paper 1	Paper 2
AO1 Knowledge and understanding	40%	30%
AO2 Application	30%	30%
AO3 Analysis	20%	25%
AO4 Evaluation	10%	15%

These are Cambridge's approximate component allocations. Both papers require all four skills, and application has substantial weight in each. The published qualification totals in the previous lesson are rounded; retain those stated totals rather than replacing them with calculated averages.

Preparing the right kind of response

A definition establishes knowledge, but an applied answer uses the business's circumstances. Analysis explains a chain of consequences. Evaluation weighs the relevant alternatives and reaches a justified decision. Calculations need interpretation: state what the result means for the business, not only its numerical value.

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 and November series, with an additional March series in India. Private candidates are permitted to enter.

An approved examination centre confirms the syllabus code, entry deadline, examination series and local arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. This orientation follows Business 0264 for first assessment from March 2027. Use the 0264 syllabus and specimen materials for your examination year; earlier Business Studies 0450 resources need checking before reuse.

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.