

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Business 9609

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2026, 2027 and 2028

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. AS candidates take the designated AS components; the full A Level includes the additional components shown. 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: Business Concepts 1	1 h 15 min	40	AS 40%; A 20%	Four compulsory short questions; one of two essays
2: Business Concepts 2	1 h 30 min	60	AS 60%; A 30%	Two compulsory stimulus-based questions
3: Business Decision-Making	1 h 45 min	60	A 30%	Five compulsory case-study questions
4: Business Strategy	1 h 15 min	40	A 20%	Two compulsory case-study essays

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

For the AS Level, you take Papers 1 and 2.

Paper 1, Business Concepts 1, lasts one hour and fifteen minutes. Section A contains four compulsory five-mark questions. In Section B, you choose one 20-mark essay question from a choice of two. The paper carries 40 marks and contributes 40 per cent of the AS Level, or 20 per cent of the full A Level.

Paper 2, Business Concepts 2, lasts one hour and thirty minutes. It contains two compulsory 30-mark questions based on written, numerical or diagrammatic stimulus material. The paper carries 60 marks and contributes 60 per cent of the AS Level, or 30 per cent of the full A Level.

For the full A Level, you also take Papers 3 and 4.

Paper 3, Business Decision-Making, lasts one hour and forty-five minutes. It contains five compulsory questions based on a detailed case study. The paper carries 60 marks and contributes 30 per cent of the full A Level.

Paper 4, Business Strategy, lasts one hour and fifteen minutes. It contains two compulsory 20-mark essay questions based on case-study material. Both answers require clear analysis, evaluation and supported strategic judgement. The paper contributes the final 20 per cent.

The AS Level may be taken independently. The full A Level may be completed through a staged route or by taking all four papers in one examination series. AS Level grades range from a to e, while full A Level grades range from A star to E.

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 entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry.

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.