

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Economics 0455

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: Multiple Choice	1 h	40	30%	40 compulsory questions
2: Structured Questions	2 h	80	70%	Compulsory data response; three of four questions in Section B

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 a multiple-choice examination lasting one hour. It contains 40 compulsory questions covering the entire syllabus. Questions may require calculations and the analysis of economic diagrams. The paper carries 40 marks and contributes 30 per cent of the qualification.

Paper 2 is a structured examination lasting two hours. It carries 80 marks and contributes 70 per cent.

Section A contains one compulsory 20-mark question based on previously unseen information about a real economic situation. The stimulus may include written material, data, tables and diagrams.

In Section B, you answer three questions from a choice of four. Each question is worth 20 marks and includes short and extended responses. The final part requires balanced analysis and a reasoned evaluation of both sides of an economic argument.

Calculators may be used in both papers. Final grades range from A star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

Label diagrams accurately and explain the economic movement they show. A chain of analysis should connect a cause to its consequences. Evaluation considers assumptions, stakeholder effects and the conditions under which a conclusion may change. Data must support the argument rather than merely be copied.

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.