

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Economics 9708

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: AS Multiple Choice	1 h	30	AS 33%; A 17%	30 compulsory questions
2: AS Data Response and Essays	2 h	60	AS 67%; A 33%	Compulsory data response; one micro and one macro essay
3: A Level Multiple Choice	1 h 15 min	30	A 17%	30 compulsory questions
4: A Level Data Response and Essays	2 h	60	A 33%	Compulsory data response; micro and macro essays, unstructured

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

AS Level is assessed through two papers.

Paper 1 is a one-hour multiple-choice examination worth thirty marks. You answer all thirty questions. It contributes thirty-three per cent of the AS Level and seventeen per cent of the full A Level.

Paper 2 lasts two hours and is worth sixty marks. Section A contains one compulsory data-response question. In Section B, you choose one of two mainly microeconomic essays, and in Section C, one of two mainly macroeconomic essays. Each section is worth twenty marks. Paper 2 contributes sixty-seven per cent of the AS Level and thirty-three per cent of the full A Level.

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

Paper 3 is a seventy-five-minute multiple-choice examination with thirty questions. Paper 4 lasts two hours and contains a compulsory data-response question, followed by a choice of microeconomic and macroeconomic essays. Unlike Paper 2, these essays are not divided into separate parts. Each paper contributes to the remaining fifty per cent of the A Level.

Calculators may be used in every paper, but formulae are not provided.

You may take AS Level as a standalone qualification, complete the A Level through the staged route, or take all four papers in one examination series. AS Level is graded from lower-case a to e, while the full A Level is graded from A star to E.

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 June and November, with an additional March series in India. Private candidates may enter for this syllabus.

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.