

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Enterprise 0454

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2028

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: Written Paper	1 h 30 min	100	50%	Compulsory questions based on a pre-released case study
2: Coursework	During the course	60	50%	Individual portfolio documenting an enterprise project

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

Assessment is divided equally between two components.

Paper 1 is a ninety-minute written examination worth one hundred marks and fifty per cent of the qualification. It is based on a pre-released case study. Section A contains five short-answer and structured questions, which may include calculations. Section B contains two open-ended questions requiring longer responses. You answer every question and apply your knowledge to the case study, your own project and the wider syllabus.

You may study the pre-release material beforehand, but you cannot take prepared notes or other materials into the examination.

Component 2 is coursework worth sixty marks and the remaining fifty per cent. You plan and run an enterprise project, either individually or in a group of no more than six. However, your role, evidence and assessment must remain individual.

Your portfolio covers four stages: identifying a suitable project, planning how to manage potential problems and either finance or marketing communications, demonstrating enterprise skills while implementing the plan, and evaluating the project. The final evaluation includes a formal written report of approximately fifteen hundred words.

Importantly, the project does not have to make a profit or meet every objective for you to earn strong marks. What matters is how effectively you apply enterprise skills, analyse decisions and evaluate the outcome.

The qualification is graded from A star to G.

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 June and November. Private candidates cannot enter for this syllabus because assessed coursework must be completed and authenticated through a Cambridge centre.

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.