

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

History 0470

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2027 and 2028

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. Some rows are alternatives: use the route explanation above to identify your required combination. 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: Structured Questions	2 h	60	40%	Two core questions and one depth-study question
2: Document Questions	1 h 45 min	40	30%	One five-part question using prescribed-topic sources
3: Coursework	During the course	40	30%	One investigation up to 2000 words; alternative to 4
4: Alternative to Coursework	1 h	40	30%	One two-part depth-study essay question; alternative to 3

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 Paper 1 and Paper 2.

Paper 1, Structured Questions, lasts two hours, carries sixty marks and contributes forty per cent. You answer two core-content questions and one depth-study question. Each is divided into three parts assessing knowledge, explanation and historical judgement.

Paper 2, Document Questions, lasts one hour and forty-five minutes, carries forty marks and contributes thirty per cent. You answer one five-part question based on historical sources relating to a prescribed core topic. The prescribed topic changes between examination series. This paper tests how well you interpret, compare and evaluate sources in context.

For the remaining thirty per cent, you take either Component 3 or Paper 4.

Component 3 is one extended coursework investigation of up to two thousand words. It addresses a single evaluative question about historical significance, is assessed by the centre and externally moderated.

Paper 4, Alternative to Coursework, is a one-hour written examination worth forty marks. You answer one two-part structured essay question on your depth study, demonstrating accurate knowledge and evaluating historical importance.

The qualification is graded from A star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

Answer the historical issue in the question rather than narrating everything you know. Source evaluation needs provenance, content and contextual knowledge used together. An essay should weigh relevant factors or interpretations and support its judgement with selected evidence.

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, but some components - particularly coursework - may be unavailable, so the assessment route must be confirmed with the examination 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. Choose one core-content option and the required depth study with your centre. The Paper 2 prescribed source topic changes by examination series. Private candidates use an available examination route through a centre; coursework must not be assumed available to them.

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.