

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Information Technology 9626

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2028, 2029 and 2030

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: Theory	1 h 45 min	70	AS 50%; A 25%	Compulsory questions on AS topics
2: Practical	2 h 30 min	90	AS 50%; A 25%	Spreadsheets, modelling, databases, audio/video
3: Advanced Theory	1 h 45 min	70	A 25%	Advanced topics; AS knowledge assumed
4: Advanced Practical	2 h 30 min	90	A 25%	Analysis, mail merge, graphics, animation and web programming

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 candidates take Papers 1 and 2.

Paper 1 is a one-hour-and-forty-five-minute theory examination worth seventy marks. It contains compulsory short-answer and structured questions based on the eleven AS topics. Calculators are not permitted. It contributes fifty per cent of AS Level and twenty-five per cent of A Level.

Paper 2 is a two-hour-and-thirty-minute practical examination worth ninety marks. It tests spreadsheets, modelling, databases, and video and audio editing within structured problem-solving tasks. You work with files supplied by Cambridge and submit your completed work electronically. It contributes the remaining fifty per cent of AS Level and twenty-five per cent of A Level.

Full A Level candidates also take Papers 3 and 4.

Paper 3, Advanced Theory, lasts one hour and forty-five minutes and is worth seventy marks. It assesses the ten advanced topics, while assuming knowledge of the complete AS content. Calculators are not permitted. This paper contributes twenty-five per cent of A Level.

Paper 4, Advanced Practical, lasts two hours and thirty minutes and is worth ninety marks. It tests data analysis, mail merge, graphics, animation and web programming, and may also include AS-level spreadsheet, modelling or database tasks. It contributes the final twenty-five per cent.

Internet and email access are prohibited during both practical papers. Cambridge does not prescribe particular software brands, but the software must support every syllabus requirement and allow files to be exported in the specified formats. Saving a task in the wrong format can result in losing its marks.

AS Level may be taken independently, carried forward through the staged route, or combined with the advanced 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

Use the scenario to decide which facts or techniques are relevant. Explain why a design choice meets a requirement. Where a practical component applies, develop fluency in the permitted environment, save work correctly and produce the requested evidence. For written algorithms, use the conventions required by the syllabus.

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 they need access to a centre equipped to conduct and submit the practical examinations.

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. The syllabus assumes knowledge and skills equivalent to IGCSE ICT 0417 or 0983. A particular certificate is not the same as a compulsory entry condition, but the assumed knowledge remains important.

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.