

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Marine Science 0697

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: Theory and Data Handling	1 h 45 min	80	50%	Compulsory short-answer and structured questions
2: Theory and Practical Skills	1 h 45 min	80	50%	Written paper; practical skills are 40% of this paper

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 consists of two written papers, each lasting one hour and forty-five minutes and worth eighty marks.

Paper One is Theory and Data Handling. It contains compulsory short-answer and structured questions, testing your scientific knowledge and your ability to interpret information, analyse data and solve problems. It contributes fifty per cent of the qualification.

Paper Two is Theory and Practical Skills. This is also a written examination with compulsory short-answer and structured questions. It assesses scientific knowledge, data handling and your understanding of experimental and investigative skills in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts. Practical skills account for forty per cent of this paper. Paper Two contributes the remaining fifty per cent of the qualification.

Across the complete assessment, knowledge and understanding account for fifty per cent, information handling and problem-solving for thirty per cent, and experimental skills and investigations for twenty per cent.

Successful candidates may receive grades from A-star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

For numerical answers, show a clear method and units. For data questions, distinguish a description of the results from an explanation using scientific ideas. In investigation questions, identify variables, measurement methods and specific improvements. A general statement such as "make it more accurate" needs an explanation of how.

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 both the June and November series, and private candidates may 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. Both components are written examinations. Paper 2 assesses practical skills through written questions; practical learning remains part of preparation.

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.