

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Mathematics 0580

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2028, 2029 and 2030

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: Core non-calculator	1 h 30 min	80	50%	Core route; compulsory questions
3: Core calculator	1 h 30 min	80	50%	Core route; compulsory questions
2: Extended non-calculator	2 h	100	50%	Extended route; compulsory questions
4: Extended calculator	2 h	100	50%	Extended route; compulsory questions

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

The qualification offers two assessment routes: Core and Extended. Both routes consist of one non-calculator paper and one calculator paper.

Core candidates take Paper One and Paper Three.

Paper One is a non-calculator examination lasting one hour and thirty minutes and carrying eighty marks. Paper Three also lasts one hour and thirty minutes and carries eighty marks, but a scientific calculator is required. Each paper contributes fifty per cent of the Core qualification.

The Core route is intended mainly for learners working towards grades C to G.

Extended candidates take Paper Two and Paper Four.

Paper Two is a non-calculator examination lasting two hours and carrying one hundred marks. Paper Four also lasts two hours and carries one hundred marks, with a scientific calculator required. Each contributes fifty per cent of the Extended qualification.

The Extended syllabus includes all Core content together with additional, more demanding material. It is intended for learners aiming for the higher grades, and candidates are eligible for grades A-star to E.

All four papers contain a mixture of structured and unstructured questions. You must show the necessary working, choose efficient techniques and explain conclusions where required. A formula list is provided in the examination papers, but not every formula you need will be included.

Your route should therefore be selected carefully: Core offers grades C to G, while Extended provides access to grades A-star to E.

Preparing the right kind of response

Show enough working for the reasoning to be followed. State units, accuracy and assumptions where relevant, and check whether the result is reasonable. Calculator use follows the rules for the particular paper; access to a calculator does not replace algebraic reasoning or an explained method.

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 the June and November series, with an additional March series for schools in India. Private candidates may also 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.

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.