

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Mathematics 9709

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: Pure Mathematics 1	1 h 50 min	75	AS 60%; A 30%	All routes
2: Pure Mathematics 2	1 h 15 min	50	AS 40% only	Standalone AS with Paper 1; no carry-forward to A Level
3: Pure Mathematics 3	1 h 50 min	75	A 30%	Both full A Level routes
4: Mechanics	1 h 15 min	50	AS 40%; A 20%	AS 1+4; A Level 1+3+4+5
5: Probability & Statistics 1	1 h 15 min	50	AS 40%; A 20%	AS 1+5; both A Level routes
6: Probability & Statistics 2	1 h 15 min	50	A 20%	A Level 1+3+5+6

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 assessment route you choose determines which papers you take.

At AS Level, all candidates take Paper One, Pure Mathematics One. It lasts one hour and fifty minutes, carries seventy-five marks and contributes sixty per cent of AS Level.

You then take one of three papers: Paper Two, Pure Mathematics Two; Paper Four, Mechanics; or Paper Five, Probability and Statistics One. Each lasts one hour and fifteen minutes, carries fifty marks and contributes forty per cent.

The Papers One and Two combination gives a standalone AS qualification only and cannot be carried forward towards A Level.

For the full A Level, all candidates take Paper One and Paper Three, Pure Mathematics Three. Each lasts one hour and fifty minutes, carries seventy-five marks and contributes thirty per cent of the qualification.

You then choose either Papers Four and Five, combining mechanics with statistics, or Papers Five and Six, creating a stronger probability-and-statistics route. Each applied paper lasts one hour and fifteen minutes, carries fifty marks and contributes twenty per cent. Papers Four and Six cannot be combined because Paper Six depends on the content of Paper Five.

All questions are compulsory, a scientific calculator is permitted in every paper, and the official formula and statistical tables booklet is supplied. You must still show clear working, because unsupported calculator answers do not receive credit.

AS Level grades range from lowercase a to e, while the full A Level is graded from 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 June and November, with an additional March series for schools in India. 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. The AS Pure Mathematics-only route, Papers 1 and 2, cannot be carried forward towards A Level. The full A Level routes are 1+3+4+5 or 1+3+5+6; Mechanics 4 and Statistics 2 (6) are not combined in one route.

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.