

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Physics 0625

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2026, 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 / 2: Multiple Choice	45 min	40	30%	Core takes 1; Extended takes 2; 40 compulsory questions
3 / 4: Theory	1 h 15 min	80	50%	Core takes 3; Extended takes 4; compulsory short and structured responses
5: Practical Test	1 h 15 min	40	20%	Hands-on experiments; alternative to Paper 6
6: Alternative to Practical	1 h	40	20%	Written experimental-skills questions; alternative to Paper 5

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 Core and Extended routes, but every candidate takes three papers.

Core candidates take Paper One, a forty-five-minute multiple-choice examination worth forty marks, and Paper Three, a one-hour-and-fifteen-minute theory examination worth eighty marks. Together, these papers assess the Core content.

Extended candidates instead take Paper Two, a forty-five-minute multiple-choice examination worth forty marks, and Paper Four, a one-hour-and-fifteen-minute theory examination worth eighty marks. These papers assess both the Core and Supplement content.

The multiple-choice paper contributes thirty per cent of the qualification, while the theory paper contributes fifty per cent.

All candidates then choose one of two practical-skills assessments, contributing the remaining twenty per cent.

Paper Five is a Practical Test lasting one hour and fifteen minutes. You perform experiments in a laboratory, record observations, process results and evaluate procedures.

Paper Six is Alternative to Practical, a one-hour written examination. You do not perform experiments during the paper, but you answer questions about experimental methods, apparatus, measurements, results and investigation design.

Both options assess the same experimental skills, so practical experience remains essential whichever paper you take.

Core candidates are eligible for grades C to G. Extended 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 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.

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.