

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Physics 9702

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: Multiple Choice	1 h 15 min	40	AS 31%; A 15.5%	40 compulsory questions
2: AS Structured Questions	1 h 15 min	60	AS 46%; A 23%	Compulsory structured questions
3: Advanced Practical Skills	2 h	40	AS 23%; A 11.5%	Laboratory examination
4: A Level Structured Questions	2 h	100	A 38.5%	Advanced content; AS knowledge assumed
5: Planning, Analysis and Evaluation	1 h 15 min	30	A 11.5%	Written investigation and data 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

AS Level assessment consists of three papers.

Paper One is a multiple-choice examination lasting one hour and fifteen minutes. It contains forty questions and contributes thirty-one per cent of AS Level.

Paper Two, AS Level Structured Questions, also lasts one hour and fifteen minutes. It carries sixty marks and contributes forty-six per cent.

Paper Three, Advanced Practical Skills, is a two-hour laboratory examination worth forty marks. You complete two practical investigations involving measurements, data presentation, graphs, conclusions and evaluation. It contributes twenty-three per cent of AS Level.

For the full A Level, these three papers contribute half of the final qualification. Candidates also take Papers Four and Five.

Paper Four, A Level Structured Questions, lasts two hours and is worth one hundred marks. It focuses on the advanced content but assumes knowledge from AS Level. It contributes thirty-eight point five per cent of the A Level.

Paper Five, Planning, Analysis and Evaluation, is a written paper lasting one hour and fifteen minutes and carrying thirty marks. One question asks you to plan an investigation; the other requires you to analyse experimental data, reach conclusions and evaluate uncertainty. It contributes eleven point five per cent.

AS Level may be completed as a standalone qualification. The full A Level can be taken through an approved staged route, carrying forward the AS result, or by taking all five papers in one examination series.

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

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, but they need regular laboratory experience and access to a centre that can conduct the practical examination.

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.