



Syllabus update: Cambridge International AS & A Level Design & Technology (9705) for examination in 2025, 2026 and 2027




We have updated this syllabus. The latest syllabus is version 2, published September 2023.

Changes to version 2 of the syllabus, published September 2023

What has changed?		Detail
	Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have amended the list of equipment that candidates should have in the examination room for Paper 1 and Paper 3.

Changes to version 1 of the syllabus, published February 2023

What has changed?		Detail
	Changes to syllabus content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subject content has been revised and updated. Some content has been removed and other content has been added. An introductory explanation for each of the topics has been added. We have included more detail of what needs to be taught. This includes guidance, if needed, on what we expect to be covered in each topic. The AS Level subject content has been revised and integrated into 12 revised compulsory topics. From assessment in 2025, AS Level candidates study all the AS Level content. The A Level subject content has been revised and integrated into six revised compulsory topics. From assessment in 2025, the specialist routes have been removed. The subject content at A Level is compulsory subject content for all candidates to learn. Content on product design, resistant materials and graphics has been restructured into the new revised compulsory A Level subject content for all candidates to learn. The specialist content on Practical technology/ electronics has been removed from the A Level subject content. The compulsory content has been designed to be generic and accessible for students and schools that have a background in different specialist areas. Candidates can develop their preferred specialism in the coursework components. There are now two distinct coursework projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component 2 Product analysis and improvement project Component 4 Design, realisation and manufacturing project. Candidates can no longer continue the work in Component 2 to complete Component 4. Overarching key concepts for Cambridge International AS & A Level Design & Technology have been introduced. A glossary of command words has been added. The syllabus aims have been updated and key benefits to learners have been listed. A list of electronic symbols to be studied at AS Level has been added to the subject content on page 34.

What has changed?	Detail
 <p>Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment objectives have been updated and regrouped into four new assessment objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AO1 Knowledge and understanding – AO2 Application and communication – AO3 Development of design ideas and practical skills – AO4 Analysis and evaluation. • The weightings of the assessment objectives in the qualification and across the components have been updated. The weighting of the coursework components has been increased. The coursework and the written components are now equally weighted. • We have named the papers to reflect the nature of each paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paper 1 is named AS Level Written Paper – Component 2 is named Product analysis and improvement project – Paper 3 is named A Level Written Paper – Component 4 is named Design, realisation and manufacturing project. • The number of marks and duration of Papers 1 and 3 have changed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In Paper 1 the number of marks has been reduced from 120 to 100 and the duration from 3 hours to 2 hours 15 minutes. – In Paper 3 the number of marks has been reduced from 120 to 100 and the duration from 3 hours to 2 hours 30 minutes. • In Paper 1, all questions are mandatory. Optional questions have been removed. • In Paper 3, all questions are mandatory. Specialist routes and optional questions have been removed. • Papers 1 and 3 have new question types. The design question has been removed from Paper 1 but it has been retained in Paper 3. • The syllabus has a new Details of the assessment section to provide information on the assessment requirements. • Updated specimen papers have been published to accompany the new syllabus. These exemplify the changes to the assessment and the subject content. • The marking criteria in Papers 1 and 3 have been updated with new marking grids. These are available in the specimen mark schemes for Papers 1 and 3 that accompany the syllabus. • The specimen mark schemes also include indicative content exemplifying the types of answers that candidates could give to the questions. • All questions for Papers 1 and 3 will now be answered on the A4 question paper. Separate A3 sheets will no longer be required. • We have updated the equipment required in the examination room. Drawing boards will no longer be required in the examination room. • The marking criteria for Components 2 and 4 have been updated with new marking grids. Please see the Assessment criteria for Component 2 and Assessment Criteria for Component 4 sections. • The administration guidance for the coursework components has been updated in the Details of the assessment section.
 <p>Changes to availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This syllabus is now offered in the June and November series to all administrative zones. Please see page 73 for details.
 <p>Other changes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final retake opportunity for the existing version of the qualification is in November 2024. From assessment in 2025, candidates sit the new version of the qualification. • For assessment in 2025 only, candidates are not able to carry forward their coursework marks for either Component 2 or 4 from a previous series. • From assessment in 2026, the normal rules for carry forward apply.

We have also updated the front cover of the specimen question papers for Paper 1 and Paper 3 to show the changes to the equipment.

Please check the updated syllabus and specimen papers for further information.

The syllabus has been updated. You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.

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