



Frequently Asked Questions for the Digital Mocks Service

To provide further clarity, we have compiled the most common queries into this FAQ document, organised by topic for ease of reference.

We have user guides and support information for booking and delivering digital mock exams available for you [here](#).

If you would like to contact us with any questions, please email us: info@cambridgeinternational.org. To help us direct your enquiry more efficiently, kindly include '**Digital Mocks Service**' in the subject line of your email.

General

When are the digital mock exams available?

We offer two exam sessions each year to support academic calendars

- July to August.
- January to March.

Keep in touch with announcements of series dates [here](#).

Do you have an example of a mock digital exam?

[Our video](#) gives a short overview of the mock digital exams or please click [here](#) for a demo test.

Which subjects are available as mock digital exams?

For full listings for each series please visit our [website](#). Additional subjects are added to each series.

How will learners complete the digital mock exams?

During **multiple-choice question (MCQ) exams** learners will choose their answers on the screen from a selection of answers. There are different ways the multiple-choice questions are displayed to learners, such as circular/radio buttons and dragging one part of an answer to other.

There is a rule-out tool available which allows candidates to omit answers from options available. This is shown as a 'no entry' icon at the end of the option.

The table shows a government's receipts from taxation.

What is the total amount of revenue raised by direct taxes?

	\$m
tax on company profits	100
income tax	600
import duties	30
sales tax	250

- \$280m
- \$700m
- \$730m
- \$950m

Vas a oír un diálogo entre Laura y su amigo Luis sobre las asignaturas. Vas a oír el diálogo dos veces.

Para las preguntas 4 a 8, empareja las asignaturas con las afirmaciones correctas (A-F). Para cada pregunta, indique su respuesta colocando la afirmación correcta en la línea.

Ahora tienes unos segundos para leer la siguiente información.

Asignaturas

- 4 biología _____
- 5 química _____
- 6 informática _____
- 7 geografía _____
- 8 dibujo _____

Asignaturas

- A Para muchos estudiantes es difícil.
- B Hay mucha tarea que hacer.
- C Hay un examen la semana próxima.
- D Debe volver a la clase por la tarde.
- E El libro de clase es aburrido.
- F El profesor explica mal.

For exams with longer answers, like shorter text responses and essays, candidates will type their responses in a text box, with formatting and helpful tools available such as word count, bullet points, bold and italic wording.

Narrative Writing


17 Write a story with the title, 'The silk ribbon'.

B *I* U \times^2 \times_2 \downarrow \uparrow \leftarrow \rightarrow A Arial \downarrow 12pt \downarrow A \downarrow 0 Words

For those questions with resources such as extracts, these are available alongside the text response boxes, with the ability to adjust the stimulus and response areas to suit the candidate's needs.

Exercise 1
Read the article about a special sort of stone, called a lithophone, and then answer the questions.

Lithophones: musical stones



Most people have heard of rock music, but you might perhaps be surprised to learn that rocks and stones have been used to make music for many thousands of years. Lithophones are special stones that make sounds. The word lithophone comes from two Greek words, *lithos* and *phone* meaning 'stone' and 'sound', and the word lithophone is also used to describe a type of musical instrument consisting of a row of stones. The idea is simple: the stones make sounds when they are hit with something like a piece of wood. The various sounds produced depend on several factors, such as the quality of the stone. Different sounds are also made according to the thickness of each stone, so it's important to take this into account when deciding how to arrange them. The chosen stones are commonly attached to a wooden frame or sometimes they are simply placed on the ground.

Researchers think that lithophones have been played since Neolithic times, about 12 000 years ago, although early examples have only been found relatively recently. In 1942, some road builders were working on a construction project in an area of Vietnam called Dak Lak, and uncovered a collection of unusual stones. A group of eleven stones were discovered standing in an upright position. As it was thought that these stones could be important, a scientist named Georges Condominas was asked for his opinion on what their function might be. He wanted to examine the ten stones which remained undamaged, so after getting permission from local people, Condominas transported them from Vietnam to Paris for further investigation. Here, it was discovered that the stones made sounds when they were hit, and not only that, a variety of sounds were produced depending on cuts made on the stones' surfaces. This was thought to be the first time lithophones had been studied so thoroughly, and experiments also showed that different sounds were produced when the length of the stone varied.

These stones were, however, not the first to have been discovered in Vietnam. In 1942, Bo Ren, a boy from the Raglai tribe of that country, discovered some stones which the public became aware of in 1979, when they were handed over to a museum. While in many places lithophones are used as musical instruments, for Bo Ren's tribe, they had an alternative use. The stones were hung above streams where the movement of the water caused a tool to hit them, making a loud noise. This helped to scare away predators that might attack their animals.

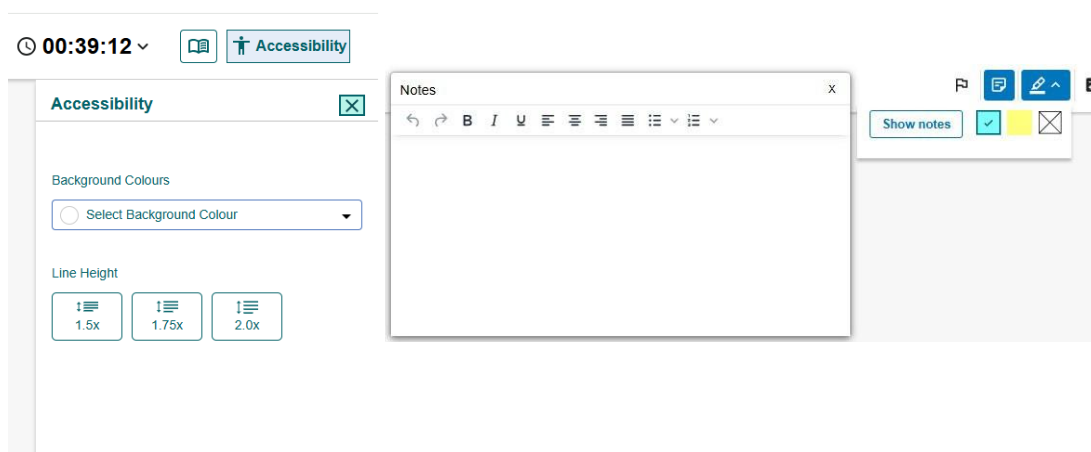
It's extraordinary that when we hear someone playing a lithophone today, we can experience the same music that has existed for thousands of years.

Question 9
How are the stones usually displayed when they are played?
[1]

Question 10
Who first discovered the stones in Dak Lak?
[1]

Question 11
How many of the stones in Dak Lak were in good condition?
[1]

We also have other digital features available throughout the exams, such as an accessibility panel, with features such as text resizing, changing background colour and adjustable line height. Other digital features include, notepad, highlighter and screen zoom.



The screenshot shows the digital exam interface. At the top left, there is a timer showing 00:39:12. Below the timer is an Accessibility panel with a close button (X). The Accessibility panel includes a 'Background Colours' section with a 'Select Background Colour' dropdown menu, and a 'Line Height' section with three buttons for 1.5x, 1.75x, and 2.0x. In the center, there is a 'Notes' notepad window with a close button (X) and a rich text editor toolbar containing icons for undo, redo, bold, italic, underline, text color, background color, bulleted list, numbered list, indent, and outdent. To the right of the notepad is a 'Show notes' button and a small toolbar with a checkmark, a yellow highlighter, and a close button (X).

How are the digital exam responses saved?

All answers are saved automatically on the platform. Candidates do not need to write anything by hand or copy their answers somewhere else.

How are the digital exams marked?

All multiple-choice exams are auto marked. All essay-based exams are marked by Cambridge. If an exam has both types of questions, the marking will be done using both methods.

I believe the marking of a script may not be accurate. Can I request a review of the marking of a digital mock exam?

We do not offer reviews of marking for mock exams. Our enquiry about results services is only in place for our high-stakes exams, where candidates are awarded a grade and a certificate for a qualification. Digital mock exams are designed as an opportunity for students to engage with the digital platform and to prepare for their final paper exams or their digital exams, and this is also an opportunity for teachers to get formative feedback on students' learning. This feedback helps to inform where to focus revision. Digital mock exams do not form part of the certified

qualification, and therefore we do not offer the post-results services available for the certified exams.

What are the results processing times?

Results for multiple-choice exams are ready within 2 hours after the exam. Results for exams marked by Cambridge will be ready in 14 days.

How do we access the results?

Results are available in the Mocks Service Booking Portal application on My Cambridge (Figure 1). Click on the mocks series tile option you wish to see the results for, and then click on the 'Mock exam results' link in the sidebar (Figure 2). Results are available in PDF and CSV format.



Figure 1

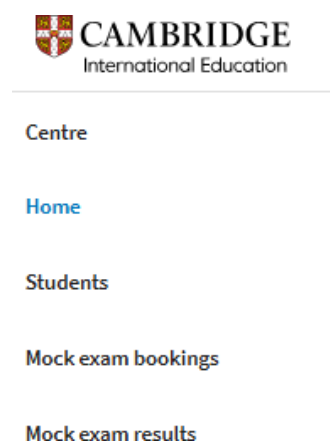


Figure 2

Can we submit an Expression of Interest form even if we are unsure whether to participate?

Yes, of course. We recommend that you submit an Expression of Interest during the submission window, even if you are not sure yet whether you want to book and take the digital mock exams. This allows us to provide the necessary access to make bookings for the mock exams, should you wish to.

I've participated in the mock exams in the past. Do I still need to send an Expression of Interest?

Yes, we need a new form for each series. This ensures the relevant contact person is up to date.

Until when can we delete an entry?

You can delete an entry anytime before the booking deadline for your selected mock exam window. Deletions can be made through the Mocks Booking Portal.

My learners are very interested in the digital mock exams, but they've only completed part of the syllabus. Is it still okay for them to register?

Yes, you can register candidates who have only completed part of the syllabus. The digital mock exams are based on full past exam papers and therefore cover the entire syllabus content. Even if your candidates haven't covered the entire syllabus yet, there is significant value in taking these mocks. They can familiarise themselves with the exam format and question types, which can help reduce anxiety and improve time management.

Additionally, these mocks can serve as a benchmarking exercise, allowing you to identify areas where candidates are strong and topics that need more attention. This targeted feedback can guide your teaching and help candidates focus their revision more effectively.

Could you confirm the months in which the digital mock exams will be available?

There are booking windows for each Mocks series. Typically, for the January to March series, the booking window is open September to October. For the July to August series, the booking window is open April to May.

Can a candidate take the mock exam for the same subject more than once during a given exam window?

A candidate can only sit the same mock exam **once** per booking. While it is technically possible to make multiple bookings for the same candidate, the content of the mock exam would remain the same. As a result, taking the same test more than once may offer limited value in terms of assessment or progress tracking.

Will candidates receive a different login for each exam they take?

Yes, candidates will receive a unique username, but a different password to access each exam they are entered for.

Is it possible for a candidate to take only one component of a subject (e.g., Component 1 but not Component 2)?

Yes. Candidates can be entered for one or both components available for a subject.

My candidates are most likely to choose Maths (Core). Is this subject available as part of the digital mock exams?

We continue to review our subject offering each series. We are currently exploring providing Maths as a digital exam however, this is currently not available.

Delivery

What is the exam delivery platform?

The invigilator and test delivery platform are delivered through a digital exam platform that has been developed in collaboration with a 3rd party supplier.

How are the digital mock exams accessed?

Learners will access the exam through a URL. Each learner will receive a unique username and password to access their booked exams.

How are the digital mock exams invigilated?

The digital mock exams are invigilated by the centre, through the exam delivery platform.

Can candidates access other websites during the exam?

Yes, candidates are currently able to access other websites during low-stake digital mock exams. However, browser lockdown functionality will be implemented for digital live examinations to prevent access to external websites during the examination period, which in the future will be reflected in the digital mock exam.

Can candidates take the mock exams at home?

Yes, candidates can take their mock exams at home if their school agrees to this. However, candidates must be booked for a mock exam through a registered Cambridge centre.

Please note that digital and paper live IGCSE and International AS and A Level exams must always be taken at a registered Cambridge centre or exam venue.

Will every question appear in the same order for all learners, or will they be randomised?

The questions will appear in the same order for all learners taking the exam.

Is the digital mock exam compulsory for all learners, or can we register a smaller group?

You can register as many candidates as you would like. The digital mock exams provide schools with an opportunity to prepare learners ahead of paper live exams, and future digital live exams, when available.

How can we find out how long each exam is? Is it the same as written exams or longer, considering learners might take extra time typing their answers?

The digital exams are the same duration as the paper-based exams. If needed, there is an option to allocate extra time for learners who require it.

Is there only one global timing for the mock exam, or can centres choose their own schedule?

Mock exams do not have a global schedule. Centres have the flexibility to set their own schedule, provided the exams are sat within the designated weekly mock exam window they have booked.

For example, if a centre books an exam for 0452 Accounting in slot 1, learners can take the exam anytime between 13 January and 19 January. They cannot take the exams outside of this week. An example of the booking windows is shown below:

Slot	Mock exam window	Booking deadline
1	13/01/2025 – 19/01/2025	05/01/2025
2	20/01/2025 – 26/01/2025	12/01/2025
3	27/01/2025 – 02/02/2025	19/01/2025

4	03/02/2025 – 09/02/2025	26/01/2025
5	10/02/2025 – 16/02/2025	02/02/2025
6	17/02/2025 – 23/02/2025	09/02/2025
7	24/02/2025 – 02/03/2025	16/02/2025
8	03/03/2025 – 09/03/2025	23/02/2025

Invigilation procedures

Who conducts the invigilation—our centre or Cambridge?

Invigilation for the Digital Mock exams is done by your centre, using the exam delivery platform. We will provide login details and supporting guidance for invigilators administering the digital exams.

Can I create additional invigilators to assist with the exam?

Yes, our ‘Delivering Exams’ user guide explains how to create additional invigilators, available [here](#).

What is the purpose of the invigilator portal, and how is it different from traditional invigilation?

The invigilator portal helps you act as a “Centre Administrator” or “Invigilator”. You can use it to manage exam sessions, deliver mock exams to your learners at a time you choose (within your booking window), allocate certain access arrangements such as extra time or candidate controlled rest breaks, monitor your learners progress and status during the exams.

Is there a handbook with rules and guidance for invigilators and exam officers?

Yes, we recommend using the Cambridge Handbook. We are developing specific rules for digital exams which will be published in future Mock series. Additionally, user guides for the Digital Mocks Service are available [here](#).

Technical requirements

What software and hardware are required for the digital mock exam?

For digital mock exams, the exam delivery platform can be used on Windows or Mac-based laptop or desktop devices that meet the minimum requirements of:

- Windows: Version 11, Intel i3 processor or equivalent, 4 GB RAM
- Mac: Version 14 or higher, Intel i3 processor or equivalent, 4 GB RAM
- Chromebooks: Latest OS version, quad-core processor, 4 GB RAM

Do learners need to use school devices, or can they bring their own?

Learners can use any suitable device which has a sufficient sized screen and keyboard. We do not recommend the use of tablets or mobile phones as testing devices.

What type of classrooms are suitable for the digital mocks?

We recommend following the Cambridge Handbook guidance about how learners should be spaced during mock exams. For details, see section 4.53 Seating arrangements in the Cambridge 2026 Handbook available [here](#).

Is the digital mocks service compatible with all browsers?

The Digital Mocks are compatible with Google Chrome, Safari, Microsoft Edge and Mozilla Firefox web browsers. We recommend using the most recent version for optimal performance.

Is there a lockdown browser option for schools with BYOD (bring your own device) policies?

This feature is in development. For now, candidates will log in using a unique username and password to access their exams. Once all exams in a session are completed, access will be locked, and no further login attempts will be permitted.

How can academic honesty be ensured during digital mock exams, and what measures are in place to prevent the use of AI tools, whether at home or in school?

To support academic integrity, we recommend that schools follow their usual invigilation processes and practices, even when candidates are taking mock exams from home.

We are also developing tools to monitor AI usage, which will be integrated into our secure, lockdown browser. These tools are designed to help detect and prevent the use of unauthorised AI tools during exams, further enhancing the security and reliability of the assessment experience.

Payment

What is the payment procedure?

Invoices are processed within 5 days after the weekly exam window has ended. A PDF invoice will be emailed to centres, using the contact details we have in our payment system.

Will invoices be charged to parent centres or associate centres?

If you work with us through an Associate your invoice will be sent to your Associate. If you would like to participate in the mock exam series, please check with your Associate first.

Are there costs for the mock digital exams or is it included in existing fees?

The price for each exam is listed in the Mocks Portal and on the website and is charged for per exam, per candidate. Prices differ depending on your local currency, and whether the exam is auto-marked or Cambridge marked.

Is the £5 fee a flat rate that covers both the multiple-choice and theory papers?

The £5 flat fee is per test, per subject, per candidate. For example, it would be £5 for the multiple-choice test and £5 for the theory test, however theory tests are not available as Mock exams.

Past papers

Many exams are based on past papers. Will candidates get any benefits from resitting these papers digitally?

There are many benefits to taking Digital Mocks with past paper questions. These questions have already been checked using Cambridge's high assessment standards. This helps ensure the digital mock exams are fair and similar to paper-based exams. Digital Mocks also help learners become familiar with the exam format before the live exams helping build their confidence.

We have recently conducted research of analysing the results of the digital mocks and matching those to the performance of live paper-based exams. We found predictive validity between the digital mocks and paper-based exams, with results showing high correlations of good levels of predictive validity in most components. We recommend the Digital Mocks Service to be seen as a diagnostic tool that helps learners and teachers with their learning and teaching, not just as a predictive tool.

Will teachers know which past paper sessions are used, to avoid duplication in lessons or assessments?

Yes, we provide the source content and year on our website and the booking portal. If needed, we can also advise on the specific paper variant upon request.

How do the marking levels and/or percentages in digital mock results relate to the general IGCSE grades (A* to G), for example a score of 44 out of 80 – 55%?

Cambridge Digital Mocks use past paper content and are designed to reflect the standards of the final exams, but Cambridge does not provide official grade boundaries for digital mock exams. Instead, these mock results are intended to give an indication of performance and of areas for development rather than a certified grade.

The Digital Mocks Service provides a realistic assessment experience using past paper materials, but the results are intended for diagnostic use and are not accompanied by official grade boundaries. To understand how a digital mock percentage might reflect as a grade, schools can refer to published grade thresholds for the specific exam series that the mock exam past paper has been chosen from, and they may choose to set their own internal grade interpretations by referring to the published grade thresholds for context. This is only an estimate: precise grade boundaries vary between exam series and are not officially set for digital mocks.

Incident procedures

What happens if there is a power cut or loss of internet? How long is the exam valid if there's a disruption like a power outage?

If there is a power cut or internet loss, candidates can log back in once the issue is fixed and continue the exam from where it last saved. The exam will stay available until it has been submitted by a candidate or until the end of the mock exam window you booked. It is not possible to move an incomplete exam to a later session.

What happens if a candidate is late for the exam?

The digital mock exam can be taken at any time during the exam window. A late candidate can start the exam as soon as they arrive.

Does the platform require an active internet connection throughout the exam, or only at the start and end?

Currently, the platform requires an active internet connection throughout the exam. We are working on practices to support offline instances.

Will credit be provided if a booking is cancelled after the closing date due to valid reasons (e.g., sickness)?

We will consider requests for a credit based on the reason for the absence.

Accessibility

Are access arrangements, such as extra time, available for mock exams?

Yes, extra time is available as well as candidate-controlled rest breaks. The exam delivery platform also includes an accessibility panel which includes:

- Background colours – to change the background colour from a range of available options.
- Line height – to adjust the height between the lines, with three options available/

Additional access arrangements are in development for future series.

Can invigilators stop and restart the clock for learners requiring rest breaks?

Yes, the invigilator can pause and resume exams for candidates. If rest breaks are needed, please make sure the candidate does **not** submit their exam during each break. They should only submit it once they have fully completed the exam.

For candidate controlled rest breaks, to allow candidates to pause and resume the exam, this arrangement would need to be allocated by the invigilator before the learner sits the test, using the exam delivery platform. More information can be found in our 'Delivering exams' guide – please click [here](#).

Does the system include screen-reading or text-to-speech capabilities?

These features are under development for future series.

How can we support candidates who type slowly, especially for essay questions?

Extra time is available within the platform and digital mocks provide an opportunity for learners to practice and develop their typing and digital skills.

We also have a familiarisation test which can be used by candidates prior to taking the digital mock exams – please click [here](#)

Results and reports

What are the marking standards for written papers?

Cambridge marked digital exams follow the same rigorous marking standards as Cambridge's paper-based exams, ensuring consistency and quality.

How will learners' answers be evaluated, particularly for written sections?

As the Digital Mock exams follow the same style and standard as our live exams, we apply the same paper standards to our digital exams.

Will the spellcheck feature be disabled? How strict will markers be with typos?

There is no spellcheck feature in the Digital Mocks. If spelling and grammar are part of the assessment criteria, they will be marked accordingly.

What kind of feedback will learners receive for digital mock exams?

Feedback is provided in CSV and PDF formats through the portal.

Overall Results Report: Total marks and percentage for all learners.

Question Level Results Report: Detailed learner responses, marks achieved, marks available, topics covered, and marking strands.

Examples are available in the user guide [here](#).

Digital High Stakes exams

When will Cambridge offer actual online exams for IGCSE?

Our first digital components for high-stakes exams are planned for June 2026 (MCQ components for IGCSE Science, Accounting and Economics), and the AS English General Paper), with global and subject with expansion planned from June 2027.

Please find more information [here](#).

Will certificates indicate whether parts of the assessment were taken onscreen or on paper?

No, the certificates will not specify the mode of delivery for any part of the assessment. Whether the assessment was completed onscreen, on paper, or a combination of both, the certificate will reflect the same qualification and hold the same value.