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Can't find the information you’re looking for?  

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FAQs – Support and resources

When are the examinations taken?

Information about when the examinations can be taken can be found in the syllabus, which you can download from Teacher Support or our public website.

Examination dates are listed in the exam timetable which you can download from our public website, or speak to the Examinations Officer at your centre.

Reference: Syllabus / Exam timetable  Location: Teacher Support / Public Website  Back

What resources are available to support Cambridge syllabuses?

Teaching resources can be found on the Teacher Support page for your syllabus.

For syllabuses, specimen papers, past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports look under the Syllabus Materials tab.

For support materials, including the Practical Test Handbook, Schemes of Work* and Example Candidate Responses*, look under the Teaching Materials tab.

The Resource List tab directs you to endorsed and suggested resources including textbooks and websites. You can also access these from the Resource Centre on our public website.

For more details about the support types available, and how to use them for planning, preparing, teaching, assessing and revision, see our guide Cambridge teacher support, which can be downloaded from the Teacher Support homepage.

You can also visit our Discussion Forums*, where teachers discuss resources and teaching methods, and you can ask questions and receive a response from our subject expert moderator or from other Cambridge teachers in our Community.

*where available

Reference: Teacher Support Resources  Location: Teacher Support  Back

What textbooks are available for my subject?

From the Resource List tab on the Teacher Support page for your syllabus you can search for textbooks for your subject. No particular book is necessary for a course and teachers are advised to choose the textbook that best suits their needs. Many of our syllabuses are supported by a range of different endorsed textbooks to ensure that schools have choice. There is information on the back of endorsed textbooks about which examination series it was first produced for.

Endorsed resources go through a rigorous quality-assurance process to make sure they closely reflect the syllabus and are appropriate for Cambridge schools worldwide. Resources may be ‘endorsed for full syllabus coverage’ or endorsed to cover specific sections, topics or approaches. Look for the specific ‘endorsed for…’ logo on the resource.

Reference: Teacher Support Resources  Location: Teacher Support  Back

What training and professional development is available for my subject?

Cambridge online and face-to-face training courses are designed to support you by providing you with the knowledge and skills required to deliver our syllabuses. These can be booked through the Events and training calendar on our public website.

Reference: Events and training calendar  Location: Public Website  Back
FAQs – Support and resources

How can I find out about any changes to the syllabus?

This information can be found on the inside cover of the syllabus, which can be downloaded from Teacher Support. Changes are described in detail within this section. Throughout the syllabus, any significant changes are indicated by black vertical lines either side of the text.

If a syllabus update document is listed next to a syllabus this is notification that the syllabus has been updated to reflect a change. The changes that have been made will be clearly indicated in the syllabus update.

Reference: Syllabus
Location: Teacher Support

What can students take into their exams?

Guidance for use of equipment in examinations, including use of dictionaries and calculators, is provided in the Cambridge Handbook from our public website. A list of unauthorised materials is also included.

For help or information about administering qualifications it is often useful to speak to the Examinations Officer at your centre.

Information about the Practical Test can be found in the Practical Test Handbook on Teacher Support.

Reference: Cambridge Handbook
Location: Public Website

FAQs – Paper 2: Practical Test

Who can examine the practical component and what guidance is available for them?

The examiner can be a teacher in the centre who is suitably qualified in Food and Nutrition. Ideally, the teacher should not be the candidates’ class teacher but another Food and Nutrition teacher.

The Practical Test Handbook provides clear, detailed marking guidance and examples, which are vital for the marking of the practical component and the internal moderation of the component within each centre. This can be downloaded from Teacher Support.

A Coursework Training Programme, an online self-study course for the marking of the practical component, is available and it is recommended that the Practical Examiner undertakes this training to ensure they are best prepared for marking the practical component. This can be booked through the Events and training calendar on our public website. Select online training from the event type and IGCSE from the qualification type, then navigate through the list of courses.

Reference: Practical Test Handbook
Reference: Events and training calendar

Can candidates sit the Planning Session on different days?

All candidates at a centre sit the Planning Session on the same day. The centre should then provide sufficient equipment for candidates to cook in the Practical Test approximately one week after the Planning Session, but there can be more than one Practical Test session so that all candidates have access to equipment.

Reference: Practical Test Handbook
FAQs – Paper 2: Practical Test

Can candidates use the internet as a source of information in the Planning Session?

The Planning Session should be held under examination conditions and be treated as a formal written examination, with all the correct procedures in place for such an examination.

The internet must not be used as a resource during the Planning Session but students may print out recipes from the internet during lesson time and add them to a recipe folder which they can use during the Planning Session. Students may use folders of their own, or downloaded, recipes which they have built up during the Food and Nutrition course, as well as recipe books, but they must not include notes.

Reference: Practical Test Handbook
Location: Teacher Support

Should we take photographs of the candidates doing the Practical Test?

Photographs of the candidates’ final dishes and serving table are compulsory. Photographs or videos of the candidates themselves, or the dishes being prepared, should not be provided. The Practical Test Handbook gives further details regarding photographs.

Reference: Practical Test Handbook
Location: Teacher Support

Can the candidates bring in their own ingredients for the Practical Test?

Ideally the school should buy and supply all of the ingredients. Unusual or specialist ingredients can be brought in by the candidates, but a note will need to be made of this. Any items brought in should be checked to ensure they are correct according to the Shopping List.

Ingredients should not be brought from home ready-prepared.

Reference: Practical Test Handbook
Location: Teacher Support

Can’t find the information you’re looking for?

If you have a syllabus or teaching related question which has not been answered here, and you’ve read the syllabus and supporting resources on Teacher Support, have a look at the information on our Help pages.

For individual assessment queries or centre-specific enquiries, contact our Customer Services team either by email at info@cambridgeinternational.org, by web form or by calling us on +44 1223 553554.