

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Cambridge IGCSE<sup>®</sup> (9–1) Design and Technology (0979)

<b>FAQs – Support and resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When are the examinations taken?</li><li>• What resources are available to support Cambridge syllabuses?</li><li>• What textbooks are available for my subject?</li><li>• What training and professional development is available for my subject?</li><li>• How can I find out about any changes to the syllabus?</li><li>• What can students take into their exams?</li><li>• How can I find more information about the IGCSE (9–1) grading system?</li></ul>	<b>Support and resources</b>
<b>FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can candidates take all of the options?</li><li>• Do candidates have to base their design projects on their chosen option?</li><li>• When should the Project be done?</li><li>• Should we use photographic evidence when submitting projects?</li><li>• Where can I find more information about the Project?</li></ul>	<b>Subject Content &amp; Assessment</b>
<b>Can't find the information you're looking for?</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Rate this resource</b>	<b>✓</b>

## 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 Schemes of Work\* and Example Candidate Responses\*, look under the *Teaching Materials* tab. A Coursework Handbook will be available in 2018.

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](#)

[Back](#)

---

### 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.

**Reference:** [Cambridge Handbook](#)

**Location:** [Public Website](#)

[Back](#)

---

### How can I find more information about the IGCSE (9–1) grading system?

The grading process for 9–1 IGCSEs will be the same process we use to grade all our syllabuses.

- The standards at the thresholds of grades 7, 4 and 1 are the same as the standards at the thresholds of grades A, C and G.
- Grade boundaries for grades 8, 6, 5, 3 and 2 are set using arithmetic rules that space the grade boundaries at regular intervals between the boundaries for grades 9, 7, 4 and 1. The use of arithmetic grade boundaries is common to Cambridge and all other UK exam boards.

**Reference:** [Grading information](#)

**Location:** [Public Website](#)

[Back](#)

---

## FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment

### Can candidates take all of the options?

No, a candidate cannot take all of the options, only one option can be entered. Candidates would not be able to cover the skills and content involved in multiple options adequately. This would also detrimentally affect the student's performance in the Project.

**Reference:** [Syllabus](#)

**Location:** [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

---

### Do candidates have to base their design projects on their chosen option?

Yes, candidates' projects should be centred on the chosen option in Part 2 of the syllabus content.

**Reference:** [Syllabus](#)

**Location:** [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

---

## FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment

### When should the Project be done?

It is recommended that candidates undertake their Project in the final year of a two year course so that the option material will have been covered before then. It is expected that the work should take about two terms.

**Reference:** [Syllabus](#)

**Location:** [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

---

### Should we use photographic evidence when submitting projects?

Photographic evidence of the finished product should be submitted along with all other evidence. The photographs will need to be clear and in some cases you may want to take more than one view of the product. Note that artefacts and/or models should not be sent through the post to Cambridge.

**Reference:** [Syllabus](#)

**Location:** [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

---

### Where can I find more information about the Project?

As well as information in the syllabus there is also a Coursework Handbook that teachers delivering this course are advised to obtain. Due to the size of the file, which contains a lot of images, you will need to order it through the Catalogue of Resources. The Coursework Handbook for this 9–1 syllabus will be available in 2018, but the Coursework Handbook for the Cambridge IGCSE Design and Technology (0445) syllabus, which uses the A\* to G grading system, can be used. For information about how to obtain a copy, download the Coursework Handbook Notice from the Teaching Materials tab on Teacher Support for syllabus 0445.

The handbook aims to assist teachers in the guidance and development of coursework projects with their candidates and to apply the assessment criteria in a confident and consistent way. It clarifies the syllabus requirements, provides guidance on the development of coursework projects and explains, with marked examples, how the assessment criteria should be applied.

**Reference:** [Coursework Handbook](#)

**Location:** [Catalogue of Resources](#)

[Back](#)

---

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

[Back](#)

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](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org), by **web form** or by calling us on +44 1223 553554.