

External assessment

General

Markschemes are used to assess students in both papers. The markschemes are specific to each examination.

External assessment details

General information

Paper 1 and paper 2

These papers are externally set and externally marked. Together, they contribute 80% of the final mark for the course. These papers are designed to allow students to demonstrate what they know and what they can do.

Calculators

For both examination papers, students must have access to a GDC at all times. Regulations covering the types of GDC allowed are provided in the *Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme*.

Mathematical studies SL formula booklet

Each student must have access to a clean copy of the formula booklet during the examination. It is the responsibility of the school to download a copy from IBIS or the OCC and to ensure that there are sufficient copies available for all students.

Awarding of marks

In addition to correct answers, marks are awarded for method, accuracy and reasoning.

In paper 1, full marks are awarded for each correct answer irrespective of the presence or absence of working. Where an answer is incorrect, marks are given for correct method. All students should therefore be advised to show their working.

In paper 2, full marks are not necessarily awarded for a correct answer without working. Answers must be supported by working and/or explanations. Where an answer is incorrect, marks are given for correct method. All students should therefore be advised to show their working.

Paper 1

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Weighting: 40%

- This paper consists of 15 compulsory short-response questions.
- Each question is worth 6 marks.

Syllabus coverage

- Knowledge of **all** topics is required for this paper. However, not all topics are necessarily assessed in every examination session.
- The intention of this paper is to test students' knowledge and understanding across the breadth of the syllabus. However, it should not be assumed that the separate topics are given equal emphasis.

Question type

- Questions may be presented in the form of words, symbols, diagrams or tables, or combinations of these.
- Questions of varying levels of difficulty are set.
- One or more steps may be needed to answer each question.

Paper 2

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Weighting: 40%

- This paper consists of 6 compulsory extended-response questions.
- Questions in this section will vary in terms of length and level of difficulty.
- Individual questions will not be worth the same number of marks. The marks allocated are indicated at the start of each question.

Syllabus coverage

- Knowledge of **all** topics is required for this paper. However, not all topics are necessarily assessed in every examination session.
- The intention of this paper is to test students' knowledge and understanding of the syllabus in depth. The range of syllabus topics tested in this paper may be narrower than that tested in paper 1.

Question type

- Questions require extended responses involving sustained reasoning.
- Individual questions may require knowledge of more than one topic.
- Questions may be presented in the form of words, symbols, diagrams or tables, or combinations of these.
- Normally, each question reflects an incline of difficulty, from relatively easy tasks at the start of a question to relatively difficult tasks at the end of a question. The emphasis is on problem-solving.