

AS-Level Cambridge CAIE Further Mathematics

Spec code: 9231 · Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Combination	Max	A	B	C	D	E
Option A (Mechanics)	125	74	56	46	37	28
Option B (Statistics)	125	87	70	58	46	34

AS-Level Cambridge Further Mathematics offers a genuine choice of two options, each compulsory Further Pure Mathematics 1 (Paper 1) plus one applied paper: Option A pairs it with Further Mechanics (Paper 3); Option B pairs it with Further Probability & Statistics (Paper 4) — schools choose one. Boundaries differ meaningfully between options. Graded A to E only (no A*). Figures shown are the S1 and S2 variant rows from the official table; other variant codes (S3–S8) cover different exam series/timezone papers within the same two options. Source: Cambridge International published grade threshold table, November 2025 series. Always verify current thresholds at cambridgeinternational.org.

Command Word Mastery

Mark schemes attach specific meaning to each command word below. Misreading one of these costs marks that working had already earned. These conventions apply identically whether the paper is sat at AS or as part of the full A-Level.

Command Word	What It Demands	Common Student Error	Workshop Fix
Hence, or otherwise	Use the established result if possible — but a complete alternative valid method is also acceptable	Assuming "otherwise" requires a shortcut, when a full alternative method is equally valid	Drill phase: comparing "Hence" vs "Hence, or otherwise" questions side by side
Prove	A complete, rigorous logical argument — every step justified, no assumed results	Demonstrating a result for several cases and treating that as proof, rather than a general argument	Anatomy phase: deconstructing what Cambridge accepts as "proof" for induction and identities
Justify	State the reasoning behind a modelling assumption or choice of method, not just the assumption itself	Stating an assumption (e.g. "the string is light") without explaining why it is appropriate	Close phase: peer comparison of justification wording against the mark scheme
Determine	Calculate a value and present it clearly as the final answer, with method shown	Leaving an answer unsimplified or in non-exact form when a specific form was implied	Open Forum: rapid drills on presenting "Determine" answers in the expected form

How EMI uses this: Cambridge AS Further Maths students sit one of two genuinely different options — Further Mechanics or Further Probability & Statistics alongside the compulsory Further Pure paper. Every workshop confirms the student's school-assigned option before drilling, since the content and the boundary both depend on it.