

AS-Level Cambridge CAIE Mathematics

Spec code: 9709 · Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Combination	Max	A	B	C	D	E
Pure only (P1+P2)	125	102	88	68	48	29
Pure + Mechanics (P1+P4)	125	98	83	64	46	28
Pure + Statistics (P1+P5)	125	101	88	69	50	31

AS-Level Cambridge Mathematics offers a genuine choice of three routes: Pure Mathematics only (Papers 1+2 — AS-only, cannot be carried forward to A-Level), Pure + Mechanics (Papers 1+4), or Pure + Statistics (Papers 1+5) — schools choose one. Boundaries differ between routes. Graded A to E only (no A*). 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	Use the result from the previous part — do not restart from first principles	Ignoring the earlier result and solving independently, losing the marks attached to using it	Drill phase: explicit "Hence" chaining exercises across past Paper 1 and 2 questions
Show that	Provide sufficient working to justify the given answer — the answer is already known, the working is what is marked	Stopping once the given answer is reached, without showing the intermediate steps required	Anatomy phase: line-by-line mark scheme deconstruction of "Show that" questions
Verify	Substitute and confirm — demonstrate the given value satisfies the condition, with working shown	Stating "yes, it works" without the substitution and calculation the mark scheme requires	Close phase: peer comparison of the verification write-ups against the mark scheme
State	Give the answer with no working required — but in the precise form expected (e.g. exact value, not decimal)	Over-working a "State" question, or giving a rounded decimal where an exact form was required	Open Forum: rapid-fire "State" drills to build instinct for required precision

How EMI uses this: Cambridge AS Maths students follow one of three genuinely different routes — Pure only, Pure + Mechanics, or Pure + Statistics. Every workshop confirms the student's school-assigned route first, since the second paper (and its boundary) depends entirely on it.