



# British Council Partner Schools

## Examination Services

### Use of Calculators

#### Pearson Edexcel and Oxford AQA

##### Using calculators

10.1 Candidates may use a calculator in an examination unless this is prohibited by the awarding body's specification. The instructions on the question paper will say whether calculators are allowed or not. If the instructions do not include such a statement, calculators should be treated as standard equipment and may be used by candidates. Where the use of a calculator is allowed, candidates are responsible for making sure that their calculators meet the awarding bodies' regulations.

10.2 The instructions set out in this section apply to all examinations unless stated otherwise in an awarding body's specification.

10.3 Candidates must be told these regulations beforehand and be familiar with the Information for candidate's documents.

##### **Calculators must be:**

- of a size suitable for use on the desk;
- either battery or solar powered;
- free of lids, cases and covers which have printed instructions or formulae.

##### **Calculators must not:**

- be designed or adapted to offer any of these facilities:
  - language translators;
  - symbolic algebra manipulation;
  - symbolic differentiation or integration;
  - communication with other machines or the internet;
- be borrowed from another candidate during an examination for any reason;
  - have retrievable information stored in them. This includes:
    - databanks;
    - dictionaries;
    - mathematical formulae;
    - text.

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## The candidate is responsible for the following:

- the calculator's power supply;
- the calculator's working condition;
- clearing anything stored in the calculator.

10.4 An invigilator may give a candidate a replacement calculator.

10.5 Where access is permitted to a calculator for part of an examination, it is acceptable for candidates to place their calculators on the floor under their desks in sight of the invigilator(s) for the non-calculator portion of the examination.

## Cambridge Assessment International Education

If the syllabus or the front of the question paper do not state that calculators are prohibited or do not mention calculators, candidates can use a calculator if they want to.

Where the use of calculators is allowed in examinations, calculators used must not be able to manipulate algebra; they must be purely numerical integration/differentiation. Calculators with any of the following facilities are prohibited, unless specifically stated otherwise in the syllabus:

- graphic display
- data banks
- dictionaries or language translators
- retrieval or manipulation of text or formulae
- QWERTY keyboards
- built-in symbolic algebraic manipulations
- symbolic differentiation or integration
- capability of remote communication with other machines.

Whilst graphical calculators are indeed an excellent tool for students to use in class, as part of our assessment we often assess the candidate's ability to plot graphs accurately, that they understand how to draw a best-fit line, and can correctly calculate a gradient showing their working. These are basic skills, which would not be assessed if candidates were to return an answer from their calculator.

Due to the sheer number of different calculator models available worldwide, we cannot give specific details of which models or makes of calculators are permitted in our exams.

Learners requiring more information should contact the Examinations Officer at their school.

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