

## How we create an exam paper – Video transcript

“You may now turn over your exam paper and begin”.

Every year, thousands of students take our written exam papers

When you turn over the first page of your exam paper, you may not realise that it started life about two years ago.

This is how we create exam papers for Cambridge IGCSEs, O Levels and International AS and A Levels.

There are lots of different styles of exam paper, ranging from some with multiple choice questions to others with a few essay questions

Whatever the type, we want to create a paper that allows you to show the knowledge, skills and understanding you have acquired during your studies.

Who makes your paper?

A team of experts is responsible for creating a paper for each exam.

Together, they have extensive experience of assessment – how best to test your knowledge and skills.

They also have experience of teaching in a subject.

This ensures a high-quality exam paper.

Before we start writing any questions, our experts look at previous years’ papers to make sure that students understood exactly what they had to do for every question. This helps our experts write new questions that are clear for all students.

Next, our experts decide what areas of the syllabus to focus on.

Not one exam covers every part of the syllabus every year but over a number of years, we make sure that the full content of the syllabus is assessed.

Next, our experts get to work on the individual questions.

What makes a good question? Each question must offer the right level of challenge.

A good exam paper has a range of questions on it from straightforward ones to more demanding ones that challenge the most able students.

Each question has to relate to the content of the syllabus and each question is clear and free of errors.

At the same time as designing an exam question, our experts create the mark scheme for the question.

The mark scheme outlines what knowledge and skills you need to demonstrate in order to gain the marks for the question.

The mark scheme will guide the examiners when they mark your answers.

Finally, our panel of experts is joined by a new person – the Reviser - for each paper. They review all the exam questions again.

They work together to make sure that all the questions are clear and error-free.

And our experts make sure the exam questions will test you according to the mark scheme.

When all the individual questions have been finalised, we have a complete paper.

Next, the papers are checked thoroughly and proofread to make sure the printed version matches the version agreed by the panel of experts.

Then an expert in the subject sits your exam paper, checking again that the questions are clear and provide different levels of challenge, and that all the questions can be completed in the time available.

Lastly, our experts approve the exam paper and the final version is now ready.

We send off the paper to be printed at our secure printing centre.

We create over 3,000 different Cambridge IGCSE, O Level and International AS and A Level exam papers every year, including specially modified versions in formats like large print or braille, so that our papers are accessible to as many students as possible.

The printed exam papers are then sent to your school or college, ready for your exam.

“And now you may begin.”

To find out more, visit <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>