



# **Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)**

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**PHYSICS**

**0972/51**

Paper 5 Practical Test

**May/June 2025**

**CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS**



**This document gives details of how to prepare for and administer the practical exam.**

**The information in this document and the identity of any materials supplied by Cambridge International are confidential and must NOT reach candidates either directly or indirectly.**

**The supervisor must complete the report at the end of this document and return it with the scripts.**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

- If you have any queries regarding these confidential instructions, contact Cambridge International stating the centre number, the syllabus and component number and the nature of the query.  
email      [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org)  
phone      +44 1223 553554

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This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

## General information about practical exams

Centres must follow the guidance on science practical exams given in the *Cambridge Handbook*.

### Safety

Supervisors must follow national and local regulations relating to safety and first aid.

Only those procedures described in the question paper should be attempted.

Supervisors must inform candidates that materials and apparatus used in the exam should be treated with caution. Suitable eye protection should be used where necessary.

### Before the exam

- The packets containing the question papers must **not** be opened before the exam.
- It is assumed that standard school laboratory facilities, as indicated in the *Guide to Planning Practical Science*, will be available.
- Spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set must be available for candidates, if required.

### During the exam

- It must be made clear to candidates at the start of the exam that they may request spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set.
- Where specified, the supervisor **must** perform the experiments and record the results as instructed. This must be done **out of sight** of the candidates, using the same materials and apparatus as the candidates.
- Any assistance provided to candidates must be recorded in the supervisor's report.
- If any materials or apparatus need to be replaced, for example, in the event of breakage or loss, this must be recorded in the supervisor's report.

### After the exam

- The supervisor must complete a report for each practical session held and each laboratory used.
- Each packet of scripts returned to Cambridge International must contain the following items:
  - the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
  - the supervisor's results relevant to these candidates
  - the supervisor's reports relevant to these candidates
  - seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
  - the attendance register.

## Specific information for this practical exam

During the exam, the supervisor (**not** the invigilator) must do the experiments in Questions 1, 2 and 3 and record the results on a spare copy of the question paper, clearly labelled 'supervisor's results'.

### Question 1

#### Items to be supplied by the centre (per set of apparatus, unless otherwise specified)

- (i) 50 cm or 30 cm ruler, graduated in mm (candidates may use their own).
- (ii) Spherical ball. A tennis ball or any other ball of similar size is suitable.
- (iii) 2 × rectangular wooden blocks. See note 1.
- (iv) Small dish to hold the ball. A saucer is suitable.
- (v) Balance capable of measuring the mass of the ball to at least the nearest gram. See note 2.

### Notes

- 1 The length of each block must be at least twice the diameter of the ball and the height of each block must be greater than the radius of the ball.
- 2 It is not necessary to supply a balance for each candidate, but candidates must be able easily to use a balance without delay.

### Action at changeover

Check that the apparatus is ready for the next candidate.

### Information required by examiners

A sample set of numerical results, clearly marked 'supervisor's results', obtained out of sight of the candidates.

## Question 2

### Items to be supplied by the centre (per set of apparatus, unless otherwise specified)

- (i) Thermometer,  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $110^{\circ}\text{C}$ , graduated in  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  intervals.
- (ii) Clamp, boss and stand. See note 1.
- (iii)  $250\text{ cm}^3$  beaker, labelled 'A'.
- (iv)  $100\text{ cm}^3$  measuring cylinder.
- (v) Supply of hot water. See notes 2 and 3.
- (vi) Supply of water at room temperature. See note 4.
- (vii) Stirrer. A teaspoon is suitable.
- (viii) Supply of paper towels to mop up any water spillages.

### Notes

1 The thermometer, clamp, boss and stand are to be set up for candidates as in Fig. 2.1. The thermometer bulb must be below the  $100\text{ cm}^3$  level of the beaker. Candidates must be able, easily and safely, to read temperatures up to  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  and to move the thermometer into and out of the beaker.

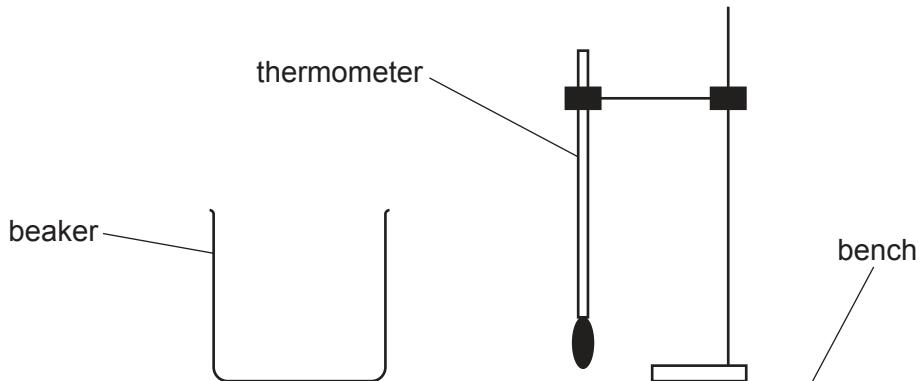


Fig. 2.1

2 The hot water is to be supplied for each candidate by the supervisor. The water should be maintained at a temperature as hot as is reasonably and safely possible. Each candidate will require about  $250\text{ cm}^3$  of hot water.

3 Candidates should be warned of the dangers of burns or scalds when using very hot water.

4 Each candidate will require about  $150\text{ cm}^3$  of water at room temperature. The water should be in a container labelled 'cold water'.

### Action at changeover

Empty beaker A and the measuring cylinder.

Dry the thermometer.

Check the supply of hot water.

Check the supply of water at room temperature.

### Information required by examiners

A sample set of numerical results, clearly marked 'supervisor's results', obtained out of sight of the candidates.

### Question 3

#### Items to be supplied by the centre (per set of apparatus, unless otherwise specified)

- (i) Sheet of plain A4 paper (per candidate) with a hole in one corner so that it can be tied into the question booklet. See note 1.
- (ii) Plane mirror. See note 2.
- (iii) 4 × optics pins. See note 3.
- (iv) Pin board, e.g. a cork mat, A4 size or larger.
- (v) Protractor (candidates may use their own).
- (vi) 50 cm or 30 cm ruler, graduated in mm (candidates may use their own).
- (vii) String or treasury tag (per candidate) to tie the ray-trace sheet ((i) above) into the question booklet.

### Notes

- 1 Spare sheets of plain paper should be available (as in (i)).
- 2 The mirror must be supported to be able to stand with the reflecting surface vertical. A mirror of approximate size 10 cm × 4 cm is suitable.
- 3 Spare pins should be available.

### Action at changeover

Supply a sheet of plain A4 paper (as in (i)) and string or a treasury tag (as in (vii)).

### Information required by examiners

A sample set of numerical results, clearly marked 'supervisor's results', obtained out of sight of the candidates.

### Question 4

No apparatus is required for this question.

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**Supervisor's report**

Syllabus and component number

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Centre number

<input type="text"/>				
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Centre name .....

Time of the practical session .....

Laboratory name/number .....

**Give details of any difficulties experienced by the centre or by candidates (include the relevant candidate names and candidate numbers).**

You must include:

- any difficulties experienced by the centre in the preparation of materials
- any difficulties experienced by candidates, e.g. due to faulty materials or apparatus
- any specific assistance given to candidates.

**Declaration**

- 1 Each packet that I am returning to Cambridge International contains all of the following items:
  - the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
  - the supervisor's results relevant to these candidates
  - the supervisor's reports relevant to these candidates
  - seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
  - the attendance register.
- 2 Where the practical exam has taken place in more than one practical session, I have clearly labelled the supervisor's results, supervisor's reports and seating plans with the time and laboratory name/number for each practical session.
- 3 I have included details of difficulties relating to each practical session experienced by the centre or by candidates.
- 4 I have reported any other adverse circumstances affecting candidates, e.g. illness, bereavement or temporary injury, directly to Cambridge International on a *special consideration form*.

Signed ..... (supervisor)

Name (in block capitals) .....