



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS & ASSESSMENT

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A message for candidates and their families

As a trusted provider of education around the world, we have been running international examinations for more than 150 years. Schools enter candidates for our assessments because of their educational value and because the results are widely recognised as valid, reliable, fair, and impartial by employers, universities, and other schools. We understand how important it is for our candidates and their families to have confidence in our exams, which is why we have such rigorous processes and regulations. The responsibility to maintain the security of our question papers is one we share with our schools.

What has happened?

We have written to your school to tell them that, against our regulations, content from the Cambridge International AS Level Mathematics (9709/12) question paper was available before the timetabled exam date in your country. We cannot use 9709/12 to award final exam results for this syllabus. We are therefore cancelling this paper, and it will not be used to generate results through calculated assessment.

What action is Cambridge taking?

We are providing a replacement question paper for Cambridge International AS Level Mathematics (9709/12) which is timetabled for Tuesday 9 June 2026. You will sit this replacement paper, along with all candidates in countries affected by this question paper leak, and we are working closely with your school to make this as straightforward as possible.

We recognise that asking you to prepare for and sit an additional exam causes extra work and disruption at an already busy time – for you, your family and your school and we appreciate the frustration that replacing the question paper may cause. We understand and share this frustration.

We also appreciate that many candidates will not have seen the question paper content before their timetabled exam. However, we cannot award fair and valid grades to all candidates for this syllabus when we know that question paper material was shared before the exam.

Our priority is to make sure that no candidate is disadvantaged by the malpractice of a few. We would like to reassure you that the actions we are taking protect candidates who have not viewed question paper content before the exam and ensure they receive a reliable and fair grade that allows them to progress with their education and next life steps. In addition, our actions also make sure that candidates who have chosen to access question paper content before their exam do not have any advantage and will not achieve higher marks by cheating.

Can candidates request to receive an assessed mark for paper 12 rather than sitting the replacement question paper on 9 June?

No. You cannot request to receive a calculated mark for paper 12; you must sit the replacement exam. We will share more information with your school about June 2026 withdrawals and November 2026 entries by 15 May.



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Cambridge International Education is the name of our awarding body and a part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is a department of the University of Cambridge.

Will Cambridge still issue grades?

Yes – we will issue a syllabus grade in the usual way, on our planned results day. We will also still issue Percentage Uniform Marks as usual, and your results will still be considered for the Outstanding Cambridge Learners' Awards and be accepted by universities.

Are candidates disadvantaged by the action Cambridge is taking?

No, candidates will not be disadvantaged. We are making sure we can award you a fair and reliable final grade. Our actions make sure that candidates who accessed question paper content before their exam do not have any advantage and will not achieve higher marks by cheating. We are protecting the integrity of the assessment and making sure that it remains a trusted qualification by schools and universities worldwide.

Is Cambridge investigating why this has happened?

Yes. We take cases of malpractice extremely seriously. Multiple investigations are ongoing. Where a school, or candidate, is proven to have committed malpractice involving question papers, we take decisive action. For centres, it is likely to mean deregistration, and we share this information with other Awarding Organisations. For candidates it is likely to mean disqualification and barring from entering our exams.

I hope this letter helps to explain what has happened, the actions we are taking, and why. If you still have questions or feel you need more information, please talk to your exams officer so that they can support you and share your questions with us.

Best wishes

Debbie Howes

Director of Assessment Principles and Communication