



Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary Checkpoint Updates – Frequently Asked Questions

What changes are we making to Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary Checkpoint?

Cambridge will introduce the following changes starting in 2026:

1. A new test series scheduled for early March, known as the ‘Cambridge Checkpoint test series (March 2026)’.
2. The May test series will be rescheduled for late May.
3. Moving to a one-week timetable for each test series. Tests must be taken on the days defined by Cambridge. Schools can choose what time their learners take the test(s) on the test day.

Why are the changes being made?

1. The introduction of a new test series in early March will suit schools whose end of academic year is in March/April.
2. Rescheduling the May series for late May will better suit schools where the academic year ends in May/June and will also allow for more teaching time.
3. By introducing a one-week timetable, we are increasing test security.

When will the changes come into effect?

The changes listed above will be introduced in 2026. The first test series with the changes will be the March 2026 test series.

Will these changes impact any of the 2025 test series?

No, the 2025 test series will not be impacted by these changes.

Which subjects with Cambridge Checkpoint tests will this impact?

Subject	Curriculum code
Cambridge Primary English	0058
Cambridge Primary English as a Second Language	0057

Cambridge Primary Mathematics	0096
Cambridge Primary Science	0097
Cambridge Lower Secondary English	0861
Cambridge Lower Secondary English as a Second Language	0876
Cambridge Lower Secondary Mathematics	0862
Cambridge Lower Secondary Science	0893

Will Cambridge Global Perspectives™ be affected?

Results for Cambridge Global Perspectives will be released at the same time as the test series. Everything else will remain the same. Cambridge Global Perspectives will only be offered in the May and October test series. It will not be available in March.

What countries will the March test series be available to?

It will be available globally.

Will there be different tests for different administrative zones?

No, we will not produce administrative zone versions of the tests. Each subject test in a series will be the same for everyone.

When should we start teaching for the March 2026 test series?

Most schools will start teaching from March/April 2025 for learners taking their Checkpoint tests in March 2026.

Will the standard of the tests be the same in the March test series?

Yes, the standard of performance that a learner needs to demonstrate to achieve a given Cambridge Checkpoint score or performance band will be the same.

Will there be any changes to Progression tests?

No, Progression tests will still be available for schools every January.

Exam administration questions

When will the Cambridge Checkpoint series take place in 2026?

Cambridge Checkpoint test series 2026	Test dates
March test series	4-11 March 2026
May test series	Late May 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)
October test series	Mid-October 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)

The dates above are approximate. We are aiming to confirm them by early March 2025.

When will you publish the timetable for each 2026 test series?

Cambridge Checkpoint test series 2026	Timetable publication date
March test series	End of July 2025
May test series	End of October 2025
October test series	End of March 2026

Exact dates for timetable publication are to be confirmed.

What is the final entries deadline for each 2026 test series?

Cambridge Checkpoint test series 2026	Final entry deadlines
March test series	27 November 2025
May test series	February 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)
October test series	August 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)

When will you publish results for each 2026 test series?

Cambridge Checkpoint test series 2026	Results day
March test series	14 May 2026
May test series	July 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)
October test series	December 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)

What happens if we have feedback on the timetabling of the new test series?

It takes us around nine months to produce the timetable for each test series that minimises clashes and logistical problems for our schools. We do appreciate that we cannot resolve every timetable issue for every learner worldwide. We therefore aim to produce timetables that work for the majority of learners. We will give you information on how to provide feedback on our timetables when we publish them.

Will there be more than one test on a timetabled day?

Yes, but only for the same Cambridge Checkpoint subject. For example, both Cambridge Primary Checkpoint Mathematics tests will be timetabled to take place on the same day. Different subjects will not be assessed on the same day, except for English and English as a Second Language, where learners cannot enter for both.

Can we run the tests on a different date from the one set by Cambridge?

No. All tests from the March 2026 test series onwards must be taken on the timetabled dates set by Cambridge.

Do we have to run the Cambridge Checkpoint tests at a set time on the timetabled days?

No. Schools can run tests at any time on the timetabled test day.

This gives schools the flexibility to start the tests at a time that suits their learners. For example, Cambridge Lower Secondary Science Paper 1 could start at 10:00 am and Cambridge Lower Secondary Science Paper 2 could start at 1:00 pm.

Do we have to tell Cambridge what time we are running the tests on the test day?

No, schools do not need to tell Cambridge what time they are scheduling the tests on the test day.

Will there be any changes to the existing test durations?

No, the test durations will remain the same.

Will the processes and tasks for administering the tests remain the same?

Yes, you should still use the Cambridge Handbook for information on administering Cambridge Checkpoint tests.

Can we choose which series my school makes entries for?

Yes, all Cambridge schools are allowed to make entries in any of the test series – March, May and October. As a school, you can also choose to enter learners in more than one test series in a year. The three series are offered to give you flexibility to fit the test schedule around the needs of your school.

What happens if a learner is ill and misses a test?

Learners must take all tests for a subject in the **same series** to be eligible for a result in that subject. If a learner is ill and misses a test for a subject, they will not receive a result in that subject. This is not a change to our existing rules.

From 2026, learners who miss a test cannot take it on a different day. This is because this would compromise the security of the new tests, which have to be taken on the timetabled day set by Cambridge.

Special consideration is not available for Cambridge Checkpoint tests. The reason is that special consideration adjustments relate to the total mark for a test. They cannot be applied at strand level. A key feature of Cambridge Checkpoint is reporting back on learners' performance at both strand and subject level.

As an example, to determine a learner's test score accurately and reliably in the Cambridge Checkpoint Science 'biology' strand, we need to know the mark the learner achieved in every question targeting biology across the two science tests. There are questions and sub-questions which target biology in Paper 1 and in Paper 2. If a learner misses one of the tests, we do not have a representative enough picture of their performance in biology to determine their Cambridge Checkpoint strand score in biology.

If a learner does not receive a result, you can enter them into the next available test series. Refer to section 2.4.1 of the [Cambridge Handbook](#) for guidance on medical-related withdrawals.

What training is available for exams officers?

We run comprehensive and free online training for exams officers administering our Cambridge Checkpoint test series. To book onto our training, see our [Cambridge exams officer eNewsletter](#) or our [Professional Development Calendar](#).