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OxfordAQA International GCSE CORE Physics (9223)

Specimen paper information

For teaching from September 2025 onwards For International GCSE exams in June 2026 onwards

INTRODUCTION

This document details the subject content assessed in the specimen paper for the International GCSE CORE Physics specification 9223.

The purpose of this information is to support teaching and revision. It is provided in the context of this specimen paper being released for schools to use as a mock examination in May 2025.

MOCK EXAM PREPARATION

OxfordAQA is providing information on the focus of the content of the upcoming specimen papers for the GCSE CORE subjects. The purpose of this information is to support teaching and revision in preparing students ahead of sitting the specimen papers as internal mock examinations.

The materials may be shared with students and referred to at any point from the date of release. However, we do not advise that students bring these materials into their mock examinations.

WHAT ARE THE KEY PRINCIPLES TO THIS INFORMATION?

- We have avoided providing too much detail, so that students don't attempt to preprepare responses.
- We have made sure this information does not:
 - o directly provide answers to any questions
 - compromise the capability of mock examinations to sufficiently differentiate between student performance.

HOW AND WHEN SHOULD THIS INFORMATION BE USED?

- It can be used as soon as the information is released.
- It can be used flexibly by centres to support student revision and exam preparation. You may choose to allow students to access to this information before their mock examination to focus their revision and mock examination preparation.
- We advise against bringing this information into the mock examination.

INFORMATION

- The information is presented in specification order and not in question order.
- The format/structure of the paper is as follows: 100 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes, structured and open questions assessing the four assessment objectives and selected elements of the maths skills and practical skills as listed in the specification.

ADVICE

- The following areas of content are suggested as key areas of focus for revision and final preparation, in relation to GCSE CORE specimen paper.
- Topics not assessed directly in questions have been listed.
- Assessment of practical skills and maths skills will occur throughout the specimen paper.
- Students will be expected to apply their knowledge to unfamiliar contexts.

PAPER 1 – 100 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes

The table shows the major focus of the content of the specimen paper.

For schools currently teaching Cambridge iGCSE Physics (0625 or 0972) Core Tier, any major subject content differences assessed within the paper have been highlighted in the third column:

Topic heading	Content assessed	Does the content assessed appear in Cambridge iGCSE Physics Core tier?	Marks*
Forces and their interactions	3.1.1e, h, RPA1	3.1.1h is supplement content in the Cambridge specification	14
Resultant forces	3.1.3b, c, d, e, f, g	3.1.3d, e is supplement content in the Cambridge specification	13
Centre of mass	3.1.7a, b, c	Some content not in the Cambridge specification	7
General properties of waves	3.3.1e, h	Yes	8
Sound and ultrasound	3.3.3a	Yes	2
Kinetic theory	3.4.1b	Supplement content in the Cambridge specification	6
Energy transfers and particle motion	3.4.2a	Yes	3
Electrical circuits	3.5.1c, g, m, RPA4	3.5.1c, m is supplement content in the Cambridge specification	16
Using electricity in the home	3.6.3e, f	Yes	7
Transferring electrical energy	3.6.5b, c	Yes	6
Atomic structure	3.7.1c, d, e, f	3.7.1c, d has some supplement content and some content not in the Cambridge specification	9
lonizing radiation from the nucleus	3.7.2e, g, h	3.7.2e has some content not in the Cambridge specification	7
Life cycle of a star	3.8.1a, b, f, g, h, j	Supplement content with some content not in the Cambridge specification	8

* The specimen paper is 100 marks total, however some questions are designed to cover multiple topics so this table includes more than 100 marks.

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REQUIRED PRACTICAL THAT WILL BE ASSESSED

- Required practical 1: Investigate the relationship between force and extension for a spring.
- Required practical 4: Investigate the V–I characteristics of a filament lamp, a diode and a resistor at constant temperature.

TOPICS NOT DIRECTLY ASSESSED IN THE SPECIMEN PAPER FROM THIS SPECIFICATION

- 3.1.2 Motion
- 3.1.5 Safety in public transport
- 3.2.1 Forces and energy
- 3.2.2 Energy transfers, conservation and dissipation of energy
- 3.2.3 Energy resources
- 3.3.2 The electromagnetic spectrum
- 3.3.4 Reflection
- 3.3.5 Refraction and total internal reflection
- 3.5.2 Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 3.6.2 Electricity transmission and distribution
- 3.8.2 Solar system and orbital motion