



Wednesday, February 27, 2019

The use of calculators during the CAIE exams Cambridge Assessment International Examination

Dear Parents,

We are writing this in order to clarify an aspect related to the use of calculators during the IGCSE and AS_L exams. Some of our students have used during the course of this year scientific calculators (or graphical calculators) that have a number of functions available that are not allowed in the exam. Although it is acceptable for them to use these calculators during the year in the class, it will not be acceptable for them to use these calculators during the exams.

Please see below the information and guidance taken from the Cambridge Handbook for administering exams related to the use of calculators during the exams:

“It is expected that candidates will have a calculator with standard ‘scientific’ functions available for use for all papers in the examination. Computers, graphical calculators and calculators capable of algebraic manipulation are not permitted.”

“Calculators with any of the facilities or features as mentioned on the Cambridge Handbook (graphic display, data banks, dictionaries, language translators, retrieval or manipulation of formulae, QWERTY keyboards, built-in symbolic algebraic manipulations, symbolic differentiation or integration, capability of any remote communication) are prohibited during the exam.

Whilst graphical calculators are indeed an excellent tool for students to use in class, as part of our assessment we often assess the candidate’s ability to plot graphs accurately, that they understand how to draw a best-fit line, and can correctly calculate a gradient showing their working. These are basic skills, which would not be assessed if candidates were to return an answer from their calculator.”

Can you please ensure that your son/daughter acquires a scientific calculator that meets these criteria’s within the next couple of weeks? This is of course if they don’t already have one. If they have one already and they think it meets the criteria’s, please ask them to see the Head of Mathematics in the school in order to ensure the calculator can be used in the exam.

The school will acquire scientific calculators which will be available in the exam room in case of need. We are also happy to offer you the chance of acquiring the calculators through the school office. If this is your preferred option, please see Ms. Georgescu in the office and she will make the necessary arrangements.

It is highly important for your son/daughter to get used to using the calculators during the revision period and by the time of the exam in May.

For guidance, the calculator that you will find in the school office (and you can buy from the school) is **Cannon F-715SG**. Any other scientific calculator that has similar functions will be acceptable for exam use.

Thank you,

Kind regards,

Ciprian TIPLEA
Deputy Head of School