

Cambridge CAIE Further Mathematics 9231

Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Session	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Nov 2025	210	180	150	126	102	79

Out of 250 (AC combination — Papers 1, 2, 3, 4). Source: Cambridge International published grade threshold table, Nov 2025. Always verify current thresholds at [cambridgeinternational.org](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org).

Command Word Mastery

Mark schemes for Cambridge CAIE 9231 attach specific meaning to each command word below. Misreading one of these costs marks a student's working had already earned.

Command Word	What It Demands	Common Student Error	Workshop Fix
Hence, or otherwise	Use the established result if possible — but a complete alternative valid method is also acceptable	Assuming "otherwise" requires a shortcut, when a full alternative method is equally valid	Drill phase: comparing "Hence" vs "Hence, or otherwise" questions side by side
Prove	A complete, rigorous logical argument — every step justified, no assumed results	Demonstrating a result for several cases and treating that as proof, rather than a general argument	Anatomy phase: deconstructing what Cambridge accepts as "proof" for induction and identities
Justify	State the reasoning behind a modelling assumption or choice of method, not just the assumption itself	Stating an assumption (e.g. "the string is light") without explaining why it is appropriate	Close phase: peer comparison of justification wording against the mark scheme
Determine	Calculate a value and present it clearly as the final answer, with method shown	Leaving an answer unsimplified or in non-exact form when a specific form was implied	Open Forum: rapid drills on presenting "Determine" answers in the expected form