

Cambridge CAIE Mathematics 9709

Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Session	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Nov 2025	227	204	176	140	104	69
Jun 2025	225	201	175	136	97	59

Out of 250 (AC combination — Papers 1, 3, 4, 5). Source: Cambridge International published grade threshold tables, Nov 2025 & Jun 2025. Always verify current thresholds at [cambridgeinternational.org](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org).

Command Word Mastery

Mark schemes for Cambridge CAIE 9709 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	Use the result from the previous part — do not restart from first principles	Ignoring the earlier result and solving independently, losing the marks attached to using it	Drill phase: explicit "Hence" chaining exercises across past Paper 1 and 3 questions
Show that	Provide sufficient working to justify the given answer — the answer is already known, the working is what is marked	Stopping once the given answer is reached, without showing the intermediate steps required	Anatomy phase: line-by-line mark scheme deconstruction of "Show that" questions
Verify	Substitute and confirm — demonstrate the given value satisfies the condition, with working shown	Stating "yes, it works" without the substitution and calculation the mark scheme requires	Close phase: peer comparison of verification write-ups against the mark scheme
State	Give the answer with no working required — but in the precise form expected (e.g. exact value, not decimal)	Over-working a "State" question, or giving a rounded decimal where an exact form was required	Open Forum: rapid-fire "State" drills to build instinct for required precision