

External Assessment

The external assessment consists of three written papers.

Paper 1

Paper 1 is made up of multiple-choice questions that test knowledge of the core only for students at SL and the core and AHL material for students at HL. The questions are designed to be short, one- or two-stage problems that address objectives 1 and 2 (see the “Objectives” section). No marks are deducted for incorrect responses. Calculators are not permitted, but students are expected to carry out simple calculations.

Paper 2

Paper 2 tests knowledge of the core only for students at SL and the core and AHL material for students at HL. The questions address objectives 1, 2 and 3 and the paper is divided into two sections.

In section A, there is a data-based question that requires students to analyse a given set of data. The remainder of section A is made up of short-answer questions.

In section B, students at SL are required to answer one question from a choice of three, and students at HL are required to answer two questions from a choice of four. These extended-response questions may involve writing a number of paragraphs, solving a substantial problem, or carrying out a substantial piece of analysis or evaluation. A calculator is required for this paper.

Paper 3

Paper 3 tests knowledge of the options and addresses objectives 1, 2 and 3. Students at SL are required to answer several short-answer questions in each of the two options studied. Students at HL are required to answer several short-answer questions and an extended-response question in each of the two options studied. A calculator is required for this paper.

A clean copy of the *Physics data booklet* is required for papers 1, 2 and 3 at both SL and HL.

Note: Wherever possible, teachers should use, and encourage students to use, the *Système International d’Unités* (International System of Units—SI units).

SL assessment specifications

Component	Overall weighting (%)	Approximate weighting of objectives (%)		Duration (hours)	Format and syllabus coverage
		1+2	3		
Paper 1	20	20		$\frac{3}{4}$	30 multiple-choice questions on the core
Paper 2	32	16	16	$1\frac{1}{4}$	Section A: one data-based question and several short-answer questions on the core (all compulsory) Section B: one extended-response question on the core (from a choice of three)
Paper 3	24	12	12	1	Several short-answer questions in each of the two options studied (all compulsory)