

Calculator guidance for CIMA exams

Overview

This guidance applies to all CIMA exams, both objective tests and case study exams where the use of a calculator is applicable. Students are allowed to take non-programmable calculators from a pre-approved list into exams at Pearson VUE test centres.

Personal calculators must be presented to the exam administrator before the exam. Our pre-approved list below provides guidance on types of acceptable calculators. It is not possible to provide an exhaustive list as new models are launched regularly.



Health warning

It is your responsibility to check the functionality of your calculator before you use it in our exams.

Please note:

- If you decide to bring a calculator to the exam, the exam administrator will check that it matches a model from the pre-approved list.
- You cannot bring this guidance into the exam room with you.

Exam software calculators

You do not have to bring a personal calculator to the exam. A computer-based (on-screen) scientific calculator will be available as part of your exam. These calculators are not programmable and therefore do not allow the possibility of an unfair advantage in the exam.

The exam will start with a 15 minute tutorial where you will receive instructions on how to use the onscreen calculator and have the opportunity to practise using it

You can also practice using the computer based calculator by [downloading the exam tutorial](#) (installable MSI version) from Pearson VUE.

Types of acceptable calculators

- scientific calculators, including those with basic programming functions
- calculators with standard memory functions
- financial calculators
- solar-powered calculators.

Types of unacceptable calculators

- alphanumeric keyboards (an alphanumeric display of stored data – including text – equations or alphabetic formulae)
- personal organisers
- checklists and memo pads
- capability for external programming (whether by detachable modules or the insertion of cards, tape, barcodes or cassettes, or any other means)
- graphical display (which typically have large screens)
- symbolic algebraic capability
- calculator functions on mobile phones
- calculators which do not have their own internal power supply
- programmable/Graphing calculators

Features of a programmable calculator

The main difference between programmable and non-programmable calculators is that there is no function button on non-programmable calculators.

- Programmable calculators are capable of
 - storing text or alphanumeric data input by a user.
 - storing, manipulating or graphing functions entered in the symbolic form.
 - performing operations such as differentiation, definite integration, algebraic expressions, binomial expansion, symbolic differentiation and the solution to a system of equations.
 - external communication or Internet connectivity.



Pre-approved list of calculators

All non-programmable calculators are permitted. List of non-programmable calculators of the most popular brands include CASIO, SHARP, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS and HEWLETT PACKARD

CASIO - all fx models, except graphing/graphic display models. Examples of current models are listed below (this is not an exhaustive list) fx-****. *CASIO fx-83 series & fx-85 series* - are recommended for students with dyslexia

991EX	82ES PLUS	570ES PLUS
82EX	991MS	350ES PLUS
570EX	95MS	FC-200V
350EX	85MS	FC-100V
991ES PLUS	82MS	100MS
95ES PLUS	570MS	MS-80VER
85ES PLUS	350MS	

SHARP – most EL models, except EL-9950 (which is a graphing model). Examples of current models are listed below (this is not an exhaustive list) EL-****

W506T	509X
W531TH	501X
W531TG	W506
W560X	W531
W531X, XH, XG	531WH
506X	510RN
520X	738F
531XH, XG	733A
738FL	

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS – The following scientific/financial models. TI *****

BAll PLUS	30XIIS
30XS	30Xa
34 Multiview	

Hewlett Packard - The following scientific/financial models. HP *****

35s	17bII
300s+	10bII
10s	12C
12C Platinum	



Canon – The following model:

F-789SGA

Citizen – All SDC models, as well as:

SR-275

SPC-888

You should refer to your calculator manufacturer's handbook for full details on the functionality of your calculator.

Updating the pre-approved list of calculators

CIMA reserve the right to review and update the list of permitted calculators twice a year. Students and tuition providers are welcome to submit approval requests for calculator models not currently on the pre-approved list above. However, such requests will be logged and only considered during the bi-annual reviews in June and December.

How do I submit a calculator approval request?

Please submit your request in writing to cima.contact@aicpa-cima.com. Make sure you include the full name of the calculator model and model number.

You will receive an acknowledgement email from our Customer Contract support team. However, please note your request will only be considered in the next bi-annual review in June or December.

I have more questions about my CIMA exams?

Please contact our CIMA Customer Contact support team cima.contact@aicpa-cima.com