



AICPA® & CIMA®

Together as the Association of International
Certified Professional Accountants

Calculator guidance for CIMA's exams

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Overview

This guidance applies to all CIMA's exams, both objective tests and case study exams, where calculator use is applicable. Students are allowed to take non-programmable calculators from a preapproved list into exams both online and in Pearson VUE test centres.

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

Exam software calculators



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 preapproved list.
- You cannot bring this guidance into the exam room with you.

You do not have to bring a 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 on-screen calculator and have the opportunity to practise using it.

You can also get familiar with the computer-based calculator [on this tutorials page](#).



Types of calculators

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 that do not have their 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 solving a system of equations.
 - external communication or internet connectivity.

All non-programmable calculators are permitted.

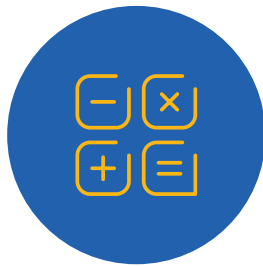
Pre-approved list of calculators

The most popular brands of non-programmable calculators 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)
The fx-**** CASIO fx-83 series & fx-85 series are recommended for students with dyslexia.

- 991EX
- 82EX
- 570EX
- 350EX
- 991ES PLUS
- 95ES PLUS
- 85ES PLUS
- 82ES PLUS
- 991MS
- 95MS
- 85MS
- 82MS
- 570MS
- 350MS
- 570ES PLUS
- 350ES PLUS
- FC-200V
- FC-100V
- 100MS
- MS-80VER
- FX115MS
- FX220 Plus
- FX83GTX
- FX-85GTX
- MS-120BM



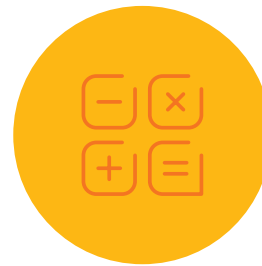
Sharp – Most EL models, except EL-9950 (which is a graphing model). Examples of current models are listed below (this is not an exhaustive list)
EL-****

- W506T
- W531TH
- W531TG
- W560X
- W531X, XH, XG
- 506X
- 520X
- 531XH, XG
- 738FL
- 509X
- 501X
- W506
- W531
- 531WH
- 510RN
- 738F
- 733A
- W535SA



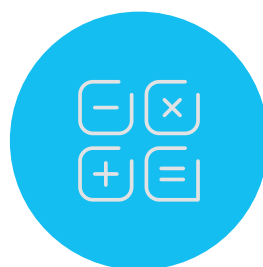
Texas Instruments – The following scientific/financial models: TI *****

- BAll PLUS
- 30XS
- 34 Multiview
- 30XIIS
- 30Xa
- 5018SV



Hewlett Packard – The following scientific/financial models: HP *****

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



Canon – The following model:

- F-789SGA



Citizen – All SDC models, as well as:

- SR-275
- SPC-888



AURORA – The following model:

- AX-582BL

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

Updating the preapproved list of calculators

CIMA reserves the right to review and update the list of permitted calculators twice a year. Candidates and tuition providers are welcome to submit approval requests for calculator models not currently on the preapproved list above. However, such requests will be logged and only considered during the biannual reviews in June and December.

Please submit your request in writing to assessment.team@aicpa-cima.com.

How do I submit a calculator approval request?

Make sure you include the full name of the calculator model and model number.

You will receive an acknowledgment email from our Customer Contact support team. However, please note your request will only be considered in the next biannual review in June or December.



For any other questions about CIMA's exams, please contact us [here](#).



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