



Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board



CAMBRIDGE
International Education

**Singapore–Cambridge General Certificate of Education
Ordinary Level (2026)**

**Bahasa Indonesia as a
Third Language
(Syllabus 1136)**

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INTRODUCTION

This document provides details of the Ordinary Level Bahasa Indonesia as a Third Language syllabus for candidates in **Singapore**.

AIM

The aim of the *Bahasa Indonesia as a Third Language* syllabus is to develop students' communicative ability in, and understanding of, Bahasa Indonesia and of the culture of countries where Bahasa Indonesia is spoken so as to enable them to develop strong relationships with speakers of Bahasa Indonesia and citizens of countries where it is spoken.

THE LANGUAGE

The language studied and assessed is the standard version of Bahasa Indonesia which is used in countries where Bahasa Indonesia is spoken.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

At the end of the four years of study of Bahasa Indonesia, students should be able to:

- exchange information, opinions, ideas, experiences and plans in spoken and written texts in Bahasa Indonesia
- express ideas, information and experiences in written texts in Bahasa Indonesia
- analyse, process and respond to texts that are in Bahasa Indonesia
- understand aspects of language use
- understand and appreciate the relationship between language and culture.

ASSESSMENT

AVAILABILITY

This syllabus is available in November only.

RULES OF COMBINATION

Candidates will take Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

This examination assumes that students have completed a four-year programme of study in Bahasa Indonesia. It is based on the aim, assessment objectives, teaching and learning principles and content of the teaching syllabus for O-Level Bahasa Indonesia as a Third Language.

The examination format is as follows:

| Paper | Title | Item type | Weighting | Duration |
|-------|--|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1 | Writing Section 1: Correspondence Section 2: Composition | OE | 20% | 1 hour 45 minutes |
| 2 | Reading Comprehension and Language Usage Section 1: Reading Comprehension Section 2: Language Usage | MCQ/FIB/OE | 30% | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| 3 | Listening Comprehension | MCQ | 20% | approx. 30 minutes |
| 4 | Oral Section 1: Reading Aloud Section 2: Conversation | OE | 30% | approx. 15 minutes |
| Total | | | 100% | |

DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS

PAPER 1: Writing (1 hour 45 minutes) (20 marks)

This paper is made up of two sections:

Section 1: Correspondence (5 marks)

Section 2: Composition (15 marks)

Section 1 of the paper is designed to assess students' ability to provide and exchange information, and express personal ideas through writing texts in Bahasa Indonesia, in the form of, for example, a short note, a message, an email or a personal note. Students are required to answer one of two questions by responding to a brief scenario, an instruction or a stimulus text with or without visuals and are expected to write a response of 50–70 words.

Section 2 of the paper is designed to assess students' ability to express personal ideas and opinions, recount an episode or event or describe plans, through writing a text in Bahasa Indonesia. Students are required to answer one of three questions. The questions set may require students to respond to a picture or a series of pictures, write a descriptive text or a narrative. Students are expected to write a minimum of 170 words.

The use of a monolingual dictionary without any annotations is allowed for this paper.

PAPER 2: Reading Comprehension and Language Usage (1 hour 15 minutes) (30 marks)

This paper is made up of two sections:

Section 1: Reading Comprehension (25 marks)

Section 2: Language Usage (5 marks)

Section 1 of the paper is made up of Part A and Part B.

Part A is designed to assess students' understanding of written Bahasa Indonesia. For Part A, students are required to read and comprehend a text with graphic(s) and provide answers to multiple choice questions. The text with graphic(s) could include, for example, an advertisement, itinerary, promotion, information chart, brochure, TV guide, web page, recipe, menu, etc.

For Part B, students are required to read and comprehend a narrative, descriptive or expository text (approximately 200 words) and to answer open-ended questions. This part of the paper will also have multiple choice questions testing vocabulary based on the passage.

Part A carries 10 marks and Part B carries 15 marks.

Section 2 of the paper is designed to assess students' understanding of language features of a text. Students are required to fill in the blanks in a gapped passage. Students select the correct word from a set of given words.

If Papers 1 and 2 are examined on the same day, there will be at least a 30-minute break between the two papers.

PAPER 3: Listening Comprehension (approx. 30 minutes) (15 marks weighted to 20 marks)

This paper is designed to assess students' ability to understand aural texts in Bahasa Indonesia. Students listen to five or six short texts (e.g. conversations, announcements, speeches, talks, interviews, news reports, advertisements, instructions, short narratives, etc.) and respond to a total of 15 multiple choice questions based on these texts. Each text is played twice.

PAPER 4: Oral (approx. 15 minutes) (30 marks)

This paper is made up of two sections:

Section 1: Reading Aloud (10 marks)

Section 2: Conversation (20 marks)

Section 1 is designed to assess students' ability to read aloud a text in Bahasa Indonesia with good pronunciation and intonation. Section 2 is designed to assess students' ability to use Bahasa Indonesia in exchanging information and ideas orally about personal interests and general experiences.

In Section 1, the student reads aloud a passage in Bahasa Indonesia to the external examiner. In Section 2, the examiner will engage the student in a conversation about the student's personal worlds, e.g. life, family, education, friends, interests and aspirations. This part of the conversation will last approximately 2 minutes. The examiner will then engage the student in a conversation based on a topic chosen from the list given below. The broad topics in the list relate to Singapore. This part of the conversation will last approximately 2 minutes. Students may refer to personal experiences related to the topic. The examiner will then engage the student in a conversation on a topic chosen by the student himself/herself, based on the list given below. This part of the conversation will last approximately 2 minutes. Notes, pictures and cue cards are **not** allowed.

Each candidate will spend approximately 15 minutes on this paper, including 5 minutes of preparation time.

List of topics for Conversation which relate to Singapore:

- 1 Community (e.g. neighbourhoods, interesting places, shopping malls, etc.).
- 2 Culture (e.g. food, festivals, national celebrations, etc.).
- 3 Environment (e.g. energy conservation, water resources, pollution, land use, etc.).
- 4 Lifestyle (e.g. youth and their concerns, health concerns, sport and recreation, etc.).

TABLE OF SPECIFICATION

| Paper | Component | Item Type | No. of Items | Weighting (Marks) |
|---|---|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 (1 hour 45 minutes) | Writing | OE | 2 out of 5 | 20% (20) |
| | Section 1: Correspondence Candidates answer 1 question out of 2 from this section, writing 50–70 words. | | 2 (Answer 1) | 5% (5) |
| | Section 2: Composition Candidates answer 1 question out of 3 from this section, writing at least 170 words. | | 3 (Answer 1) | 15% (15) |
| 2 (1 hour 15 minutes) | Reading Comprehension and Language Usage | MCQ and OE | 16 | 30% (30) |
| | Section 1: Reading Comprehension Part A – Text with graphic(s) which may include charts, advertisements, TV guides, itineraries etc. followed by multiple choice questions. Part B – An extended reading passage followed by open-ended questions and multiple choice questions on vocabulary. | | 5 | 10% (10) |
| | Section 2: Language Usage A gapped passage (descriptive, narrative or expository) will be set. | FIB | 6 | 15% (15) |
| 3 (approx. 30 minutes) | Listening Comprehension Candidates answer multiple choice questions based on recorded texts. The following types of texts may be set: conversations, announcements, speeches, talks, interviews, news reports, advertisements, instructions, short narratives, etc. | MCQ | 15 | 20% (20) |
| 4 (approx. 15 minutes – including 5 minutes preparation time) | Oral | OE | 2 | 30% (30) |
| | Section 1: Reading Aloud Candidates read aloud a descriptive, narrative or expository passage. | | 1 passage | 10% (10) |
| | Section 2: Conversation Candidates hold a conversation about their personal worlds, e.g. life, family, education, friends, interests and aspirations. Candidates hold a conversation on a topic related to Singapore. Candidates hold a conversation on a topic of their choice, which may develop in other directions. | OE | 3 topics | 20% (20) |
| Total | | | | 100% (100) |

Key: MCQ Multiple choice questions
 FIB Fill-in-the-blank type questions
 OE Open-ended question