

## Calculator regulations

Candidates are expected to make appropriate use of electronic calculators in the examinations. It is the responsibility of each candidate to bring a suitable calculator to the examination and to ensure that it is in good working order.

Scientific calculators are permitted in all the Society's examinations, but, to ensure fairness to all candidates, the use of calculators with sophisticated graphical and other facilities is not allowed. Detailed regulations governing calculators are given below.

Invigilators are instructed to prevent the use of calculators that appear to contravene the regulations. If you feel that there is any possibility that your calculator may not be regarded as acceptable, you should have a more basic model as a back-up.

When considering how to present results obtained from use of calculators, candidates should appreciate that examination questions do not normally focus solely on statistical calculations. Rather, calculations arise naturally in the context of solving statistical problems. Examiners expect candidates to understand the rationale behind required calculations, to be able to carry them out and to be able to interpret the results in the context of the practical problem being dealt with.

Candidates are therefore strongly advised to indicate methods lying behind calculations. Examiners seek to award credit for use of correct methods whenever appropriate, even if numerical results are incorrect.

## Detailed regulations

Candidates may use electronic calculators in all the Society's examinations subject to the following conditions:

Calculators must be silent, must have visual display only and must be battery or solar powered. Candidates are not permitted to make use of external power sources for their calculators.

The screen must not be capable of showing more than two lines of output.

Hand-held personal computers are not permitted.

Calculators with any of the following facilities are **not** permitted:

- full alphabetic keyboard (including combined alphabetic and numeric keypads as found on mobile phones); but this ban does not apply to calculators with hexadecimal features that involve keys labelled A to F (these keys may double as memory locations) - such calculators are permitted;
- capacity to display graphs;
- printing;



- capacity to retrieve, manipulate or display text or formulae (apart from the names of mathematical functions, and error or other system messages);
- data banks;
- dictionaries or language translation;
- communication with other devices or the internet.

Candidates may not bring instruction manuals for calculators into the examination room.

Some examples of acceptable and prohibited calculators are displayed in the "Guide to examinations (Ex1)" document that is accessible from our [Key Information](#) page. It may be helpful to note that the keypad of an acceptable calculator may contain digits, arithmetic operations and a selection of scientific functions, but it may not be a full alphabetic one. Of the examples of prohibited calculators, some have screens capable of displaying graphs, and some have full alphabetic keyboards.

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