
GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE: SYNERGY 8465/3F

Foundation Tier Paper 3 Physical Sciences

Mark scheme

June 2024

Version: 1.0 Final



Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

No student should be disadvantaged on the basis of their gender identity and/or how they refer to the gender identity of others in their exam responses.

A consistent use of 'they/them' as a singular and pronouns beyond 'she/her' or 'he/him' will be credited in exam responses in line with existing mark scheme criteria.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from aqa.org.uk

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Information to Examiners

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question
- the total marks available for the question
- the typical answer or answers which are expected
- extra information to help the examiner make their judgement
- the Assessment Objectives and specification content that each question is intended to cover.

The extra information is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example: where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation; or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right-hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent (for example, a scientifically correct answer that could not reasonably be expected from a student's knowledge of the specification).

2. Emboldening and underlining

- 2.1** In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following bullet points is a potential mark.
- 2.2** A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.
- 2.3** Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **or**.
Alternative words in the mark scheme are shown by a solidus eg allow smooth / free movement.
- 2.4** Any wording that is underlined is essential for the marking point to be awarded.

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which students have provided extra responses. The general principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

Each error / contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of errors / contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (indicated as * in example 1) are not penalised.

Example 1: What is the pH of an acidic solution?

[1 mark]

Student	Response	Marks awarded
1	green, 5	0
2	red*, 5	1
3	red*, 8	0

Example 2: Name **two** magnetic materials.

[2 marks]

Student	Response	Marks awarded
1	iron, steel, tin	1
2	cobalt, nickel, nail*	2

3.2 Use of symbols / formulae

If a student writes a chemical symbol / formula instead of a required chemical name, or uses symbols to denote quantities in a physics equation, full credit can be given if the symbol / formula is correct and if, in the context of the question, such action is appropriate.

3.3 Marking procedure for calculations

Marks should be awarded for each stage of the calculation completed correctly, as students are instructed to show their working. At any point in a calculation students may omit steps from their working. If a subsequent step is given correctly, the relevant marks may be awarded.

Full marks should be awarded for a correct numerical answer, without any working shown. Full marks are **not** awarded for a correct final answer from incorrect working.

3.4 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

3.5 Errors carried forward

An error can be carried forward from one question part to the next and is shown by the abbreviation 'ecf'.

Within an individual question part, an incorrect value in one step of a calculation does not prevent all of the subsequent marks being awarded.

3.6 Phonetic spelling

Marks should be awarded if spelling is not correct but the intention is clear, **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term.

3.7 Brackets

(.....) are used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.8 Allow

In the mark scheme additional information, 'allow' is used to indicate creditworthy alternative answers.

3.9 Ignore

Ignore is used when the information given is irrelevant to the question or not enough to gain the marking point. Any further correct amplification could gain the marking point.

3.10 Do **not** accept

Do **not** accept means that this is a wrong answer which, even if the correct answer is given as well, will still mean that the mark is not awarded.

3.11 Numbered answer lines

Numbered lines on the question paper are intended to support the student to give the correct number of responses. The answer should still be marked as a whole.

4. Level of response marking instructions

Extended response questions are marked on level of response mark schemes.

- Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor.
- The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level.
- There are two marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer, read through the answer and, if necessary, annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

Step 1: Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level.

The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer. Do **not** look to penalise small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level.

Use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 2 with a small amount of level 3 material it would be placed in level 2 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 3 content.

Step 2: Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

You should ignore any irrelevant points made. However, full marks can be awarded only if there are no incorrect statements that contradict a correct response.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Question 1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.1	atomic number		1	AO1 4.5.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.2			1	AO2 4.5.1.1 4.5.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.3	are unreactive		1	AO1 4.5.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.4	gas	allow (g)	1	AO1 4.5.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.5	increase		1	AO1 4.5.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.6	-186 °C		1	AO3 4.5.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.7	argon / Ar		1	AO2 4.5.1.1 4.5.1.3

Total Question 1	7
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Question 2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1	carbon	ignore C	1	AO1 4.8.1.2
	hydrogen	ignore H	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.2	ethene		1	AO1 4.8.1.2 4.8.1.4
	methane		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.3	$C_6H_{14} \rightarrow C_4H_{10} + C_2H_4$		1	AO2 4.5.2.2 4.8.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.4	cracking		1	AO1 4.8.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.5	C_6H_{14} has a higher boiling point		1	AO2 4.8.1.3
	(reason) (C_6H_{14} is) a larger molecule	MP2 is dependent on the award of MP1	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.6	carbon dioxide	allow CO_2	1	AO1 4.8.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.7	$(M_r =) 1 + 1 + 16$		1	AO2 4.5.2.3
	= 18		1	

Total Question 2	11
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Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	the deceleration is less		1	AO2 4.7.1.6 4.7.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	the impact force is less		1	AO2 4.7.1.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	kinetic energy = $0.5 \times 60 \times (3.0)^2$		1	AO2 4.7.1.9
	kinetic energy = 270 (J)		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	speed = $\sqrt{\frac{2 \times 45}{40}}$		1	AO2 4.7.1.9
	speed = 1.5 (m/s)		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	gravitational potential energy (of the person / sphere) decreases		1	AO1 4.7.1.9 4.6.1.5
	kinetic energy increases		1	

if no other mark is awarded
allow 1 mark for gravitational potential energy is transferred to kinetic energy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	any two from: • change in height • friction • air resistance • angle of the slope • mass / weight • the distance travelled • how inflated the sphere is • wind • being pushed at the start • nature of the surface	allow height of the hill allow drag ignore wind resistance allow length of grass allow muddy / wet / bumpy surface	2	AO3 4.7.1.9 4.6.1.5 4.8.2.5
Total Question 3			10	

Question 4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	extracted disposed of	must be in this order	1 1	AO1 4.8.2.8

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.2	Statement Has the greatest environmental impact for both shirts Has the biggest difference in environmental impact between the two shirts Cause of the environmental impact Energy Materials Bleach do not accept more than one line from a box on the left	1 1	AO3 4.8.2.8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.3	(environmental impact =) 2.2 (arbitrary units) (percentage =) $\frac{2.2}{4.0} \times 100$ = 55 (%)	allow correct use of incorrectly determined environmental impact using a value from Figure 4	1 1 1	AO2 4.8.2.8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.4	any one from: • prevents biased claims • prevents false (advertising) claims • prevents use of invalid results		1	AO1 4.8.2.8

Total Question 4	8
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Question 5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	biofuel		1	AO1 4.8.2.4
	wind		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.2	some birds are killed by wind turbines		1	AO1 4.8.2.4
	wind turbines produce low frequency noise		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.3	total power input = $\frac{144\,000}{0.30}$		1	AO2 4.8.2.7
	total power input = 480 000 (W)		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.4	power = potential difference × current		1	AO1 4.7.2.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.5	144 000 = 960 × current		1	AO2 4.7.2.7
	current = $\frac{144\,000}{960}$		1	
	current = 150 (A)		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.6	the energy loss decreases		1	AO1 4.7.2.9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.7	to decrease the potential difference		1	AO1 4.7.2.9

Total Question 5	12
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Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	metallic		1	AO2 4.6.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	covalent		1	AO1 4.6.2.1 4.6.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	magnesium (atom) loses electrons		1	AO2 4.6.2.1 4.6.2.2
	oxygen (atom) gains electrons		1	
	two electrons (are transferred)		1	
	to form a complete outer shell	allow to form a complete outer energy level	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	to prevent the lithium from reacting with water / oxygen	allow air for oxygen allow to prevent the lithium from coming into contact with water / oxygen allow lithium reacts with water / oxygen	1	AO3 4.5.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.5	as the mass of lithium reacted increases, the mass of lithium oxide produced increases		1	AO2 4.5.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.6	(x-axis) mass of lithium reacted in grams		1	AO2 4.5.1.4
	all five points correctly plotted	allow a tolerance of $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ a small square allow 1 mark for three or four points correctly plotted	2	
	line of best fit		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.7	$(\bar{X}) = \frac{0.52 + 0.53 + 0.49 + 0.50}{4}$	allow $(\bar{X}) = \frac{2.04}{4}$	1	AO2 4.5.1.4
	= 0.51 (g)		1	

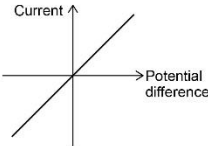
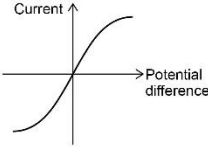
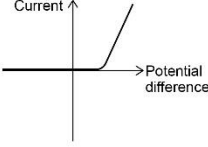
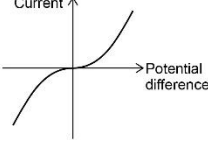
Total Question 6	14
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Question 7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.1	a variable resistor		1	AO1 4.7.2.4 RPA15

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.2	Level 2: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are identified and logically sequenced.	3–4	AO1 4.7.2.2 RPA15
	Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified, but links are not made clear.	1–2	
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content • turn the switch / circuit on • use the ammeter to measure the current • use the voltmeter to measure the potential difference • record the values on the ammeter and voltmeter • adjust the variable resistor or • vary the number of cells in the battery • record the new values of current and potential difference		

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.3	1.2 (A)		1	AO2 4.7.2.2 RPA15

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.4	Component Graph Diode Filament lamp Resistor (at constant temperature)     do not accept more than one line from a box on the left	1 1 1	AO1 4.7.2.2 RPA15
Total Question 7		9	

Question 8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.1	protein	allow complex 3D structure allow polymer ignore biological catalyst ignore named enzymes	1	AO1 4.7.4.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.2	the mass of the catalyst stays the same		1	AO1 4.7.4.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.3	(X) active site		1	AO1 4.7.4.7
	(Y) substrate	allow reactant	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.4	lock and key		1	AO1 4.7.4.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.5	so the temperature is the same (for all the solutions)	allow enzyme for amylase allow temperature is a control variable	1	AO1 4.7.4.7 RPA20
	(because) amylase is affected by (change in) temperature	allow (because) high temperatures denature the amylase allow (because 35°C is) the optimum temperature for amylase do not accept killing the amylase	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.6	(test) add iodine reagent	ignore iodine unqualified allow iodine solution	1	AO1 4.7.4.7 RPA20
	(result) turns blue-black	allow turns black allow turns dark purple allow turns dark blue	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.7	pH 7.0 to pH 7.5		1	AO3 4.7.4.7 RPA20

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.8	any one from: - decrease the sampling time - have smaller intervals of pH - test more pH values between 7.0 and 7.5	allow repeat and calculate a mean	1	AO3 4.7.4.7 RPA20

Total Question 8	11
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Question 9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.1	$a = \frac{6}{20}$	allow a substitution using a correct pair of corresponding values from the first 20 seconds of the graph	1	AO2 4.7.1.4
	$a = 0.3 \text{ (m/s}^2\text{)}$		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.2	$s = 6 \times 25$		1	AO2 4.7.1.4
	$s = 150 \text{ (m)}$		1	

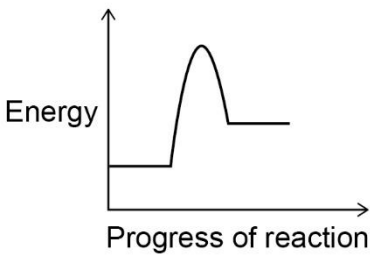
Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.3	the deceleration was greater than the acceleration	MP2 is dependent on the award of MP1 allow less time to decelerate	1	AO2 4.7.1.4
	the gradient was steeper		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.4	$16^2(-0^2) = 2 \times a \times 80$	allow $256 = 160 \times a$	1	AO2 4.7.1.4
	$a = \frac{16^2}{2 \times 80}$	allow $a = \frac{256}{160}$	1	
	$a = 1.6 \text{ (m/s}^2\text{)}$		1	

Total Question 9	9
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Question 10

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. The key steps are identified and logically sequenced.	5–6	AO1 4.7.3.3 RPA18
	Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are identified, but the method is not fully logically sequenced.	3–4	
	Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified, but links are not made clear.	1–2	
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content: • measure volume of (sodium hydrogen carbonate) solution • using a measuring cylinder • pour (sodium hydrogen carbonate) solution into a suitable container eg polystyrene cup • stand the polystyrene cup in a beaker • measure the initial temperature (of the sodium hydrogen carbonate solution) • using a thermometer • add a known mass of citric acid to the (sodium hydrogen carbonate) solution • measured with a balance • stir • measure the lowest temperature reached • using a thermometer • repeat with different masses of citric acid - or • add successive masses of citric acid to the same mixture • repeat the whole investigation • use the same volume of (sodium hydrogen carbonate) solution • use the same concentration of (sodium hydrogen carbonate) solution • use the same initial temperature		

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.2			1	AO1 4.7.4.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.3	powder has greater surface area (so) frequency of collisions is increased	allow powder has a higher surface area to volume ratio	1 1	AO1 4.7.4.2

Total Question 10	9
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