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CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International A Level

MATHEMATICS **9709/35**

Paper 3 Pure Mathematics 3 **October/November 2025**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 75

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2025 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

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Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptions for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:
Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:
Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:
Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:
Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:
Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:
Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

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Mathematics-Specific Marking Principles

1 Unless a particular method has been specified in the question, full marks may be awarded for any correct method. However, if a calculation is required then no marks will be awarded for a scale drawing.

2 Unless specified in the question, non-integer answers may be given as fractions, decimals or in standard form. Ignore superfluous zeros, provided that the degree of accuracy is not affected.

3 Allow alternative conventions for notation if used consistently throughout the paper, e.g. commas being used as decimal points.

4 Unless otherwise indicated, marks once gained cannot subsequently be lost, e.g. wrong working following a correct form of answer is ignored (isw).

5 Where a candidate has misread a number or sign in the question and used that value consistently throughout, provided that number does not alter the difficulty or the method required, award all marks earned and deduct just 1 A or B mark for the misread.

6 Recovery within working is allowed, e.g. a notation error in the working where the following line of working makes the candidate's intent clear.

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Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
^	More information required
A0	Accuracy mark awarded zero
A1	Accuracy mark awarded one
B0	Independent accuracy mark awarded zero
B1	Independent accuracy mark awarded one
B2	Independent accuracy mark awarded two
BOD	Benefit of the doubt
BP	Blank Page
	Incorrect
Dep	Used to indicate DM0 or DM1

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Annotation	Meaning
DM1	Dependent on the previous M1 mark(s)
FT	Follow through
	Indicate working that is right or wrong
Highlighter	Highlight a key point in the working
ISW	Ignore subsequent work
J	Judgement
JU	Judgement
M0	Method mark awarded zero
M1	Method mark awarded one
M2	Method mark awarded two
MR	Misread
O	Omission or Other solution
Off-page comment	Allows comments to be entered at the bottom of the RM marking window and then displayed when the associated question item is navigated to.
On-page comment	Allows comments to be entered in speech bubbles on the candidate response.
PE	Judgment made by the PE
Pre	Premature approximation
SC	Special case
SEEN	Indicates that work/page has been seen

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Annotation	Meaning
SF	Error in number of significant figures
✓	Correct
TE	Transcription error
XP	Correct answer from incorrect working

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Mark Scheme Notes

The following notes are intended to aid interpretation of mark schemes in general, but individual mark schemes may include marks awarded for specific reasons outside the scope of these notes.

Types of mark

M Method mark, awarded for a valid method applied to the problem. Method marks are not lost for numerical errors, algebraic slips or errors in units. However, it is not usually sufficient for a candidate just to indicate an intention of using some method or just to quote a formula; the formula or idea must be applied to the specific problem in hand, e.g. by substituting the relevant quantities into the formula. Correct application of a formula without the formula being quoted obviously earns the M mark and in some cases an M mark can be implied from a correct answer.

A Accuracy mark, awarded for a correct answer or intermediate step correctly obtained. Accuracy marks cannot be given unless the associated method mark is earned (or implied).

B Mark for a correct result or statement independent of method marks.

DM or **DB** When a part of a question has two or more 'method' steps, the M marks are generally independent unless the scheme specifically says otherwise; and similarly, when there are several B marks allocated. The notation DM or DB is used to indicate that a particular M or B mark is dependent on an earlier M or B (asterisked) mark in the scheme. When two or more steps are run together by the candidate, the earlier marks are implied and full credit is given.

FT Implies that the A or B mark indicated is allowed for work correctly following on from previously incorrect results. Otherwise, A or B marks are given for correct work only.

- A or B marks are given for correct work only (not for results obtained from incorrect working) unless follow through is allowed (see abbreviation FT above).
- For a numerical answer, allow the A or B mark if the answer is correct to 3 significant figures or would be correct to 3 significant figures if rounded (1 decimal place for angles in degrees).
- The total number of marks available for each question is shown at the bottom of the Marks column.
- Wrong or missing units in an answer should not result in loss of marks unless the guidance indicates otherwise.
- Square brackets [ ] around text or numbers show extra information not needed for the mark to be awarded.

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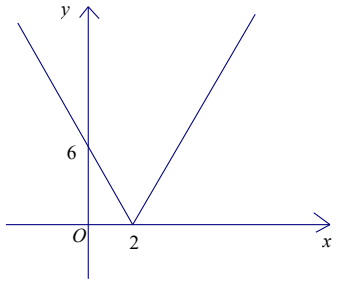
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Abbreviations

AEF/OE	Any Equivalent Form (of answer is equally acceptable) / Or Equivalent
AG	Answer Given on the question paper (so extra checking is needed to ensure that the detailed working leading to the result is valid)
CAO	Correct Answer Only (emphasising that no 'follow through' from a previous error is allowed)
CWO	Correct Working Only
ISW	Ignore Subsequent Working
SOI	Seen Or Implied
SC	Special Case (detailing the mark to be given for a specific wrong solution, or a case where some standard marking practice is to be varied in the light of a particular circumstance)
WWW	Without Wrong Working
AWRT	Answer Which Rounds To

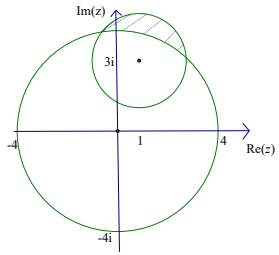
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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1(a)		**B1**	Straight lines. Symmetrical, and extending into the second quadrant. 2 and 6 marked correctly on the axes. Ignore $y = 3x - 6$ below the axis if intention is clear, e.g. dotted line or the required lines are clearly bolder. Ignore any attempt to sketch $y = 5x - 3$.
		1	
1(b)	Solve the linear equation $6 - 3x = 5x - 3$, or solve the quadratic equation $(5x-3)^2 = (3x-6)^2$	**M1**	Or corresponding inequality.
	Obtain critical value $x = \frac{9}{8}$	**A1**	Ignore $x = -\frac{3}{2}$ if seen.
	Obtain final answer $x < \frac{9}{8}$	**A1**	No other answer.
		3	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2	Show a circle with centre $1+3\mathrm{i}$ Some indication of scale seen or implied on both axes	**B1**	 If shaded region shown with no circles drawn, full marks available if correct with correct descriptions of the circles which formed it.
	Show a circle with correct radius 2, and centre not at the origin, soi.	**B1**	
	Show a circle or semi-circle in the first 2 quadrants, with radius 4 and centre at the origin	**B1**	
	Shade the correct region on a correct diagram	**B1**	
		4	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
3(a)	Take logarithms of both sides to obtain $\ln A + \ln y = x \ln b$	**M1**	Or three-term equivalent with no indices.
	Compare with $Y = mX + c$, $pY + qX + r = 0$	**A1**	AG Condone use of $y = mx + c$ in comparison.
		2	
3(b)	Form equations in A and b and solve for A or b	**M1**	$\ln A + 0.86 = 3.4 \ln b$ and $\ln A + 2.56 = 5.7 \ln b$. Or $A\mathrm{e}^{0.86} = b^{3.4}$ and $A\mathrm{e}^{2.56} = b^{5.7}$.
	Obtain $b = 2.1$ or $A = 5.2$	**A1**	Allow for 2 sf or more.
	Obtain $b = 2.1$ and $A = 5.2$	**A1**	Accept A = 5.3.
		3	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4	$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}x^2\ln 2y = 2x\ln 2y + x^2 \times \frac{1}{y}\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}$	**B1**	SOI
	$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}y\ln\left(2+x^2\right) = \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}\times\ln\left(2+x^2\right) + \frac{2xy}{2+x^2}$	**B1**	
	Equate derivative of right-hand side to zero and substitute $x = 2$, $y = 3$	**M1**	Must be using implicit differentiation and have attempted differentiation of products where appropriate. Need to see evidence of substitution.
	Obtain $4\ln 6 + \frac{4}{3}.\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} - \ln 6.\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} - 2 = 0$	**A1**	OE
	Simplify to obtain $\frac{6-12\ln 6}{4-3\ln 6}$ or $4 - \frac{10}{4-3\ln 6}$	**A1**	OE Do not ISW. No fractions within fractions.
		5	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
5	Substitute $z = x + \mathrm{i}y$ and z^* and expand	**M1***	
	use $\mathrm{i}^2 = -1$ twice	**DM1**	$x^2 + y^2 + 5ix - 5y + 2 - 10i = 0$
	Compare real and imaginary parts and equate to zero	**M1**	Must obtain at least one equation.
	Obtain $x^2 + y^2 - 5y + 2 = 0$ and $5(\mathrm{i})x - 10(\mathrm{i}) = 0$	**A1**	OE
	Obtain $z = 2 + 3\mathrm{i}$ and $z = 2 + 2\mathrm{i}$	**A1**	
		5	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6(a)	Use correct quotient rule (or correct product rule)	*M1	Allow one error.
	Obtain $\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}=\frac{(5+2\sin x)\sec^2 x-\tan x\times 2\cos x}{(5+2\sin x)^2}$	A1	
	Express derivative in terms of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$, and simplify to an expression in $\sin x$ only	DM1	$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}=\frac{(5+2\sin x)\frac{1}{\cos^2 x}-\frac{\sin x}{\cos x}\times 2\cos x}{(5+2\sin x)^2}$
	$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}=\frac{5+2\sin^3 x}{(1-\sin^2 x)(5+2\sin x)^2}$	A1	OE without fractions within a fraction. Denominator must be in factorised form. ISW once correct form is seen.
	Alternative Method for Question 6(a)		
	Use correct quotient rule (or correct product rule)	*M1	Allow one error.
	Obtain $\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}=\frac{\cos x(5+2\sin x)\cos x-\sin x(\cos x(2\cos x)+(5+2\sin x)(-\sin x))}{\cos^2 x(5+2\sin x)^2}$	A1	
	Simplify to an expression in $\sin x$ only	DM1	
	$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}=\frac{5+2\sin^3 x}{(1-\sin^2 x)(5+2\sin x)^2}$	A1	OE without fractions within a fraction. Denominator must be in factorised form. ISW once correct form is seen.

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6(a)	**Alternative Method 2 for Question 6(a)**		
	Use correct quotient rule (or correct product rule)	***M1**	Allow one error.
	$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(5\cos x + \sin 2x)\cos x - \sin x(-5\sin x + 2\cos 2x)}{\cos^2 x(5 + 2\sin x)^2}$	**A1**	
	Simplify to an expression in $\sin x$ only	**DM1**	
	$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{5 + 2\sin^3 x}{(1 - \sin^2 x)(5 + 2\sin x)^2}$	**A1**	OE without fractions within a fraction. Denominator must be in factorised form. ISW once correct form is seen.
		4	
6(b)	Set numerator of *their* derivative equal to zero and attempt to solve for $\sin x$	**M1**	Must be a polynomial in $\sin x$.
	Show that there are no solutions and hence no stationary points.	**A1**	AG From correct working only using a correct numerator from part **(a)**. Reference to $-1 \leq \sin x \leq 1$ OE must be made.
	Alternative Method for Question 6(b)		
	Use of $-1 \leqslant \sin x \leqslant 1$ leading to $3 \leqslant 5 + 2\sin^3 x \leqslant 7$	**M1**	
	$\therefore\ 5 + 2\sin^3 x \neq 0$	**A1**	OE
		2	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
7(a)	State or imply $\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}x} = 2x$	**B1**	
	Obtain $x = \sqrt{7} \Rightarrow u = 4\,(= a)$ and $x = \sqrt{12} \Rightarrow u = 9\,(= b)$	**B1**	Allow if just written down.
	Use $\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}x} = 2x$ and substitute u for x in the integral	**M1**	E.g., using $\int_{\sqrt{7}}^{\sqrt{12}} \frac{2x^2 \times 2x}{\sqrt{x^2-3}}\,\mathrm{d}x$. Condone missing or incorrect limits.
	Obtain $\int_{\sqrt{7}}^{\sqrt{12}} \frac{4x^3}{\sqrt{x^2-3}}\,\mathrm{d}x = \int_4^9 \frac{2(u+3)}{\sqrt{u}}\,\mathrm{d}u$ from full and correct working with sufficient detail	**A1**	AG Allow from working in reverse if fully correct.
		4	
7(b)	Integrate to obtain $cu^{\frac{3}{2}} + du^{\frac{1}{2}}$	***M1**	May integrate by parts. Must be in terms of u as 'Hence'.
	Obtain $\frac{4}{3}u^{\frac{3}{2}} + 12u^{\frac{1}{2}}$	**A1**	
	Use *their* limits correctly	**DM1**	For example: $\frac{4}{9}(27-8) + 12(3-2)$ or $72 - \frac{104}{3}$ or $88 - \frac{152}{3}$.
	Obtain $\frac{112}{3}$ or $37\frac{1}{3}$	**A1**	Exact answer only. Answer only is 0/4.
		4	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
8(a)	Expand $\sin\left(\theta+\frac{1}{6}\pi\right)$ and substitute trigonometric values	***M1**	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\sin\theta+\frac{1}{2}\cos\theta$
	Obtain $\frac{5}{2}\sin\theta+\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}\cos\theta$	**A1**	
	Obtain $R=\sqrt{13}$	**B1**	From $\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{25+27}$.
	Correct use of trig to obtain α	**DM1**	E.g. $\cos\alpha=\frac{5}{2\sqrt{13}}$, $\sin\alpha=\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{13}}$ or $\tan\alpha=\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{5}$. **M0** if it comes from $\sin\alpha=\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}$, $\cos\alpha=\frac{5}{2}$ or $\frac{9}{2}\sin\theta+\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}\cos\theta$.
	$\alpha=0.805$	**A1**	
		5	
8(b)	$2x+\alpha=\sin^{-1}\frac{\sqrt{6}}{R}\left(=\sin^{-1}\frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{13}}=0.747\right)$	**B1FT**	Follow *their R* (and α). Accept AWRT 0.747 (0.746898….).
	Solve for x to get an answer in the range	**M1**	$2x+0.805=0.747, 2.395, 7.030$
	Obtain 0.795 or 3.11	**A1**	Accept AWRT 0.795 or 3.11 from correct work.
	Obtain 0.795 and 3.11 and no others in range	**A1**	Accept AWRT 0.795 or 3.11 from correct work.
		4	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
9(a)	Calculate the scalar product of the direction vectors to form an equation in a.	**M1**	$2+6-3a=0$
	$a=\frac{8}{3}$	**A1**	Exact answer only, but ISW if go on to give a decimal.
		2	
9(b)	Express general point of a line in component form	**B1**	$\begin{pmatrix}2+\lambda\\1+2\lambda\\4-3\lambda\end{pmatrix}$ or $\begin{pmatrix}3+2\mu\\-1+3\mu\\5+a\mu\end{pmatrix}$
	Equate **i** and **j** components of l_2 and l_1 and solve for λ or μ	**M1**	
	Obtain $\lambda=-7$, $\mu=-4$	**A1**	SOI
	Substitute in the equation for the **k** components and obtain $a=-5$	**A1**	
		4	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
9(c)	Use the scalar product to obtain an expression for the cosine of the angle	***M1**	$\cos\theta = \dfrac{2+6-3a}{\sqrt{14}\sqrt{13+a^2}}$
	Form a quadratic equation in a	**DM1**	E.g. $14(8-3a) = 5\sqrt{14}\sqrt{13+a^2}$.
	Obtain $101a^2 - 672a + 571 = 0$	**A1**	Or three-term equivalent, e.g. $1414a^2 - 9408a + 7994 = 0$.
	Obtain $a = 1, a = \dfrac{571}{101}$	**A1**	Accept 1 and 5.65. ISW once correct values seen. **SC B1** if $a = 1$ spotted from $14(8-3a) = 5\sqrt{14}\sqrt{13+a^2}$ OE, 3/4 max.
		4	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
10(a)	Use integration by parts to obtain $pxe^{\frac{1}{2}x} + q\int e^{\frac{1}{2}x}\,\mathrm{d}x$	***M1**	
	Obtain $2xe^{\frac{1}{2}x} - 2\int e^{\frac{1}{2}x}\,\mathrm{d}x$	**A1**	
	Complete the integration to obtain $2xe^{\frac{1}{2}x} - 4e^{\frac{1}{2}x}$	**A1**	
	Use limits 0 and a correctly and equate the answer to 6	**DM1**	$2ae^{\frac{1}{2}a} - 4e^{\frac{1}{2}a}(-0) + 4 = 6$
	Obtain $a = 2 + \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{1}{2}a}$ from full and correct working	**A1**	AG
		5	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
10(b)	Calculate the value of a relevant expression or values of a relevant pair of expressions at 2.2 and 2.4. Values to at least 2 sf. Need all relevant values but only one (pair) needs to be correct to score M1. Complete set of values for *their* expression. If not comparing with 0, then the comparison must be clear.	**M1**	Example 1 $2.2 < 2.33$ and $2.4 > 2.30$ Example 2 $f(a) = a - 2 - e^{-\frac{1}{2}a}$ OE $f(2.2) = -0.132...$ $f(2.4) = 0.0988...$ Example 3 $f(a) = 2ae^{\frac{1}{2}a} - 4e^{\frac{1}{2}a} + 4$ $f(2.2) = 5.20...$ $f(2.4) = 6.65...$ Example 4 $f(a) = 2ae^{\frac{1}{2}a} - 4e^{\frac{1}{2}a} - 2$ $f(2.2) = -0.80...$ $f(2.4) = 0.65...$
	Complete the argument correctly with correct calculated values. Accept truncated values. Allow work on a smaller interval.	**A1**	Example 1 A clear explanation is needed. Example 2 $f(2.2) = -0.132... < 0$ $f(2.4) = 0.0988... > 0$ OE Example 3 $f(2.2) = 5.20... < 6$ $f(2.4) = 6.65... > 6$ Example 4 $f(2.2) = -0.80... < 0$ $f(2.4) = 0.65... > 0$
		2	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
10(c)	Use iterative process correctly at least once	**M1**	
	Obtain final answer 2.31	**A1**	
	Show sufficient iterations to at least 4 dp to justify 2.31 to 2 dp	**A1**	Allow recovery. Allow truncation. E.g. 2.3, 2.3166, 2.3140, 2.3144.
		3	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
11(a)	Obtain $\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = kx(1-x)$, stating where the factors come from	**B1**	AG Factor $1 - x$ explained.
		1	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
11(b)	Separate variables correctly	**B1**	$\int \frac{1}{x(1-x)}\,\mathrm{d}x = \int k\,\mathrm{d}t$ Condone missing integral signs or dx and dt but not both.
	Correct method to express $\frac{1}{x(1-x)}$ in partial fractions	**M1**	Condone a sign error between the fractions.
	Obtain $\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{1-x}$	**A1**	
	Obtain general solution $\ln x - \ln(1-x) = kt + A$	**A1**	OE
	Use $t=0, x=\frac{1}{4}$ in an expression containing pt, $q\ln x$ and $q\ln(1-x)$ to obtain the constant of integration	***M1**	$A = \ln\frac{1}{3}$
	Use $t=2, x=\frac{1}{3}$ in an expression containing pt, $q\ln x$ and $q\ln(1-x)$ to calculate the value of k	**DM1**	$k = \frac{1}{2}\ln\frac{3}{2}$
	Obtain $\ln\frac{x}{1-x} = \frac{1}{2}\ln\frac{3}{2}t + \ln\frac{1}{3}$	**A1**	Must be seen, as part of question demand. OE, e.g. $\ln\frac{x}{1-x} = (0.2027...)t - 1.0986...$
	Substitute $x=0.75$ and obtain $t=11$ years (to the nearest year).	**A1**	10.838… may be seen.
		8	**SC M1DM1A0A1** for candidates who use $t = 1$ **and** $t = 3$ rather than $t = 0$ and $t = 2$ to obtain $t = 12$ (11.838…) years (to the nearest year).

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