



Cambridge IGCSE™

COMBINED SCIENCE**0653/61**

Paper 6 Alternative to Practical

October/November 2024

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 40

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 2024 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **8** printed pages.

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.

Science-Specific Marking Principles

1 Examiners should consider the context and scientific use of any keywords when awarding marks. Although keywords may be present, marks should not be awarded if the keywords are used incorrectly.

2 The examiner should not choose between contradictory statements given in the same question part, and credit should not be awarded for any correct statement that is contradicted within the same question part. Wrong science that is irrelevant to the question should be ignored.

3 Although spellings do not have to be correct, spellings of syllabus terms must allow for clear and unambiguous separation from other syllabus terms with which they may be confused (e.g. ethane / ethene, glucagon / glycogen, refraction / reflection).

4 The error carried forward (ecf) principle should be applied, where appropriate. If an incorrect answer is subsequently used in a scientifically correct way, the candidate should be awarded these subsequent marking points. Further guidance will be included in the mark scheme where necessary and any exceptions to this general principle will be noted.

5 'List rule' guidance

For questions that require ***n*** responses (e.g. State **two** reasons ...):

- The response should be read as continuous prose, even when numbered answer spaces are provided.
- Any response marked *ignore* in the mark scheme should not count towards ***n***.
- Incorrect responses should not be awarded credit but will still count towards ***n***.
- Read the entire response to check for any responses that contradict those that would otherwise be credited. Credit should **not** be awarded for any responses that are contradicted within the rest of the response. Where two responses contradict one another, this should be treated as a single incorrect response.
- Non-contradictory responses after the first ***n*** responses may be ignored even if they include incorrect science.

6 Calculation specific guidance

Correct answers to calculations should be given full credit even if there is no working or incorrect working, **unless** the question states 'show your working'.

For questions in which the number of significant figures required is not stated, credit should be awarded for correct answers when rounded by the examiner to the number of significant figures given in the mark scheme. This may not apply to measured values.

For answers given in standard form (e.g. $a \times 10^n$) in which the convention of restricting the value of the coefficient (a) to a value between 1 and 10 is not followed, credit may still be awarded if the answer can be converted to the answer given in the mark scheme.

Unless a separate mark is given for a unit, a missing or incorrect unit will normally mean that the final calculation mark is not awarded. Exceptions to this general principle will be noted in the mark scheme.

7 Guidance for chemical equations

Multiples / fractions of coefficients used in chemical equations are acceptable unless stated otherwise in the mark scheme.

State symbols given in an equation should be ignored unless asked for in the question or stated otherwise in the mark scheme.

Mark scheme abbreviations

;	separates marking points
/	separates alternative responses for the same marking point
ecf	error carried forward
AVP	any valid point
ORA	or reverse argument
AW	alternative wording
<u>underline</u>	actual word given must be used by candidate (grammatical variants accepted)
()	the word / phrase in brackets is not required but sets the context

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	size – greater than half of available space ; quality – continuous outline from top to bottom of onion ; detail – central internal layer shown in approximately the correct position, joined at the top and at least 2 more layers to each side, <u>all</u> open at the bottom ;	3
1(b)(i)	54–56 (mm) inclusive ;	1
1(b)(ii)	points A and B marked approximately horizontally on onion and correct measurement of <i>D</i> for drawing ;	1
1(b)(iii)	correct magnification calculation ;	1
1(c)	(iodine remains) brown ;	1

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<i>one marking point from each section and then any two others</i> 1 apparatus ruler to measure onion / balance to measure a mass ; syringes / measuring cylinder to measure a volume / 'amount' of a liquid ; 2 description of method <i>correct method stated:</i> plant onions in soil (in containers) with different concentrations / amounts of mineral solution AND measure size of onion at the end / change in size ; <i>plus any two further details from:</i> use five different concentrations of mineral ; make different concentrations of mineral solution by dilution ; 3 measurements measure diameter / circumference / height / mass of onion at the start (and at the end) ; measure volume of mineral solution added ; 4 constant variables same size / mass onions ; same amount of time (at least 24 hours) ; same (total) amount / volume of mineral solution ; same temperature / same light (intensity / wavelength) ; 5 processing repeat experiment and exclude anomalies ; draw a graph of mass / size, of onion against mineral concentration ; idea of conclusion from graph, e.g. straight line through the origin indicates (directly) proportional ; calculate growth by final minus initial mass / volume / diameter / height ; calculate rate from growth ÷ time ;	7

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	<i>any two from:</i> wear goggles to stop solid H entering eyes ; use, test-tube holders / clamp, to avoid burning, hands / skin / student ; point mouth of test-tube away from other students so any spitting of material cannot harm other students ;	2
3(b)	mass at step 3 = 18.26 (g) ; mass at step 6 = 17.62 (g) ;	2
3(c)	1.81 (g) ;	1
3(d)(i)	0.64 (g) ;	1
3(d)(ii)	a gas is, formed / lost ;	1
3(d)(iii)	35.359 (%) ; 35 (%) ;	2
3(e)	yellow flame leaves soot / carbon / solid deposit <u>on the test tube</u> (and adds to the mass) ;	1
3(f)	heat again to constant mass ;	1
3(g)(i)	carbonate / CO_3^{2-} ;	1
3(g)(ii)	Zn^{2+} ;	1

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)(i)	set square shown as triangle with one of shorter sides in line with <u>bottom</u> of load hanger AND other short side in line with metre rule ;	1
4(a)(ii)	take reading, at eye level / perpendicular to the rule / scale ;	1
4(a)(iii)	38.0 (cm) ;	1
4(b)(i)	32.3 (cm) ;	1
4(b)(ii)	three e values correct to one decimal place ; all e values correct to one decimal place ;	2
4(b)(iii)	vertical axis labelled e / cm and horizontal axis labelled L / N ; linear scales so that plotted points occupy at least half the grid ; plots correct to $\pm 1/2$ small square ;	3
4(b)(iv)	thin straight line of best fit drawn through the origin with even distribution of points ;	1
4(c)	oscillation of load or spring / load or spring moves / bottom of load hanger may not be horizontal ;	1
4(d)(i)	7.7 (cm) ;	1
4(d)(ii)	second straight line of best fit passing through point e_s (2.0, 7.7) and origin;	1