



GCSE BIOLOGY

8461/1F - PAPER 1 FOUNDATION TIER

Mark scheme

8461

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Version/Stage: 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 Assessment Writer.

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.

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

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 his or her 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.

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**. Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; 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 error / 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 planets in the solar system.

[2 marks]

Student	Response	Marks awarded
1	Neptune, Mars, Moon	1
2	Neptune, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.2 Use of chemical symbols / formulae

If a student writes a chemical symbol / formula instead of a required chemical name, 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. Full marks can, however, be given for a correct numerical answer, without any working shown.

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

Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward is kept to a minimum. Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation ecf in the marking scheme.

3.6 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **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.

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 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.

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	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.1	nucleus		1	AO1 4.1.2.1
01.2	gene(s)	allow allele(s)	1	AO1 4.6.1.4
01.3	copying of chromosomes		1	AO2 4.1.2.2
01.4	mitochondria		1	AO1 4.1.1.2
01.5	60 – 45 or 120 – 105 15 (minutes)	an answer of 15 (minutes) scores 2 marks	1	AO2 4.1.2.2
			1	
01.6	C		1	AO2 4.1.2.2
01.7	8		1	AO2 4.1.2.2
01.8	to repair tissues		1	AO1 4.1.2.2
Total			9	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1		additional line from a level of organisation negates the mark for that level of organisation	2	AO1 4.2.1 4.2.3.1
02.2	palisade mesophyll		1	AO2 4.2.3.1
02.3	$\frac{50}{8}$ 6 / 6.25 / 6.3 (micrometres)	an answer of 6 / 6.25 / 6.3 scores 2 marks	1 1	AO2 4.1.1.2
02.4	they have no chloroplasts / chlorophyll	allow they are underground allow they don't get (access to) light allow (because) photosynthesis needs light allow they can't absorb light ignore 'sun' ignore 'it is dark'	1	AO2 4.1.1.3 4.4.1.1
02.5	differentiation		1	AO1 4.1.1.4 4.1.2.3
02.6	to protect endangered plants from extinction		1	AO1 4.1.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.7	plants can be produced quickly		1	AO1 4.1.2.3
02.8	any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • glucose / sugars / starch • amino acids / protein • hormones • ions / minerals • vitamins • water 	allow named hormones eg auxin allow magnesium / nitrate allow named vitamins e.g. vitamin B allow H ₂ O / H ₂ O ignore oxygen / carbon dioxide / agar / nutrients / fertiliser	1	AO2 4.1.2.3
Total			10	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	(A) stomach	allow ileum ignore intestine unqualified	1	AO1 4.2.2.1
	(B) small intestine		1	
	(C) liver		1	
03.2	soluble	this order only	1	AO1 4.2.2.1
	catalyse		1	
	denatured		1	
03.3	amino acids		1	AO1 4.2.2.1
03.4	any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for growth • for repair / replacement (of cells / tissues / organs) 	allow for enzymes / hormones / antibodies allow to strengthen bones ignore for energy	1	AO1 4.2.2.1
03.5	stomach		1	AO1 4.2.2.1

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.	
03.6	Level 2: Scientifically relevant facts, events or processes are identified and given in detail to form an accurate account.	3–4	AO1 4.2.2.1	
	Level 1: Facts, events or processes are identified and simply stated but their relevance is not clear.	1–2		
	No relevant content	0		
	Indicative content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grinding up the food • add Biuret reagent (allow CuSO₄ and NaOH) to food (sample) • protein turns solution (from blue) to purple / lilac • wear goggles to protect eyes • clean up spills immediately • Biuret / NaOH is an irritant / corrosive / poisonous <p>for level 2 a reference to Biuret, a positive result and reason for a safety precaution is required</p>			
03.7	fat		1	AO1 4.2.2.1
03.8	type 2 diabetes		1	AO1 4.2.2.6
Total			15	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1		additional line from a blood component negates the mark for that component	1 1 1	AO1 4.2.2.3
04.2	C		1	AO3 4.2.2.2
04.3	(vessel) B thick walls or thick muscle / elastic tissue or lumen is small / narrow	do not accept ref to 'cell walls' allow description of 'lumen'	1 1	AO1 4.2.2.2
04.4	95		1	AO2 4.2.2.2
04.5	(because coronary) arteries / they are narrower	allow (because the coronary) arteries are blocked / clogged (with fat)	1	AO2 4.2.2.4
04.6	250 × 60 (= 15 000) or 15 000 15	an answer of 15 scores 2 marks allow 0.25 × 60 allow $\frac{\text{answer to marking point 1}}{1000}$ an incorrect conversion to dm ³ in calculation does not negate marking point 1	1 1	AO2 4.2.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.7	any two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no need to stay as long in hospital (after procedure) or can go home sooner / same day • not as / less invasive or no need for a major operation or no need for general anaesthetic • shorter recovery time or can get back to normal lifestyle quicker or less time needed off work • lower risk of a heart attack (during procedure) 	allow only need to stay 2–3 hours in hospital (after procedure) allow less scarring allow less chance of infection allow only a small cut needed allow only 7 days recovery ignore reference to cost ignore idea that it takes less time overall	2	AO3 4.2.2.4
04.8	lower chance of failure (within one year) only need one operation to treat multiple blockages or can treat multiple blockages at one time	allow only a 5% chance of failure ignore ref to anaesthetic or CABG being a long-term treatment	1 1	AO3 4.2.2.4
Total			14	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	phloem		1	AO2 4.2.3.2
05.2	translocation		1	AO1 4.2.3.2
05.3	<p>either:</p> <p>less (sugars for) respiration (so) less energy released</p> <p>or</p> <p>less amino acids made (1) (so) less protein produced or less protein synthesis (1)</p> <p>or</p> <p>less cellulose made (1) (so) weaker cell walls (1)</p>		1 1	AO2 4.4.1.3 4.4.2.1
05.4	<p>(aphids) can fly to another plant or part of the plant</p> <p>to get (more) food</p>	<p>ignore to fly unqualified</p> <p>allow to find a mate allow idea of less competition for food allow to escape predators</p> <p>do not accept escape prey</p>	1 1	AO2 4.3.3.1
05.5	<p>(oil) prevents aphids from attaching to leaf or causes aphids to slide off leaf</p> <p>or idea that oil may harm / kill the aphid</p>	<p>ignore 'the leaf is slippery'</p> <p>allow oil may be unpleasant to the aphid</p>	1	AO2 4.3.3.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.6	(plant / stem has) thorns	allow spines / spikes / prickles ignore stings do not accept thorns protect (the plant) from predators	1	AO1 4.3.3.2
05.7	C (fungi / spores) blown by / in direction of the wind or it's the closest plant (to A)	if any other letter given then no marks for the question allow black spot / disease is blown by / in direction of the wind do not accept reference to bacteria / viruses / pollen being blown	1 1	AO3 4.3.1.4 4.3.3.1 AO2 4.3.1.4 4.3.3.1
05.8	any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spread rose bushes out more • remove any infected parts of the plant • use a fungicide 	allow isolate the infected plant allow idea of barrier around infected plant ignore separate unless qualified allow remove infected plant / A ignore pesticide do not accept insecticides / herbicide	1	AO2 4.3.1.4 4.3.3.1
Total			11	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	diffusion		1	AO2 4.1.3.1
06.2	A		1	AO2 4.1.3.1
06.3	B		1	AO3 4.1.3.1
06.4	(earthworm) can absorb more oxygen (in a given time) or increases / more gas exchange	allow get / obtain / take in more oxygen ignore easier absorption of oxygen ignore references to food	1	AO2 4.1.3.1
06.5	lipase		1	AO1 4.2.2.1
06.6	more oxygen (in soil with earthworms) (for) more (aerobic) respiration (of) bacteria / fungi / microorganisms / microbes / decomposers	reference to more is only needed once for the first two marking points allow earthworms bring oxygen to soil do not accept anaerobic respiration	1 1 1	AO2 4.4.2.1 4.7.2.2
06.7	fertilisation	ignore sexual reproduction	1	AO1 4.6.1.1 4.6.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.8	asexual (reproduction)	allow cloning	1	AO2 4.6.1.1
Total			10	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.1	toxins / poisons (secreted by / from / in bacteria)		1	AO1 4.3.1.3
07.2	any two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wash hands after using toilet / being sick or wash hands before preparing / handling food or do not prepare food (whilst infected) isolate yourself disinfect clothes / surfaces do not share utensils / cutlery / towels 	ignore 'wash hands' unqualified ignore reference to coughing / sneezing allow examples of how isolation could be achieved	2	AO2 4.3.1.1
07.3	antibiotics	allow named examples of antibiotics	1	AO1 4.3.1.8
07.4	immune system is damaged / weakened or immune system doesn't function properly white blood cells cannot kill bacteria / <i>Salmonella</i> (as effectively)	allow immunocompromised allow lack of / no white blood cells allow no / fewer antibodies so bacteria not killed or less phagocytosis so bacteria not killed or no / fewer antitoxins to counter toxins	1 1	AO2 4.3.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.5	any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (give chickens) antibiotics • don't sell infected chickens / eggs • keep infected chickens isolated / indoors • slaughter the infected chickens 	allow (give chickens) monoclonal antibodies allow don't sell the chickens / eggs ignore don't sell chickens / eggs allow keep the chickens indoors ignore keep chickens indoors ignore vaccination / chlorination / disinfection	1	AO1 4.3.1.3
07.6	(cleaning liquid) B and greater reduction in number of bacteria (after cleaning) in both locations	ignore few bacteria in both locations allow neither / both and idea of experimental error	1	AO3 4.1.1.6 4.3.1
07.7	radius (of area with no bacteria growing)	allow diameter (of the area with no bacteria growing) ignore πr^2 unqualified allow idea of placing agar plate onto graph paper and counting the squares not covered with bacteria	1	AO2 4.1.1.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.8	repeat and look to see if results are similar	ignore repeat unqualified allow repeat and look to see if results are different allow repeat and see if there are anomalies ignore repeat and identify anomalies ignore repeat and compare unqualified	1	AO3 4.1.1.6
07.9	any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toxicity / side / health effects • effect on other types of bacteria / pathogens • interaction with other cleaners • ease of use • dilution factor of each cleaner (vs. cost) • time cleaner is effective for 	ignore harmful / dangerous allow reference to allergies allow not tested on other types of bacteria ignore germs ignore concentration unqualified ignore how long the cleaner lasts for allow reference to odour of cleaning liquid ignore reference to cost unqualified ignore environmental effects / flammability	1	AO3 4.1.1.6
Total			11	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.1	any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respiration • formation of proteins • formation / breakdown of glycogen • breakdown of (excess) protein or formation of urea • photosynthesis or formation of glucose / starch (in plants) 	allow other correct reference to metabolic reactions in cells ignore reference to digestion ignore formation of carbohydrates	1	AO1 4.4.2.3
08.2	males have a higher metabolic rate than females after five years of age the mean metabolic rate of females decreases faster than males up to 25 years of age	each additional tick negates a mark	1 1	AO3 4.4.2.3
08.3	$\frac{17}{53} \times 100$ 32.075472... 32.1	an answer of 32.1 scores 3 marks allow correct rounding of this to at least 4 significant figures allow a correct reduction to 3 significant figures from an incorrect calculation for marking point 2	1 1 1	AO2 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.4	any two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (person) R heart rate rose / increased more slowly than (person) S (person) R heart rate levelled off whereas (person) S continued to increase (person) R heart rate rose less (overall / after 5 minutes of exercise) than S 	allow converse allow correct use of figures eg R increased (overall) by 39 bpm / 65% and S by 54 bpm / 69% ignore lack of units	2	AO3 4.4.2.2
08.5	correct scale and axis labelled all points plotted correctly (to within $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ square) line joined point to point or correct curved line of best fit	allow min(s) do not accept 'm' the zero is not required on the x-axis allow 4 or 5 correct plots for 1 mark	1 2 1	AO2 4.4.2.2
08.6	$\frac{132 - 78}{12}$ 4.5 (minutes) / 4½ minutes / 4 minutes 30 seconds / 4:30	an answer of 4.5 minutes scores 2 marks allow $\frac{54}{12}$ allow sequential deductions of 12 four or five times do not accept 4:50 or 4 minutes 50 seconds	1 1	AO2 4.4.2.2

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.7	Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are identified and logically sequenced.	5–6	AO3 4.4.2.2
	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two groups of people - non-smokers and smokers • have at least five people in each group or large groups • get each person to do (named) exercise • controlled variables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - same number of people in each group or large groups - same gender - same level of activity / exercise - same age - no health issues / illnesses - same type of exercise - same time for exercise • record heart rate for each person before and after exercise • calculate increase in heart rate for each person after exercise • compare results for each group <p>for level 3, students should refer to at least 5 smokers and 5 non-smokers, carrying out exercise with control variables and a means of determining an increase in heart rate</p> <p>for level 2, students should refer to ‘groups’ of smokers and non-smokers exercising</p>		
Total		20	