Foundation

GCSE

Combined Science Biology A Gateway Science

J250/01: Paper 1 (Foundation Tier)

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mark Scheme for June 2024

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

PREPARATION FOR MARKING

RM ASSESSOR

1. Make sure that you have accessed and completed the relevant training packages for on-screen marking: *RM Assessor Online Training*; *OCR Essential Guide to Marking*.
2. Make sure that you have read and understood the mark scheme and the question paper for this unit. These are available in RM Assessor.
3. Log-in to RM Assessor and mark the **required number** of practice responses (“scripts”) and the **required number** of standardisation responses.

MARKING

1. Mark strictly to the mark scheme.
2. Marks awarded must relate directly to the marking criteria.
3. The schedule of dates is very important. It is essential that you meet the RM Assessor 50% and 100% (traditional 50% Batch 1 and 100% Batch 2) deadlines. If you experience problems, you must contact your Team Leader (Supervisor) without delay.
4. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme, consult your Team Leader by telephone, email or via the RM Assessor messaging system.

5. **Crossed Out Responses**

Where a candidate has crossed out a response and provided a clear alternative then the crossed out response is not marked. Where no alternative response has been provided, examiners may give candidates the benefit of the doubt and mark the crossed out response where legible.

Rubric Error Responses – Optional Questions

Where candidates have a choice of question across a whole paper or a whole section and have provided more answers than required, then all responses are marked and the highest mark allowable within the rubric is given. Enter a mark for each question answered into RM assessor, which will select the highest mark from those awarded. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate has penalised themselves by attempting more questions than necessary in the time allowed.)*

Multiple Choice Question Responses

When a multiple choice question has only a single, correct response and a candidate provides two responses (even if one of these responses is correct), then no mark should be awarded (as it is not possible to determine which was the first response selected by the candidate).
When a question requires candidates to select more than one option/multiple options, then local marking arrangements need to ensure consistency of approach.

Contradictory Responses

When a candidate provides contradictory responses, then no mark should be awarded, even if one of the answers is correct.

Short Answer Questions (requiring only a list by way of a response, usually worth only one mark per response)

Where candidates are required to provide a set number of short answer responses then only the set number of responses should be marked. The response space should be marked from left to right on each line and then line by line until the required number of responses have been considered. The remaining responses should not then be marked. Examiners will have to apply judgement as to whether a 'second response' on a line is a development of the 'first response', rather than a separate, discrete response. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate is attempting to hedge their bets and therefore getting undue benefit rather than engaging with the question and giving the most relevant/correct responses.)*

Short Answer Questions (requiring a more developed response, worth two or more marks)
If the candidates are required to provide a description of, say, three items or factors and four items or factors are provided, then mark on a similar basis – that is downwards (as it is unlikely in this situation that a candidate will provide more than one response in each section of the response space.)

Longer Answer Questions (requiring a developed response)
Where candidates have provided two (or more) responses to a medium or high tariff question which only required a single (developed) response and not crossed out the first response, then only the first response should be marked. Examiners will need to apply professional judgement as to whether the second (or a subsequent) response is a 'new start' or simply a poorly expressed continuation of the first response.

6. Always check the pages (and additional objects if present) at the end of the response in case any answers have been continued there. If the candidate has continued an answer there then add the annotation 'SEEN' to confirm that the work has been seen.

7. Award No Response (NR) if:

- there is nothing written in the answer space

Award Zero '0' if:

- anything is written in the answer space and is not worthy of credit (this includes text and symbols).

Team Leaders must confirm the correct use of the NR button with their markers before live marking commences and should check this when reviewing scripts.

8. The RM Assessor **comments box** is used by your Team Leader to explain the marking of the practice responses. Please refer to these comments when checking your practice responses. **Do not use the comments box for any other reason.**

If you have any questions or comments for your Team Leader, use the phone, the RM Assessor messaging system, or email.

9. Assistant Examiners will send a brief report on the performance of candidates to their Team Leader (Supervisor) via email by the end of the marking period. The report should contain notes on particular strengths displayed as well as common errors or weaknesses. Constructive criticism of the question paper/mark scheme is also appreciated.

10. For answers marked by levels of response:

Read through the whole answer from start to finish, using the Level descriptors to help you decide whether it is a strong or weak answer. The indicative scientific content in the Guidance column indicates the expected parameters for candidates' answers, but be prepared to recognise and credit unexpected approaches where they show relevance. Using a 'best-fit' approach based on the skills and science content evidenced within the answer, first decide which set of level descriptors, Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3, best describes the overall quality of the answer.

Once the level is located, award the higher or lower mark:

The higher mark should be awarded where the level descriptor has been evidenced and all aspects of the communication statement (in italics) have been met.

The lower mark should be awarded where the level descriptor has been evidenced but aspects of the communication statement (in italics) are missing.

In summary:

The skills and science content determines the level.

The communication statement determines the mark within a level.

Level of response question on this paper is **14(b)**.

11. Annotations available in RM Assessor

Annotation	Meaning
	Correct response
	Incorrect response
	Omission mark
	Benefit of doubt given
	Contradiction
	Rounding error
	Error in number of significant figures
	Error carried forward
	Level 1
	Level 2
	Level 3
	Benefit of doubt not given
	Noted but no credit given
	Ignore

Abbreviations, annotations and conventions used in the detailed Mark Scheme (to include abbreviations and subject-specific conventions).

Annotation	Meaning
/	alternative and acceptable answers for the same marking point
✓	Separates marking points
DO NOT ALLOW	Answers which are not worthy of credit
IGNORE	Statements which are irrelevant
ALLOW	Answers that can be accepted
( )	Words which are not essential to gain credit
__	Underlined words must be present in answer to score a mark
ECF	Error carried forward
AW	Alternative wording
ORA	Or reverse argument

12. **Subject-specific Marking Instructions**

INTRODUCTION

Your first task as an Examiner is to become thoroughly familiar with the material on which the examination depends. This material includes:

- the specification, especially the assessment objectives
- the question paper
- the mark scheme.

You should ensure that you have copies of these materials.

You should ensure also that you are familiar with the administrative procedures related to the marking process. These are set out in the OCR booklet **Instructions for Examiners**. If you are examining for the first time, please read carefully **Appendix 5 Introduction to Script Marking: Notes for New Examiners**.

Please ask for help or guidance whenever you need it. Your first point of contact is your Team Leader.

The breakdown of Assessment Objectives for GCSE (9-1) in Combined Science A:

	Assessment Objective
AO1	**Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas and scientific techniques and procedures.**
AO1.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas.
AO1.2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific techniques and procedures.
AO2	**Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas and scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures.**
AO2.1	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas.
AO2.2	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures.
AO3	**Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate, make judgements and draw conclusions and develop and improve experimental procedures.**
AO3.1	Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate.
AO3.1a	Analyse information and ideas to interpret.
AO3.1b	Analyse information and ideas to evaluate.
AO3.2	Analyse information and ideas to make judgements and draw conclusions.
AO3.2a	Analyse information and ideas to make judgements.
AO3.2b	Analyse information and ideas to draw conclusions.
AO3.3	Analyse information and ideas to develop and improve experimental procedures.
AO3.3a	Analyse information and ideas to develop experimental procedures.
AO3.3b	Analyse information and ideas to improve experimental procedures.

For answers to Section A if an answer box is blank ALLOW correct indication of answer e.g., circled or underlined.

Question	Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
1	D	1	1.2	
2	A	1	1.2	
3	B	1	1.1	
4	C	1	2.1	
5	C	1	2.1	
6	D	1	1.1	
7	C	1	1.1	
8	C	1	2.1	
9	C	1	1.1	
10	B	1	1.2	

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
11	(a)		Oxygen ✓ Haemoglobin ✓ Biconcave ✓	3	3 x 1.1	
	(b)		Stem (cells) ✓	1	1.1	
	(c)		Lungs ✓ Valve ✓ E ✓ Lumen ✓	4	4 x 1.1	**ALLOW** hole/centre
	(d)	(i)	11 ✓	1	2.1	
		(ii)	Hormone **X** – oestrogen ✓ Hormone **Y** – progesterone ✓	2	2 x 2.1	

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">Question</th><th>Answer</th><th>Marks</th><th>AO element</th><th>Guidance</th></tr>
<tr><td>12</td><td>(a)</td><td></td><td>Carbon dioxide ✓

Water ✓</td><td>2</td><td>2 x 1.1</td><td>Answers in either order

ALLOW CO_2

ALLOW H_2O</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>(b)</td><td></td><td><table><tr><th></th><th>True</th><th>False</th></tr><tr><td>Carbohydrates are produced in photosynthesis.</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Photosynthesis is an exothermic reaction.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Photosynthesis is a two-stage process</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Photosynthesis takes place in the mitochondria.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr></table>✓✓</td><td>2</td><td>2 x 1.1</td><td>All four correct = 2 marks
Two or three correct = 1 mark
One correct = 0 marks</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>(c)</td><td>(i)</td><td>First check the answer on the answer line
If answer = 8 award 2 marks

[23 ÷ 3] or 7.7/7.67/7.6…… ✓

= 8 ✓</td><td>2</td><td>2 x 2.2</td><td>ALLOW evidence of correct rounding of incorrect answer from MP1 for one mark</td></tr>
</table>

		(ii)	Named equipment to measure time / distance / light intensity/temperature ✓ Control of one variable ✓ Describe how to change light intensity ✓	**3**	**2.2** **2 x 3.3a**	e.g., stopwatch / ruler / lux meter/ thermometer e.g., same (type of) pondweed / same amount of pondweed / same temperature or amount of water / count bubbles for same amount of time e.g., change distance of lamp / use of dimmer switch / neutral filter / less/more lamps / less/more powerful lamp/bulb **IGNORE** repeat with light turned off / repeat in dark

13	**(a)**	**(i)**	Touching ✓ Receptors ✓ Brain ✓ (Face) muscle(s) ✓	**4**	**2.1** **1.1** **2.1** **2.1**	**AW** e.g., brushing, poking, stroking **ALLOW** in the eye **DO NOT ALLOW** into the eye **DO NOT ALLOW** neurone **ALLOW** CNS / relay neurone / inter-neurone **DO NOT ALLOW** spinal cord **ALLOW** mussel(s)
	(b)	**(i)**	25 – 34 ✓	**1**	**2.2**	
		(ii)	**First check the answer on the answer line** **If answer = 32.4 (%) award 3 marks** If correct answer is given to a different number of significant figures award two marks. e.g., 32 (%), 32.432 (%) (0.245 - 0.185) = <u>0.06</u> ✓ [0.06 ÷ 0.185] x 100 or e.g., [0.324324 x100] or e.g., 32.4324 ✓ = 32.4 (%) (3 s.f.) ✓	**3**	**3 x 2.2**	 **ECF** for incorrect substitution from MP1 **ALLOW** evidence of correct rounding of incorrect answer from MP2 to 3 s.f. for one mark
		(iii)	65+ ✓	**1**	**3.2b**	

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
14	(a)	(i)	**First check the answer in the table** **If answer = 2:1 award 2 marks** [54 ÷ 27] or 2 ✓ = 2:1 ✓	**2** 	 **1.2** **2.2**	**ALLOW** correct answer written outside table, but answer in table takes precedence **ALLOW** 6:3 or other correct ratio for one mark as alternative to [54 ÷ 27] if no calculation stated **DO NOT ALLOW**: 54:27
		(ii)	First result/122 was an anomaly/outlier / did not fit the pattern / was too low/was lower than A / was too quick/was quicker than A ✓	**1**	**3.1b**	**AW**

	(b)	**(i)**	Please refer to the marking instructions on page 4 of this mark scheme for guidance on how to mark this question. **Level 3 (5–6 marks)** Detailed interpretation of data **AND** Detailed explanation of advantages *There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.* **Level 2 (3–4 marks)** Clear interpretation of data **AND** Clear explanation of an advantage *There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is relevant and supported by some evidence.* **Level 1 (1–2 marks)** Attempts to interpret the data **OR** Attempts to explain an advantage *There is an attempt at a logical structure with a line of reasoning. The information is in the most part relevant***.** **0 marks** *No response or no response worthy of credit.*	**6**	**2 x 2.1** **2 x 3.1a** **2 x 3.2b**	**AO2.1 Apply knowledge and understanding of surface area to volume ratios and diffusion** • larger the surface area to volume ratio the faster the diffusion rate **AO3.1a Analyse information and ideas to interpret the data** • cube A has the largest surface area to volume ratio and the fastest time to turn yellow • diffusion rate of A is the fastest **AO3.3b Analyse information and ideas to draw conclusions** • tapeworm will have a large surface area to volume ratio so can absorb more nutrients/ quickly/more efficiently • tapeworm will not need a transport system because they have a large surface area to volume ratio • tapeworm will not need an exchange systems/lungs/digestive system because they have a large surface area to volume ratio • tapeworm will not need a excretory systems because they have a large surface area to volume ratio

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
15	(a)		**Any two from:** Movement in both directions ✓ Sieve plates present ✓ Absence of lignified wall ✓	2	2 x 2.1	**IGNORE** any named substances **ALLOW** (it's taking them) up and down / nutrients go both ways / food molecules go both ways **ALLOW** description – e.g., (cells have ends with) holes / sieves / pores / selectively permeable barriers / not a continuous tube **IGNORE** a membrane between each cell **IGNORE** thinner (cell) walls / smaller lumen / just 'thinner' **IGNORE** made up of living cells
	(b)		**Any two from:** Both transport water ✓ Xylem transports mineral ions ✓ Phloem transports (dissolved) sugar ✓	2	2 x 1.1	 **ALLOW** xylem transports minerals **IGNORE** just 'ions' / nutrients / food **DO NOT ALLOW** incorrect substances e.g. sugar **ALLOW** sucrose for sugar / amino acids **IGNORE** (dissolved) food / nutrients **DO NOT ALLOW** glucose / minerals **IGNORE** any reference to direction as this is assessed in (a)

Question	Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
(c)		2		Assume answer refers to a warm day unless otherwise stated
	Increases (transport) ✓		2.1	**ALLOW** it will increase/ be faster / be quicker **ALLOW** water uptake is faster **IGNORE** transport will be more efficient / references to kinetic energy
	Increased transpiration **Or** Increased evaporation of water from leaf cells **Or** Increased diffusion of water vapour through stomata ✓		1.1	**ALLOW** more evaporation from leaves **ALLOW** more water evaporates through the stomata / more water vapour escapes through the stomata

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
16	(a)	(i)	Colour of (Benedict's) solution at the end ✓	1	2.2	**ALLOW** final colour / colour of mixture at the end / different colour at the end / coloured precipitate **DO NOT ALLOW** the time taken for the colour to change
		(ii)	Hot apparatus **and** any sensible precaution **Or** Liquid may spit out of tube **and** wear eye protection ✓	1	3.1b	**Hazard must link to precaution** **ALLOW** do not touch / wear (heatproof) gloves **ALLOW** use a water bath instead **ALLOW** flame so tie hair back **ALLOW** risk burning, keep Bunsen burner on safety flame when not in use **ALLOW k**eep flammable objects away from fire/flame **IGNORE** hazard "Bunsen burner" / heat (needs risk of fire / burning) **IGNORE** precaution "put on heat proof mat" **IGNORE** stay away from the fire / flame **ALLOW** safety glasses / goggles / plastic or glass shield **IGNORE** just 'glasses' **ALLOW** eye irritations from chemical / Benedict's and wear goggles **ALLOW** point test tube away from face when heating **IGNORE** references to glassware breaking

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
	(b)	(i)	percentage concentration of sugar in mixture >3.5 0.0 - 0.5 (2.5-3.5) 1.5-2.5 ✓	1	3.2a	**ALLOW** 3.5 + **ALLOW** ≥ 3.5 **DO NOT ALLOW** 3.5 < **ALLOW** 0 - 0.5
		(ii)	Not a single value / range of values ✓	1	3.1b	**ALLOW** idea colour change is subjective / colours can be perceived differently / orange can be mistaken for yellow **ALLOW** it is a large interval **ALLOW** values overlap
	(c)	(i)	2.2 (%) ✓	1	2.2	
		(ii)	Repeat (method for mixture C) and find a mean ✓	1	3.3b	**ALLOW** repeat until they have no anomalous values

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