

GCSE SCIENCE A SCA2FP

Mark scheme

4406 June 2014

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 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.

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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 his or her judgement and help to delineate what is
 acceptable or not worthy of credit or, in discursive answers, to give an overview of the area in
 which a mark or marks may be awarded
- 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

- **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 / ; e.g. allow smooth / free movement.

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which candidates 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)

Candidate	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)

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

3.2 Use of chemical symbols / formulae

If a candidate 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

Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, without any working shown.

However, if the answer is incorrect, mark(s) can be gained by correct substitution / working and this is shown in the 'extra information' column or by each stage of a longer calculation.

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 are 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 e.c.f. 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 Ignore / Insufficient / Do not allow

Ignore or insufficient 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.

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

Quality of Written Communication and levels marking

In Question 9 candidates are required to produce extended written material in English, and will be assessed on the quality of their written communication as well as the standard of the scientific response.

Candidates will be required to:

- use good English
- organise information clearly
- use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

The following general criteria should be used to assign marks to a level:

Level 1: basic

- Knowledge of basic information
- Simple understanding
- The answer is poorly organised, with almost no specialist terms and their use demonstrating a general lack of understanding of their meaning, little or no detail
- The spelling, punctuation and grammar are very weak.

Level 2: clear

- Knowledge of accurate information
- Clear understanding
- The answer has some structure and organisation, use of specialist terms has been attempted but not always accurately, some detail is given
- There is reasonable accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar, although there may still be some errors.

Level 3: detailed

- Knowledge of accurate information appropriately contextualised
- Detailed understanding, supported by relevant evidence and examples
- Answer is coherent and in an organised, logical sequence, containing a wide range of appropriate or relevant specialist terms used accurately.
- The answer shows almost faultless spelling, punctuation and grammar.

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
1(a) A	categoric	extra words circled negates mark	1	A03 B1.7
1(b)(i) View with b(ii) G	11		1	A02 B1.7
1(b)(ii) View with b(i) E	25	allow ecf from 1(b)(i) <i>ie 1(b)(i)</i> +14	1	A02 B1.7
1(b)(iii) E	 any one from: blue is the most common eye colour green is the least common eye colour 	ignore figures allow mode / modal allow more have blue eyes	1	A03 B1.7
1(c)(i) G	a gene		1	A01 B1.7.1 a,c,d
1(c)(ii) G	sex cells		1	A01 B1.7.1a
Total			6	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
2(a)(i) E	microorganism / microbe	accept fungus, bacterium, decomposer, <i>allow detritivore eg worms</i>	1	A01 B1.6.1a,b
2(a)(ii) A	carbon dioxide nutrients	extra boxes ticked negate mark(s)	1 1	A01 B1.6.1c/ B1.6.2a
2(b) E	 (crops) grow slower Reason: any one from: competition (crops get) less nutrients / space / water / light 	allow crops won't grow as well ignore kill crops ignore less carbon dioxide	1	A02 B1.4.1b
Total			5	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
3(a) A	Dark Wet		2	A03 B1.4.2a,b
3(b) view with 3(a) E	Possible answers:	must match one of the conditions given in 3(a) allow ecf <i>allow for sensor: meter / detector /</i> <i>probe</i>	1	A01 B1.4.2d
	humidity / moisture sensor light sensor thermometer temperature sensor			
Total			3	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
4 G	variation natural selection (sexual) reproduction	must be in correct order	1 1 1	A01 B1.8.1e
Total			3	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
5(a) A	an enzyme		1	A01 B1.7.2d
5(b) E	egg (cell) skin cell (an electric) shock	accept chemical(s)	1 1 1	A01/A02 B1.7.2c,e
Total			4	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
6(a) E	 any one from: less (saturated) fat vegetable oil is unsaturated 	accept less risk of heart disease allow less cholesterol ignore refs to energy content or weight gain / loss / taste / vitamins / nutrients	1	A03 C1.6
6(b) A	nutrients		1	A01 C1.6.1b
6(c) E	 any two from: (different) taste (different) appearance (different) texture more energy released / higher energy content when cooked in oil 	<i>ignore</i> sausages cooked in water will be healthier allow cook faster in oil allow cook at higher temperature in oil <i>ignore references to nutrients</i>	2	A01 C1.6.1c
Total			4	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
7(a) G	monomer		1	A01 C1.5.2a
7(b) G	colourless	ignore clear	1	A01 C1.5.1b,d
7(c)(i) E	$\begin{array}{cccc} H & H & H \\ \left & \right & \left & \right \\ H & - & C & - & C & = & C \\ \left & & & H \\ H & & & H \end{array}$		1	A02 C1.5.1c
7(c)(ii) E	C ₃ H ₆	allow H ₆ C ₃	1	A02 C1.5.1c
Total			4	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
8(a)(i) E	 any two from: in Theory 1 all the continents are joined together not all continents move in Theory 2 description of new positions of continents different oceans close predictions use different models 	allow Antarctica is separate in Theory 2 accept Antarctica does not move in Theory 2 e.g. In Theory 1 Australia is in the middle (of the supercontinent) or in Theory 2 Australia is at the bottom (of the supercontinent	2	A02 C1.7.1b
8(a)(ii) E	insufficient evidence or scientists cannot test the theories	allow can't prove which theory is correct / no proof allow can't predict future	1	A03 C1.7
8(b)(i) G	year		1	A01 C1.7.1c
8(b)(ii) G	convection mantle heat radioactive	must be in correct order	1 1 1 1	A01 C1.7.1c
Total			8	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
9(a) G	burning fossil fuels		1	A01 C1.7.2i
9(b) E	point correctly plotted at 2020, 430	allow ± ½ square	1	A02 C1.7
	suitable curve drawn through <i>most of</i> the points	allow ecf for plotted point	1	
9(c) E		ignore references to figures unqualified		A03 C1.7.2h
	amount of carbon dioxide increases	if carbon dioxide is given as CO_2 it must be written correctly	1	
	(so) amount of coral decreases	accept coral is killed	1	
		ignore references to other organisms		
Total			5	



question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
11(a) G	2(dB)		1	A02 P1.5.3b
11(b) G	5500(Hz)		1	A02 P1.5.3b
11(c) E	340(m/s)	allow 1 mark for correct substitution (20 x 17) <i>provided no subsequent step</i>	2	A02 P1.5.1j
11(d) G	echo(es)		1	A01 P1.5.3c
Total			5	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
12(a) E	data / distance is continuous	accept data is not categoric allow so can see if there is a correlation	1	A03 P1.5.4b
12(b) A	More galaxies have been plotted on the graph. More distant galaxies also follow the same trend.		1	A03 P1.5.4c
12(c) A	Electromagnetic radiation Radiation that fills the Universe		1 1	A01 P1.5.4d
Total			5	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
13(a) E Clip with Figure 13	<i>straight line</i> continued through glass block <i>to meet edge of the</i> <i>block</i>	do not allow dotted / dashed lines judge by eye	1	A02 P1.5.1g
	straight line drawn through crosses to meet the edge of block	judge by eye	1	
		ignore reflection within the block ignore 'normal' line		
13(b) E	any one from		1	A03 P1.5.1k
	 safety / dark glasses 	ignore goggles / glasses unqualified		
	 safety / dark goggles 	ignore special goggles / glasses ignore sunglasses / eye protection		
	don't look at laser (directly)	allow don't shine laser into someone's eyes		
13(c)(i) F	any one from:		1	A03 P1 5 1g
	too many points above line	allow line of best fit only goes through 2 points		1 1.0.19
		allow line doesn't go through most points		
		allow line should go through more / most points		
	no pointo holour the line	allow 3 points have been ignored		
	no points below the line			
	line should be curved			
		allow there should be equal numbers of points on both sides of line		

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
13(c)(ii) E	any two from:		2	A03 P1.5.1a
	 use smaller interval between readings 	eg allow go up in 10's		
	• take readings at more angles	allow take readings at different angles / named angles		
	 repeat the experiment / readings and calculate a mean 	allow repeat the experiment to identify anomalies		
	• use a narrower ray of light			
		ignore take more readings ignore compare results (with other students)		
Total			6	

question	answers	extra information		AOs/Spec Refs
14 E	(small leaves) reduce water loss	do not accept stops water loss ignore references to photosynthesis / heat loss / surface area	1	A02 B1.4.1 a,b,d,f,g
	(deep roots) anchor plant into ground	allow less chance of being blown away / uprooted	1	
	or			
	absorb more water / nutrients	allow absorb a lot of water / nutrients allow can get water / nutrients from deep(er) under ground		
		ignore stores / processes more water / nutrients		
		ignore absorbs water / nutrients faster		
	(roots that produce a chemical that stops the growth of seeds of other plants) reduces competition	allow stops competition allow a description of competition with reference to preventing growth of other plants	1	
Total			3	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
15(a)(i) G	the Sun	allow (Sun) light	1	A01 B1.5.1a
15(a)(ii) E View with Figure 17	bar width 80 (kg) drawn centrally between the other two bars all three bars correctly labelled $\underbrace{I = \frac{1}{10000000000000000000000000000000000$	anywhere on diagram ignore height of bar allow mark if labels are in the correct positions but no bar is drawn ignore numbers	1 1	A02 B1.5.1b
15(b)(i) E	 any one from: to keep warm for movement in waste materials / urine / faeces 	allow as thermal energy / heat <i>ignore exercise</i> accept excretion <i>allow not all the organism is</i> <i>eaten</i> ignore references to size / numbers of organisms / <i>biomass / respiration /</i> <i>reproduction / growth</i>	1	A01 B1.5.1c
15(b)(ii) View with 15(b)(i) E	 any one from: not all of the organism is eaten / digested (materials lost in) faeces / urine / carbon dioxide 	must be a different reason from that given in 15(b)(i) accept excretion <i>allow lost in waste materials</i> ignore references to <i>energy</i> / size / numbers of organisms / reproduction / sweat	1	A01 B1.5.1b,c
Total			6	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
16(a)(i) View with table 4 G	470 (s / seconds)	if no answer given on answer line refer to the table	1	A02 C1.6.2a
16(a)(ii) E	as volume of (egg) yolk / <i>emulsifier</i> increases, the emulsion remains stable for longer	allow as volume of (egg) yolk / emulsifier increases, the time (for the mixture) to separate increases	1	A03 C1.6.2a
16(b) G	1 <u>cm³</u>	accept 1 <u>ml</u>	1	A02 C1.6.2a
16(c) E	 any two from: thicker better texture better appearance 	<i>ignore shelf life</i> accept better coating ability allow better / different taste / flavour	2	A01 C1.6.2a
Total			5	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
17(a) E	magnesium + nitrogen (\rightarrow)	allow Mg for magnesium allow N_2 for nitrogen		A02 C1.7.2a
	(→) magnesium nitr <u>ide</u>	allow Mg_3N_2 for magnesium nitride		
		maximum of one mark if arrow not represented correctly		
17(b) E	noble gas	allow argon / neon / helium / krypton / <i>xenon / radon</i> <i>ignore inert gases</i>	1	A01 C1.7.2a
17(c) E	no evidence / no proof	allow insufficient evidence allow couldn't identify the gas	1	A03 C1.7.2a
Total			4	

question	answers		extra information		mark	AOs/Spec Refs
18					6	
Marks awarded for this answer will be dete (QWC) as well as the standard of the scien information on page 5 and apply a 'best-fit'		ermir ntific .' app	ned by the Quality of Wr response. Examiners sl proach to the marking.	itten Communicati hould also refer to	ion the	A01 P1.4.1a,b
0 marks	Level 1 (1–2 marks)	I	Level 2 (3–4 marks)	Level 3 (5–6	marks)	
No relevant content	There is a brief description of either <i>a</i> difference or <i>an</i> environmental effect.	The diff env or mo diff on eff	ere is at least one ference and one vironmental effect ore than one ference or more than e environmental ect.	Difference(s) an environmental er given. Reference to bo and wind require environmental er For full marks a comparative stat for a difference r	d ffects are th coal ed for ffects. tement must be	
Differences	:	all	ow converse answers	throughout		
Wind – renewable energy resource Wind – no fuel / no fuel cost		ign gei	ore all other references nerating electricity)	to cost (Q is abou	ut	
Wind – no heated water / steam Wind – fewer stages in the process Wind – lower power output (per turbine) Wind – cannot generate electricity continuously <i>Wind – shorter 'start up' time</i>		allo allo	ore no boiler ow would need many tu ow wind is unreliable	rbines	٩	
Environmental effects: Wind – no waste gases / air pollution / sulfur dioxide / carbon dioxide / oxides of nitrogen / smoke / particulates Wind – does not produce solid waste / ash Wind – can be situated at sea / well away from habitation Wind – does not contribute to global warming / emit greenhouse gases Wind – does not contribute to acid rain Wind – does not contribute to global dimming		allo igri allo allo allo ign	ow no harmful gases hore carbon neutral ow large area of land ne ow noise / visual pollutio ow wind turbines can re-	eeded for both on for both sult in bird-strike for both		
Total					6	

question	answers	extra information	mark	AOs/Spec Refs
19(a)	 any one from no electricity at night time only works during daylight hours amount of electricity generated would be (too) small takes a long time (to charge the phone) 	ignore unreliable unless qualified allow may be insufficient light if cloudy	1	A01 P1.4.1c
19 (b)	 any two from: uses biofuel (to heat food) no need to take fuel with you when camping carbon neutral <i>no fuel cost</i> 	ignore wood accept uses renewable energy source allow conserves non renewable energy sources / fossil fuels allow more sustainable ignore harmful gases / global warming allow less likely to topple over / more stable allow less chance of explosion	2	A03 P1.4.1e
Total			3	