



Cambridge O Level

PHYSICS

5054/32

Paper 3 Practical Test

May/June 2023

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 30

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 May/June 2023 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level and Cambridge Pre-U components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

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

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 descriptors 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.

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)(i)	h , D and d recorded to the nearest 0.1 cm (only) ;	1
	expect values within ± 0.2 cm of supervisor's values with trend: $h > D > d$;	1
1(a)(ii)	d_A calculation correct ;	1
1(a)(iii)	V_1 calculation correct ;	1
1(b)(i)	C present and realistic value ;	1
	evidence of at least 3 loops of string around middle of the cup or correct positioning of string e.g., around the top and at the bottom and averaged ;	1
1(b)(ii)	V_2 sensible and calculation correct ;	1
1(c)	$V_3 = R_1 - R_2$;	1
1(d)	method 2: string not correctly positioned/loops of string may overlap / string has thickness/the external diameter is being measured ;	1
	method 3: cup underfilled or overfilled / water spilled on transfer / water left in the cup / readings not taken perpendicularly to scale ;	1

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)(i)	V_1 to at least 1 decimal place and $< 3 \text{ V}$ and I_1 to at least 2 decimal places and $< 1 \text{ A}$;	1
2(a)(ii)	R_1 correct ;	1
2(a)(iii)	to prevent resistors / wires / circuit overheating/heating up ;	1
2(b)(i)	V_2 and I_2 present and $I_2 > I_1$;	1
2(b)(ii)	R_2 and $2R_2$ correct ;	1
2(c)	Correct, and valid calculation to support the statement using values of R_1 and $2R_2$;	1
	statement consistent with their calculation results and as indicated by values being compared (R_1 and $2R_2$) ;	1
2(d)	V_3 , I_3 and R_3 all present ;	1
2(e)	all values present and $R_4 < R_3$;	1
2(f)	lamp filaments glow more brightly with R_4's circuit / lamps get hotter in the circuit with resistance R_4 ;	1

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	2.6 ± 0.3 (cm) ;	1
3(b)(i)	6.5–9.5 (cm) ;	1
3(b)(ii)	(1 / their h) to 2 sig figs. ;	1
3(c)	all columns with headings and correct units ;	1
	5 sets of data with u values at least 5 cm apart with correct trend (as u increases, h decreases) ;	1
	Consistent d.p down column for h and consistent (with $1/h$ in (b)(ii)) sig figs. down $1/h$;	1
3(d)	axes labelled, quantity and unit ($1/h$ on y-axis, u on x-axis) ;	1
	scales linear, not awkward, start from (0, 0) ;	1
	points plotted accurately, to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ square ;	1
	thin best-fit straight line ;	1
3(e)(i)	Values for two points (only) clearly indicated on the line of the graph, points separated by $\geq \frac{1}{2}$ the line used ;	1
	gradient correctly calculated using coordinates of two points on the line;	1
3(e)(ii)	calculation of f correct and f in range 12 to 17 cm ;	1
3(f)	Use graph paper or a scale stuck onto the screen / clamp ruler against screen / use translucent screen and measure at the back ;	1

Question	Answer	Marks
4	method (3 marks) MP1: insulate / wrap / cover the beaker with cardboard, add hot water, and place the ice cube(s) in the water ; MP2: measure the time taken for the ice to melt / (start timing when the ice is put in the water and) stop the stopwatch when the ice has melted ; MP3: repeat with at least 4 more layers of insulation ;	3
	key variables to be kept constant (1 mark) MP4: Any one from: • initial / starting temperature of the water • mass / volume / number / size of ice cubes (per test) • starting temperature of ice cubes • volume / mass / amount of water in the beaker • room temperature ;	1
	table (1 mark) MP5: table with columns for thickness of insulation / number of sheets / layers of insulation and time with appropriate units ;	1
	conclusion (1 mark) MP6: Any one from: • compare the readings to see if the thickness (of the insulation) has any effect on the time taken for the ice to melt • plot a graph of thickness (of insulation) against time taken (for the ice to melt) • (use the table of results to) compare the time taken to melt with the thickness (of the insulation) ;	1