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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

BIOLOGY **9700/36**

Paper 3 Advanced Practical Skills 2 **October/November 2023**

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 2023 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

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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.

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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.

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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
/	alternative answers for the same marking point
R	reject
A	accept
I	ignore
AVP	any valid point
AW	alternative wording (where responses vary more than usual)
ecf	error carried forward
underline	actual word underlined must be used by candidate (grammatical variants accepted)
max	indicates the maximum number of marks that can be given
ora	or reverse argument

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)(i)	1 states five concentrations: 1.0, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125 mol dm^{-3} **;** 2 states four transfers of 5 cm^3 to each beaker from the previous beaker **;** 3 shows four additions of 5 cm^3 water to each beaker **;**	**3**
1(a)(ii)	draws four circles with one in each quadrant and labels each with the concentration of acid **;**	**1**
1(a)(iii)	1 *heading for independent variable*: concentration of hydrochloric acid / mol dm^{-3} **;** 2 *heading for dependent variables*: distance / mm **;** 3 records a distance for stated concentrations in **(a)(i)** and for both Petri dishes **;** 4 correct trend **;** 5 records distance in whole millimetres **;**	**5**
1(a)(iv)	1 shows distance for 2 mol dm^{-3} divided by 20 **;** 2 correct answer and appropriate units **;**	**2**
1(a)(v)	1 use one concentration of hydrochloric acid **;** 2 for five time intervals **;** 3 calculate the rate of diffusion of the acid for each time interval **;**	**3**
1(b)(i)	1 label on *x*-axis: percentage concentration of alanine and label on *y*-axis: rate of absorption (/) μm h^{-1} **;** 3 scale on *x*-axis: 20 to 2 cm, labelled at least every 2 cm and scale on *y*-axis: 500 to 2 cm, labelled at least every 2 cm **;** 3 correct plotting of all five points using small crosses or dots in circles **;** 4 five plots joined with thin line passing through all points and line is either a smooth curve or joined plot to plot **;**	**4**
1(b)(ii)	1 states that the higher the concentration of alanine the higher the rate of absorption **;** 2 correct reference to transport proteins **;** 3 transport proteins saturated at 50 to 70 per cent concentration of alanine **;**	**3**

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<table>
<tr><th>Question</th><th>Answer</th><th>Marks</th></tr>
<tr><td>2(a)(i)</td><td>1 uses most of the available space and no shading ;
2 draws correct region of stem and no cells ;
3 correct proportions of tissues ;
4 correct shape of the vascular bundle ;
5 label line and label to the epidermis ;</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>2(a)(ii)</td><td>1 lines continuous, thin and sharp ;
2 draws a line of four xylem vessel elements and each touches at least on other vessel element ;
3 two lines drawn around each cell and three lines where cells touch ;
4 detailed shapes of xylem vessel elements ;
5 label line and label to lumen ;</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>2(b)(i)</td><td>1 states only observable structures that are similar ;
2, 3 and 4 three correct similarities:

any three from:

<table><tr><th>similar structure</th><th>how the structures are similar</th></tr><tr><td>shape of stem</td><td>both stems are square ;</td></tr><tr><td>size of vascular bundles</td><td>both have vascular bundles that are large and small ;</td></tr><tr><td>number of vascular bundles</td><td>4 or 8 vascular bundles in total ;</td></tr><tr><td>position of vascular bundles</td><td>one vascular bundle in each corner ;</td></tr></table></td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>2(c)(i)</td><td>1 records width of whole section P–Q ;
2 records width of middle layer ;
3 shows measurement of middle layer divided by the length P–Q and multiplication by 100 ;
4 correct answer to two significant figures ;</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>2(c)(ii)</td><td>take measurements at different positions around the stem, add them together and divide by number of measurements ;</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table>

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