CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

MARINE SCIENCE **9693/11**

Paper 1 AS Level Theory Paper **October/November 2025**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 75

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 2025 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

PUBLISHED

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 descriptions 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	<u>'List rule' guidance</u> 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.

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	correct point or mark awarded
	incorrect point or mark not awarded
	information missing or insufficient for credit
	incorrect or insufficient point ignored while marking the rest of the response
	contradiction in response, mark not awarded
	benefit of the doubt given
	error carried forward applied
	incorrect point or mark not awarded
	point has been noted, but no credit has been given or blank page seen

Annotation	Meaning
	response is too vague or there is insufficient detail in response
	used to highlight parts of an answer / incorrect idea / irrelevant to question
	used to highlight parts of an extended response / incorrect idea / irrelevant to question
	key point attempted / working towards marking point / incomplete answer / response seen but not credited / blank page seen
ruler	allows lengths to be measured
multi-line overlay	overlays graphs
Highlighted text	Highlighting areas of text
On-page comment box	Allows comments to be entered on the page
Off-page comment box	Allows comments to be entered at the bottom of the RM Assessor marking window and then displayed when the associated question item is navigated to

This mark scheme will use the following abbreviations:

;	separates marking points
/	alternative responses for the same marking point
R	reject the response
A	accept the response
I	ignore the response
ECF	error carried forward
AVP	any valid point / alternative valid point
ORA	or reverse argument
AW	alternative wording
underline	actual word given must be used by candidate (grammatical variants accepted)
( )	the word / phrase in brackets is not required but sets the context
MAX	indicates the maximum number of marks that can be given
+ **AND**	statements on both sides of the **+** or **AND** are needed for that mark
OR	separates two different routes to a mark point and only one should be awarded

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)(i)	omnivores ;	**1**
1(a)(ii)	whitemouth croaker / Guiana dolphin / bay whiff ;	**1**
1(a)(iii)	label added with correct links ; arrows on links correct direction ;	**2**
1(a)(iv)	stage / step / position, in a food, web / chain ; compared with the producer ;	**2**
1(b)(i)	*any **1** of:* move from place to place (attached to dolphin) ; movement (attached to dolphin) moves water over barnacle(s) ; greater availability of food ;	**1**
1(b)(ii)	*any **2** of:* reduced hydrodynamic efficiency ; decreased camouflage ; damage to skin ; **AVP** ;	**2**
1(b)(iii)	parasitic ;	**1**

Question	Answer	Marks
1(c)(i)	*any **3** of:* upwelling ; run-off ; tectonic activity ; (atmospheric) gases dissolving ; excretion ; decomposition / decay ; **AVP** ;	**3**
1(c)(ii)	*any **2** of:* nitrogen ; magnesium ; carbon ; hydrogen ; oxygen ;	**2**

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)(i)	plates are moving apart ;	**1**
2(a)(ii)	*any **4** of:* sea water enters, gaps / cracks / fissures, in crust and is heated by magma / mantle ; minerals dissolve ; hot water rises (from crust) ; (water from fissure) cools due to sea water being colder ; minerals precipitate ; **AVP** ;	**4**
2(b)(i)	chemosynthetic ;	**1**
2(b)(ii)	$\frac{12.2}{2 \times 12}$; 0.51 **OR** 0.508 ; m month^{-1} **OR** m / month **OR** metres / month **OR** metres per month ;	**3**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)(i)	mutualistic / mutualism ;	**1**
3(a)(ii)	cnidaria ;	**1**
3(b)(i)	Lincoln index ;	**1**
3(b)(ii)	175 ;	**1**
3(c)	*any **3** of:* catching / mark, may harm, crab / animal **OR** make, crab / animal, more / less, likely to be, recaptured / survive / predated ; (organisms may) emigrate / immigrate / migrate ; population may not randomly mix ; time between release and recapture must be long enough to allow mixing ; time between release and recapture must be short enough compared with the life span of the organism / crab ; organisms may, be difficult to catch / hide ; mark / tag, may fall off / rub off ;	**3**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(d)	*any **3** of:* increase in, predation / predator, population ; decrease in, prey / food supply ; increase in, interspecific competition ; increase in, intraspecific competition ; (new) disease / pathogen ; new / increased, parasitism ; decrease in, (mutualistic) anemone population ;	**3**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)(i)	(A) electron ; (B) neutron ;	**2**
4(a)(ii)	covalent ;	**1**
4(b)	*any **4** of:* hydrogen (atoms in water molecule) are slightly positive(ly charged) ; oxygen (atoms in water molecule) are slightly negative(ly charged) ; due to oxygen attracting the electrons more strongly than hydrogen ; oxygen (from one water molecule) is attracted to hydrogen (in another water molecule) ; reference to dipole ;	**4**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(c)	more (hydrogen bonds) form between water molecules (when water freezes) ; so water molecules are held further apart ;	**2**
4(d)	water has a high(er) specific heat (capacity) ; because (more) energy is required to break hydrogen bonds ;	**2**

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	*any **5** of:* 1 (highest predicted will be) Spring tide ; 2 alignment of Earth, Sun and Moon ; 3 due to (force of) gravity (on water) from Sun and Moon ; 4 the (gravitational) effect is additive ; 5 wind direction from South-West **;** 6 high wind speed (into bay) ; 7 low (air) pressure ; 8 shape of bay funnels the water into a narrower channel (so tide height is increased) ; 9 flow of water into bay due to Coriolis effect ; 10 **AVP** ;;	**5**

Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)	*any **6** of:* 1 named example of animal (linked to its correct adaptation) ;; 2 firm substrate for attachment ; 3 animals form tight closure / muscular foot to attach, to substrate ; 4 (attachment / shell to) withstand (high) wave impact ; 5 (animals have) shell to reduce / prevent desiccation ; 6 migrate with the changing tide / live in rock pools ; 7 move / hide, under macroalgae / seaweed / rocks, to avoid desiccation ; 8 move / hide in, crevices to reduce wave impact **or** to avoid desiccation ; 9 description of how abiotic factors vary in the different zones ;; 10 description of how abiotic factors vary in rock pools ;; 11 **AVP** ;;	**6**
5(c)	*any **6** of:* **ecological** 1 macroalgae is a producer ; 2 carbon dioxide removed from, water / air ; 3 providing habitat ; 4 oxygenating (water) ; 5 (algae regrow quickly) so primary productivity is maintained ; **economic** (a) (macroalgae will grow again from holdfast) ensuring future harvest(s) ; (b) (macroalgae) grows back faster, so more to sell **OR** so less time between harvest ; (c) blades may be worth more money without holdfast ; (d) (as algae regrow) fish stocks for harvesting are not affected as food chains are not disrupted ; **either ecological or economic** (i) reduce wave, height / speed / energy ; (ii) (which) protects coastlines ;	**6**

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	(phylum) chordata / chordate(s) ; *max **4*** (features) notochord ; dorsal neural tube ; pharyngeal slits ; post-anal tail ; **AVP** ;;	**5**
6(b)	*any **8** of:* (similarities) 1 skeleton ; 2 gills ; 3 lateral line ; 4 pectoral, caudal, pelvic, anal and dorsal fins ; (differences) (cartilaginous fish) (a) has gill slits **ORA** ; (b) cartilaginous-skeleton / non-calcified or non-ossified, skeleton ; (c) buoyancy created by fatty liver **ORA** ; (d) denticles present / placoid scales ; (bony fish) (e) skeleton is calcified / ossified ; (f) operculum present **ORA** ; (g) scales present ; (h) swim bladder (present in many) **ORA** (absent in all cartilaginous fish) ; (i) visible lateral line **ORA** ; (j) **AVP**;;	**8**