CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)

CO-ORDINATED SCIENCES **0973/61**

Paper 6 Alternative to Practical **October/November 2025**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 60

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 standard isation 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
BOD	benefit of the doubt given
FT	follow through
TV	response is too vague or there is insufficient detail in response
ECF	error carried forward applied
^	information missing or insufficient for credit
	unclear response
I	incorrect or insufficient point ignored while marking the rest of the response
R	incorrect point or mark not awarded

Annotation	Meaning
CON	contradiction in response, mark not awarded
LNK	two statements are linked
SEEN	point has been noted, but no credit has been given or blank page seen
	key point attempted / working towards marking point / incomplete answer / response seen but not credited / blank page seen
BP	blank page

<table>
<tr><th>Question</th><th>Answer</th><th>Marks</th></tr>
<tr><td>1(a)(i)</td><td>headings for potato and milk ;
headings for biuret and iodine (final colours) ;</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>1(a)(ii)</td><td><table><tr><td></td><td>biuret</td><td>iodine</td></tr><tr><td>potato</td><td>blue ;</td><td>blue-black ;</td></tr><tr><td>milk</td><td>purple ;</td><td>brown ;</td></tr></table></td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>1(a)(iii)</td><td>(potato contains) starch ;
(milk contains) protein ;</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>1(b)(i)</td><td><u>reducing</u> sugar ;</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1(b)(ii)</td><td>temperature 40 °C to 99 °C ;</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1(b)(iii)</td><td>0.57 ;
0.85 ;</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>1(b)(iv)</td><td>(method 1), is not subjective / is quantitative

OR

method 2, is subjective / qualitative ;</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1(b)(v)</td><td>to react all of the nutrient ;</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table>

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	quality – clear and continuous outline **and** a spiky edge ; size – at least half the box used **and** must fit inside the box ; detail – 3 lobes **and** central vein in each lobe **and** a few smaller veins ;	**3**
2(b)	**similarity** (both have), veins / midribs / vascular bundle(s) / xylem / phloem / vein along the middle ; **difference** **any two from:** shape • C has lobes / D has one lobe / D has no lobes ; • C is spikey / C is irregular / C is serrated / C is zig zag / D is smooth / D is regular ; • D is oval shaped / D is curved / D is rounded / C is not oval shaped / C is not curved / C is not rounded ; size • leaf C is large(r) / leaf D is small(er) / leaf C is wide(r) / leaf D is narrow(er) ; leaf stalk: • C has a leaf stalk / D has no leaf stalk ;	**3**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)(i)	stops bubbling ;	**1**
3(a)(ii)	copper carbonate doesn't react with water / there is no reaction ;	**1**
3(a)(iii)	not precise / graduations do not go below 10 cm^3 / larger measurement error / larger measurement uncertainty ;	**1**
3(b)	77 ; 46 ;	**2**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)(i)	axes correct orientation and labelled with quantity and unit ; sensible linear scales where plotted points cover ≥ ½ the grid and all points can be plotted ; plotted points correct to ½ small square ;	**3**
3(c)(ii)	best fit straight line from the plotted points ;	**1**
3(c)(iii)	as **concentration** increases **rate** increases ;	**1**
3(c)(iv)	time read from graph correctly ;	**1**
3(c)(v)	can identify anomalous results / can exclude anomalous results / reduces the effects of **random** error ;	**1**
3(d)(i)	line lower than plotted line ;	**1**
3d(ii)	more successful collisions / more frequent collisions ;	**1**
3(e)	(gas) syringe ;	**1**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)(i)	white ppt and white ppt ;	**1**
4(a)(ii)	add dilute (nitric) acid ; breaks down carbonate ions ;	**2**
4(b)	yellow / Y **AND** splint not soaked for long enough / not immediate colour recorded / contamination of splint with sodium ions / splint placed in yellow flame ;	**1**
4(c)	universal indicator ;	**1**

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)(i)	value of p = 60.3 ; v in table = 30.3 ;	**2**
5(a)(ii)	21.8 ;	**1**
5(a)(iii)	suitable difficulty **AND** how to overcome it ; e.g. • lights were too bright – close the blinds ; • difficulty in getting clear focused image – move screen slowly / move back and forth ;	**1**
5(b)(i)	909 **and** 1090 ;	**1**
5(b)(ii)	cm^2 ;	**1**
5(b)(iii)	60.3 **and** 71.8 ;	**1**
5(b)(iv)	15.1 **and** 15.2 ;	**1**
5(b)(v)	as u increases, v decreases / **ORA** ;	**1**
5(c)(i)	(student **B**'s results) are closer to the true value / **ORA** ;	**1**
5(c)(ii)	will not measure to 0.1 mm ;	**1**
5(d)	image C inverted and enlarged ; image D upright and diminished ;	**2**

Question	Answer	Marks
6	**one from each section and any two others:** **apparatus** ruler and used in the method ; timer and used in the method ; **table** headings: length, time ; both correct units present in the heading ; **measurements** at least 5 lengths ; repeat each length to identify anomalies / repeat each length to exclude anomalies ; use of a fiducial aid explained ; **control variables** angle of swing ; no draughts ; let go / do not push ; size of bob / mass of the bob / same bob ; number of swings provided more than one ; **processing conclusion** **if multiple swings in their method** - divide time by number of swings to find time for one swing ; plot graph of time against length ; describe shape of graph e.g. positive gradient – if time increases as length increases then positive relationship **AND** if time decreases as length increases then negative relationship ; when the length increases does the time for one swing increase or decrease (or stay the same) ;	**7**