Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

PHYSICS **9702/34**

Paper 3 Advanced Practical Skills 2 **May/June 2021**

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 May/June 2021 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.

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)(i)	Value of C to the nearest mm.	**1**
1(a)(ii)	Value of T with unit and in the range 0.50–1.50 s.	**1**
	At least two measurements of nT where $n \geqslant 5$.	**1**
1(b)	Six sets of readings of C and T (different values) with correct trend (T increases as C increases) and without help from the Supervisor scores 4 marks, five sets scores 3 marks etc.	**4**
	Range: $C_{min} \leqslant 18.0$ cm and $C_{max} \geqslant 35.0$ cm.	**1**
	Column headings: Each column heading must contain a quantity and a unit where appropriate. The presentation of quantity and unit must conform to accepted scientific convention e.g. $1/\sqrt{C}$ / $cm^{-½}$, $1/T$ (s^{-1}).	**1**
	Consistency: All values of raw times must be given to the nearest 0.1 s or all to the nearest 0.01 s.	**1**
	Significant figures: Values of $1/\sqrt{C}$ must be given to the same number of significant figures as, or one greater than, the number of significant figures in C.	**1**
	Calculation: Values of $1/\sqrt{C}$ calculated correctly.	**1**

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(c)(i)	Axes: Sensible scales must be used, no awkward scales (e.g. 3:10 or fractions). Scales must be chosen so that the plotted points occupy at least half the graph grid in both *x* and *y* directions. Axes must be labelled with the quantity that is being plotted. Scale markings should be no more than three large squares apart.	**1**
	Plotting of points: All observations in the table must be plotted on the grid. Diameter of plotted points must be $\leqslant$ half a small square. Points must be plotted to an accuracy of half a small square in both *x* and *y* directions.	**1**
	Quality: All points in the table must be plotted (at least 5) on the grid. Trend of points must be correct. It must be possible to draw a straight line that is within $\pm\ 5.0 \times 10^{-3}\,\text{cm}^{-½}$ ($\pm\ 5.0 \times 10^{-2}\,\text{m}^{-½}$) on the $1 / \sqrt{C}$ axis (normally *x*-axis) of all plotted points.	**1**
1(c)(ii)	Line of best fit: Judge by balance of all points on the grid about the candidate's line (at least 5 points). There must be an even distribution of points either side of the line along the full length. Allow one anomalous point only if clearly indicated by the candidate. There must be at least five points left after the anomalous point is disregarded. Lines must not be kinked or thicker than half a small square.	**1**
1(c)(iii)	Gradient: The hypotenuse of the triangle used must be greater than half the length of the drawn line. Method of calculation must be correct, i.e. $\Delta y / \Delta x$. Gradient sign on answer line matches graph drawn. Both read-offs must be accurate to half a small square in both the *x* and *y* directions.	**1**
	y-intercept: Correct read-off from a point on the line and substituted into $y = mx + c$. Read-off must be accurate to half a small square in both *x* and *y* directions. **or** Intercept read directly from the graph at $x = 0$, accurate to half a small square.	**1**

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(d)	Value of a equal to candidate's gradient **and** value of b equal to candidate's intercept. Values must not be written as fractions.	**1**
	Units for a and b correct, e.g. $cm^{½}s^{-1}$ for a and s^{-1} for b.	**1**

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)(i)	Values of D_1 and D_2 both to nearest mm.	**1**
	Evidence of repeat readings for D_1 and D_2.	**1**
2(a)(ii)	Percentage uncertainty based on an absolute uncertainty of 2–5 mm. If repeat readings have been taken, then the absolute uncertainty can be half the range (but not zero) if the working is clearly shown. Correct method of calculation to obtain percentage uncertainty.	**1**
2(b)	All values of h_1 and h_2 to nearest 0.1 mm or all to nearest 0.01 mm.	**1**
	Correct calculation of y.	**1**
2(c)(i)	Values of A and B recorded **and** $A < B$.	**1**
2(c)(ii)	Correct calculation of F.	**1**
2(c)(iii)	Justification for significant figures in F linked to s.f. in B and A.	**1**
2(d)	Second values of D_1, D_2, h_1 and h_2.	**1**
	y smaller for smaller D_2.	**1**
2(e)(i)	Two values of k calculated correctly.	**1**
2(e)(ii)	Valid comment relating to the calculated values of k, testing against a criterion specified by the candidate.	**1**

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Question	Answer	Marks
2(f)(i)	A Two readings are not enough to draw a (valid) conclusion (**not** "not enough for accurate results", "few readings"). B Difficult to judge/determine whether rod is horizontal. C Difficult to measure *h* with reason e.g. parallax error/wooden block or ring getting in way. D Large percentage uncertainty in *y*. E Difficult to measure *A* or *B* with reason e.g. judging centre of slotted mass when measuring *B*/judging centre of nail for *A* or *B*/parallax error in *A* or *B*/difficult to hold ruler steady when measuring *A* or *B*. (Allow parallax error linked to *h* or *A* or *B* only once.) *1 mark for each point up to a maximum of 4.*	**4**
2(f)(ii)	A Take more readings <u>and</u> plot a graph or take more readings <u>and</u> compare *k* values (**not** "repeat readings" on its own). B Improved method to determine if rod horizontal e.g. use a spirit level/use set square(s) with description of method. C Method to reduce error in measuring *h* e.g. use wider rod/move ring to edge of block/use travelling microscope. D Method to reduce percentage uncertainty in *y* e.g. measure change in height at end of rod/use larger mass/increase *B*. E Improved method of measuring *A* or *B* e.g. clamp ruler/method to locate and mark centre of slotted mass e.g. measure diameter and halve to find radius. *1 mark for each point up to a maximum of 4.*	**4**

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