

OCR • GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE A (GATEWAY) J250

Physics — Higher Tier, Paper 2

June 2024 exam series

MARK SCHEME

Reproduced for free student revision use by Smart Edge International Ltd. Original paper © OCR. Not affiliated with or endorsed by OCR. For personal study use only — not for resale or redistribution.

Higher

GCSE

Combined Science Physics A Gateway Science

J250/12: Paper 12 (Higher Tier)

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mark Scheme for June 2024

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA) is a leading UK awarding body, providing a wide range of qualifications to meet the needs of candidates of all ages and abilities. OCR qualifications include AS/A Levels, Diplomas, GCSEs, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, Functional Skills, Key Skills, Entry Level qualifications, NVQs and vocational qualifications in areas such as IT, business, languages, teaching/training, administration and secretarial skills.

It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support, which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

© OCR 2024

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS**PREPARATION FOR MARKING****RM ASSESSOR**

1. Make sure that you have accessed and completed the relevant training packages for on-screen marking: *RM Assessor Online Training*; *OCR Essential Guide to Marking*.
2. Make sure that you have read and understood the mark scheme and the question paper for this unit. These are available in RM Assessor.
3. Log-in to RM Assessor and mark the **required number** of practice responses ("scripts") and the **required number** of standardisation responses.

MARKING

1. Mark strictly to the mark scheme.
2. Marks awarded must relate directly to the marking criteria.
3. The schedule of dates is very important. It is essential that you meet the RM Assessor 50% and 100% (traditional 50% Batch 1 and 100% Batch 2) deadlines. If you experience problems, you must contact your Team Leader (Supervisor) without delay.
4. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme, consult your Team Leader by telephone, email or via the RM Assessor messaging system.
5. **Crossed Out Responses**
Where a candidate has crossed out a response and provided a clear alternative then the crossed out response is not marked. Where no alternative response has been provided, examiners may give candidates the benefit of the doubt and mark the crossed out response where legible.

Rubric Error Responses – Optional Questions

Where candidates have a choice of question across a whole paper or a whole section and have provided more answers than required, then all responses are marked and the highest mark allowable within the rubric is given. Enter a mark for each question answered into RM assessor, which will select the highest mark from those awarded. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate has penalised themselves by attempting more questions than necessary in the time allowed.)*

Multiple Choice Question Responses

When a multiple choice question has only a single, correct response and a candidate provides two responses (even if one of these responses is correct), then no mark should be awarded (as it is not possible to determine which was the first response selected by the candidate). *When a question requires candidates to select more than one option/multiple options, then local marking arrangements need to ensure consistency of approach.*

Contradictory Responses

When a candidate provides contradictory responses, then no mark should be awarded, even if one of the answers is correct.

Short Answer Questions (requiring only a list by way of a response, usually worth only one mark per response)

Where candidates are required to provide a set number of short answer responses then only the set number of responses should be marked. The response space should be marked from left to right on each line and then line by line until the required number of responses have been considered. The remaining responses should not then be marked. Examiners will have to apply judgement as to whether a 'second response' on a line is a development of the 'first response', rather than a separate, discrete response. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate is attempting to hedge their bets and therefore getting undue benefit rather than engaging with the question and giving the most relevant/correct responses.)*

Short Answer Questions (requiring a more developed response, worth two or more marks)

If the candidates are required to provide a description of, say, three items or factors and four items or factors are provided, then mark on a similar basis – that is downwards (as it is unlikely in this situation that a candidate will provide more than one response in each section of the response space.)

Longer Answer Questions (requiring a developed response)

Where candidates have provided two (or more) responses to a medium or high tariff question which only required a single (developed) response and not crossed out the first response, then only the first response should be marked. Examiners will need to apply professional judgement as to whether the second (or a subsequent) response is a 'new start' or simply a poorly expressed continuation of the first response.

6. Always check the pages (and additional objects if present) at the end of the response in case any answers have been continued there. If the candidate has continued an answer there, then add annotation 'SEEN' to confirm that the work has been seen.
7. Award No Response (NR) if:
 - there is nothing written in the answer space

Award Zero '0' if:

- anything is written in the answer space and is not worthy of credit (this includes text and symbols).

Team Leaders must confirm the correct use of the NR button with their markers before live marking commences and should check this when reviewing scripts.

8. The RM Assessor **comments box** is used by your Team Leader to explain the marking of the practice responses. Please refer to these comments when checking your practice responses. **Do not use the comments box for any other reason.**

If you have any questions or comments for your Team Leader, use the phone, the RM Assessor messaging system, or email.

9. Assistant Examiners will send a brief report on the performance of candidates to their Team Leader (Supervisor) via email by the end of the marking period. The report should contain notes on particular strengths displayed as well as common errors or weaknesses. Constructive criticism of the question paper/mark scheme is also appreciated.

10. For answers marked by levels of response:

Read through the whole answer from start to finish, using the Level descriptors to help you decide whether it is a strong or weak answer. The indicative scientific content in the Guidance column indicates the expected parameters for candidates' answers, but be prepared to recognise and credit unexpected approaches where they show relevance. Using a 'best-fit' approach based on the skills and science content evidenced within the answer, first decide which set of level descriptors, Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3, best describes the overall quality of the answer.

Once the level is located, award the higher or lower mark:

The higher mark should be awarded where the level descriptor has been evidenced and all aspects of the communication statement (in italics) have been met.

The lower mark should be awarded where the level descriptor has been evidenced but aspects of the communication statement (in italics) are missing.

In summary:

The skills and science content determines the level.

The communication statement determines the mark within a level.

Level of response question on this paper is **15**.

11. Annotations available in RM Assessor

Annotation	Meaning
	Correct response
	Incorrect response
	Omission mark
	Benefit of doubt given
	Contradiction
	Rounding error
	Error in number of significant figures
	Error carried forward
	Level 1
	Level 2
	Level 3
	Benefit of doubt not given
	Noted but no credit given
	Ignore

Abbreviations, annotations and conventions used in the detailed Mark Scheme (to include abbreviations and subject-specific conventions).

Annotation	Meaning
/	alternative and acceptable answers for the same marking point
✓	Separates marking points
DO NOT ALLOW	Answers which are not worthy of credit
IGNORE	Statements which are irrelevant
ALLOW	Answers that can be accepted
()	Words which are not essential to gain credit
—	Underlined words must be present in answer to score a mark
ECF	Error carried forward
AW	Alternative wording
ORA	Or reverse argument

12. Subject-specific Marking Instructions

INTRODUCTION

Your first task as an Examiner is to become thoroughly familiar with the material on which the examination depends. This material includes:

- the specification, especially the assessment objectives
- the question paper
- the mark scheme.

You should ensure that you have copies of these materials.

You should ensure also that you are familiar with the administrative procedures related to the marking process. These are set out in the OCR booklet **Instructions for Examiners**. If you are examining for the first time, please read carefully **Appendix 5 Introduction to Script Marking: Notes for New Examiners**.

Please ask for help or guidance whenever you need it. Your first point of contact is your Team Leader.

The breakdown of Assessment Objectives for GCSE (9-1) in Combined Science A:

	Assessment Objective
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas and scientific techniques and procedures.
AO1.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas.
AO1.2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific techniques and procedures.
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas and scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures.
AO2.1	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas.
AO2.2	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures.
AO3	Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate, make judgements and draw conclusions and develop and improve experimental procedures.
AO3.1	Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate.
AO3.1a	Analyse information and ideas to interpret.
AO3.1b	Analyse information and ideas to evaluate.
AO3.2	Analyse information and ideas to make judgements and draw conclusions.
AO3.2a	Analyse information and ideas to make judgements.
AO3.2b	Analyse information and ideas to draw conclusions.
AO3.3	Analyse information and ideas to develop and improve experimental procedures.
AO3.3a	Analyse information and ideas to develop experimental procedures.
AO3.3b	Analyse information and ideas to improve experimental procedures.

For answers to Section A if an answer box is blank ALLOW correct indication of answer e.g. circled or underlined.

Question	Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
1	B	1	1.2	
2	C	1	1.2	
3	A	1	2.1	ALLOW 8.5 (m)
4	C	1	2.1	ALLOW 12 000 (kg)
5	D	1	1.1	
6	B	1	1.2	
7	C	1	1.2	
8	B	1	1.2	
9	D	1	2.1	
10	C	1	1.1	

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
11	(a)		Live and neutral ✓	1	1.1	
	(b)		Any one from: May cause a (loud) bang/pop/noise/sound ✓ May cause wires to get hot / may cause insulation/wires to melt / may cause smoke / may cause fire ✓ May cause fuse(s) to blow / may cause RCD(s) to trip ✓	1	2.2	IGNORE explosion ALLOW causes sparks / causes a (burning) smell IGNORE removes the safety of the earth wire / causes damage / appliance melt IGNORE causes a power cut IGNORE changes in current / overpower the electrics
	(c)		First check the answer on the answer line If answer = 42 (kWh) award 2 marks (E =) $2.4 \times 2.5 \times 7$ ✓ (E =) 42 (kWh) ✓	2	2×2.1	ALLOW 2.4×17.5 ALLOW <u>$2.4 \times 2.5 = 6$</u> for 1 mark ALLOW 4.2×10^n as the final answer for 1 mark
	(d)	(i)	Any one from: As current increases, danger increases / ORA ✓ As time for current to flow increases, danger increases / ORA ✓	1	3.1a	ALLOW alternative wording for danger e.g., cardiac arrest / difficulty breathing / effects more serious / effects get worse / risks increase / becomes fatal IGNORE as the current increases the time decreases (so danger increases) IGNORE ideas that are not trends e.g. no danger at low currents / no effects until past 500 mA

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
11	(d)	(ii)	10 000 (ms) ✓	1	2.2	ALLOW 10 seconds / 10 s DO NOT ALLOW incorrect unit e.g., 10 000 m/s or 10 000 s
		(iii)	First check the answer on the answer line If answer = 0.045 (C) award 3 marks Unit conversion: 150 mA = 0.15 A ✓ (charge =) 0.15×0.3 ✓ (charge =) 0.045 (C) ✓	3	1.2 2.1 2.1	ALLOW $(1.5 \times 10^n) \times 0.3$ for 1 mark ALLOW 4.5×10^n as the final answer for 2 marks
		(iv)	To prevent difficulty breathing / no lasting effects ✓	1	3.2a	IGNORE to prevent cardiac arrest IGNORE to prevent electrocution Key: No reaction No lasting effects Difficulty breathing Cardiac arrest

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
11	(d)	(v)	If RCD A Any two from: (Safer as) current lower ✓ Current is 10/low so no lasting effects ✓ Time is 100/high but no lasting effects ✓ Very sensitive ✓ If RCD B Any two from: (Safer as) switches off faster ✓ Current is 30/high but no lasting effects ✓ Time is 40/low so no lasting effects ✓ Will not keep shutting off supply accidentally ✓	2	2 × 3.1b	Both marks for RCD A or both marks for RCD B, maximum 1 mark if RCD A and RCD B selected Answer must be comparative ALLOW any time at a current of 10 has no lasting effects for 2 marks ALLOW calculation to demonstrate a smaller charge flow e.g., RCD A charge flow is 0.001 C, but RCD B charge flow is 0.0012 Answer must be comparative ALLOW time up to 500 at a current of 30 has no lasting effects for 2 marks

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
12	(a)		(Energy transferred) From chemical (store) ✓ To kinetic (store) / to gravitational (potential) (store) ✓	2	2 × 1.1	ALLOW chemical decreases ALLOW kinetic/gravitational increases ALLOW kinetic (store) as ball is moving ALLOW gravitational (potential) (store) as increasing in height ALLOW chemical to kinetic/gravitational for 2 marks IGNORE thermal / heat / sound / nuclear
	(b)	(i)	Any two from: Start timing when see flash/light/explosion / start timing when he sees it fired ✓ Stop timing when hear bang/sound ✓ Use $s = \frac{d}{t}$ to calculate speed ✓	2	2 × 3.3a	IGNORE just 'when it is fired' DO NOT ALLOW counting DO NOT ALLOW counting ALLOW (measure/calculate) time between flash/light/fired and bang/sound for 2 marks equation with speed/velocity as the subject only ALLOW (speed =) distance divided by time ALLOW $v = s \div t$

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
12	(b)	(ii)	Smaller percentage error / the effect of the (reaction) time error is smaller / (reaction) time error has a smaller effect ✓	1	3.3b	ALLOW to make the uncertainty in the time measurement small / to make time (value more) accurate ALLOW idea that a short time is too difficult to measure if the cannon was closer / sound needs to be a long distance away to be measured IGNORE references to safety
	(c)	(i)	First check the answer on the answer line If answer = 364.65 (m/s) award 2 marks (1122 feet / s $\Rightarrow$ $1122 \times (32.5 \div 100)$ ✓ (1122 feet / s $\Rightarrow$ 364.65 (m / s) ✓	2	2 $\times$ 1.2	ALLOW 364.7 or 365 (m / s)

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
12	(c)	(ii)	(% difference =) $(1122 - 1056) \div 1056 \times 100$ ✓ (% difference =) 6.25 (%) ✓ Either: Accurate as % difference is small/<10% Or Inaccurate as % difference is large/>5% ✓	3	2 × 1.2 3.1b	ALLOW $(36465 - 34320) \div 34320 \times 100$ ALLOW 6.25 on its own for 2 marks ALLOW 0.0625 for 1 mark ALLOW quite accurate as % difference is small/<10%
	(d)		Air particles vibrate/oscillate (parallel to direction of energy transfer) ✓ Compressions and rarefactions ✓	2	2 × 1.1	ALLOW answers in description or on a labelled diagram anywhere in the answer space ALLOW they/it vibrate/oscillate IGNORE waves vibrate/oscillate

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
13	(a)		Step-up Potential difference Step-down Decreases ✓	1	1.1	
	(b)	(i)	First check the answer on the answer line If answer = 9.6 (A) award 2 marks $240 \times 0.8 = 20 \times I_s$ OR $(I_s \Rightarrow) (240 \times 0.8) \div 20 \checkmark$ $(I_s \Rightarrow) 9.6 \text{ (A)} \checkmark$	2	2×2.1	ALLOW equation in any form e.g., $192 \div 20$
		(ii)	First check the answer on the answer line If answer = 0.8 award 3 marks Efficiency = useful E output $\div$ total E input ✓ (Efficiency $\Rightarrow$) $140 \div 175 \checkmark$ (Efficiency $\Rightarrow$) 0.8 ✓	3	1.2 2.1 2.1	ALLOW equation in any form ALLOW 80% for 3 marks ALLOW 0.8% or 80 for 2 marks ALLOW unit added e.g. 0.8 J or 80 J for 2 marks
		(iii)	First check the answer on the answer line If answer = 50 (W) award 3 marks $P = I^2 R \checkmark$ $(P \Rightarrow) 0.25^2 \times 800 \checkmark$ $(P \Rightarrow) 50 \text{ (W)} \checkmark$	3	1.2 2.1 2.1	

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
14	(a)		Either circles around: ^{238}U AND ^{234}U Or ^{234}Th AND ^{230}Th ✓ Reason: Same charge (on nucleus) / same proton number / same atomic number / same number of protons ✓ Or Different mass (number) / different number of neutrons ✓	2	2.1 1.1	ALLOW correct isotopes identified on answer lines but graph takes precedence Needs to be clear that U and U connected and/or Th and Th connected IGNORE both thorium / both uranium / same element
	(b)	(i)	(Charge) increases by 1 ✓ (Mass) stays the same ✓	2	2 × 1.1	IGNORE just quoting numbers from the graph IGNORE just 'it goes up' / it increases
		(ii)	Beta ✓	1	2.1	
	(c)		$\begin{array}{ccccc} 222 & 218 & 4 & & \\ \text{Rn} & \rightarrow & \text{Po} & + & \text{He} \\ 86 & & 84 & 2 & \checkmark \checkmark \end{array}$	2	1.2 2.2	ALLOW He correct for 1 mark ALLOW atomic numbers for Rn and Po correct for 1 mark

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
14	(d)		(Nucleus is) stable / (isotope) not radioactive ✓	1	1.1	
	(e)		First check the answer on the answer line If answer = 1 : 15 award 3 marks $1.8 \times 10^{10} \div 4.5 \times 10^9$ or 4 half-lives ✓ $\frac{1}{16}$ or $\frac{15}{16}$ seen ✓ (Ratio =) 1 : 15 ✓	3	2.1 2.1 1.2	

Question			Answer	Marks	AO element	Guidance
15	*		Please refer to the marking instructions on page 4 of this mark scheme for guidance on how to mark this question. Level 3 (5–6 marks) Detailed description of the relationship shown in the data which includes analysis AND Detailed explanation of what the student sees <i>There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.</i> Level 2 (3–4 marks) Detailed description of the relationship shown in the data AND Basic explanation of what the student sees OR Basic description of the relationship shown in the data AND Detailed explanation of what the student sees <i>There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is relevant and supported by some evidence.</i>	6	2 × 2.2 2 × 3.1a 2 × 3.2b	AO2.2 – Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures to describe what the student sees. • Ray refracts towards normal in glass • Red refracts least / violet refracts most / correct colour labelled on diagram • Different colours spread out/disperse • Order of colours correctly identified / correct colours labelled on diagram AO3.1a - Analyse information and ideas to describe relationship between wavelength and speed in glass. • Each colour has a different wavelength • Different colours/wavelengths are slowed by different amounts / different colours/wavelengths have different speeds in glass • As wavelength decreases, speed in glass decreases / ORA • Red light travels fastest (in glass) • Violet light travels slowest (in glass)

		Level 1 (1–2 marks) Basic description about wavelength, speed or refraction AND Basic description or explanation of what the student sees <i>There is an attempt at a logical structure with a line of reasoning. The information is in the most part relevant.</i> 0 marks <i>No response or no response worthy of credit.</i>		AO3.2b - Analyse information and ideas to draw conclusions about how changes in speed explain what the student sees. • Speed of light decreases in glass • Change in speed causes refraction • Violet light slows down more than red light (in the glass) • Shorter wavelengths slow down more than longer wavelengths (in the glass) • Each colour or wavelength refracts by a different amount ALLOW answers in terms of optical density e.g. speed of light decreases as light moves to a more dense medium / light refracts as it moves to a more dense medium IGNORE references to frequency throughout
--	--	---	--	--

Need to get in touch?

If you ever have any questions about OCR qualifications or services (including administration, logistics and teaching) please feel free to get in touch with our customer support centre.

Call us on

01223 553998

Alternatively, you can email us on

support@ocr.org.uk

For more information visit



ocr.org.uk/qualifications/resource-finder



ocr.org.uk



Twitter/ocrextams



/ocrextams



/company/ocr



/ocrextams



OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored. © OCR 2024 Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registered office The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA.

Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.

OCR operates academic and vocational qualifications regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA as listed in their qualifications registers including A Levels, GCSEs, Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Nationals.

OCR provides resources to help you deliver our qualifications. These resources do not represent any particular teaching method we expect you to use. We update our resources regularly and aim to make sure content is accurate but please check the OCR website so that you have the most up-to-date version. OCR cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in these resources.

Though we make every effort to check our resources, there may be contradictions between published support and the specification, so it is important that you always use information in the latest specification. We indicate any specification changes within the document itself, change the version number and provide a summary of the changes. If you do notice a discrepancy between the specification and a resource, please [contact us](#).

Whether you already offer OCR qualifications, are new to OCR or are thinking about switching, you can request more information using our [Expression of Interest form](#).

Please [get in touch](#) if you want to discuss the accessibility of resources we offer to support you in delivering our qualifications.