



Rewarding Learning

**General Certificate of Secondary Education
2025–2026**

**Single Award Science
Chemistry**

Unit 2
Foundation Tier

[GSA21]

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025, AFTERNOON

**MARK
SCHEME**

General Marking Instructions

Introduction

Mark schemes are intended to ensure that the GCSE examinations are marked consistently and fairly. The mark schemes provide markers with an indication of the nature and range of candidates' responses likely to be worthy of credit. They also set out the criteria which they should apply in allocating marks to candidates' responses.

Assessment objectives

Below are the assessment objectives for GCSE Single Award Science

Candidates must:

- AO1** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, scientific techniques and procedures;
- AO2** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding of scientific ideas, scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures; and
- AO3** Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate; make judgements and draw conclusions; develop and improve experimental procedures.

Quality of candidates' responses

In marking the examination papers, examiners should be looking for a quality of response reflecting the level of maturity which may reasonably be expected of a 16-year-old which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their GCSE examinations.

Flexibility in marking

Mark schemes are not intended to be totally prescriptive. No mark scheme can cover all the responses which candidates may produce. In the event of unanticipated answers, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement to assess the validity of answers. If an answer is particularly problematic, then examiners should seek the guidance of the Supervising Examiner.

Positive marking

Examiners are encouraged to be positive in their marking, giving appropriate credit for what candidates know, understand and can do rather than penalising candidates for errors or omissions. Examiners should make use of the whole of the available mark range for any particular question and be prepared to award full marks for a response which is as good as might reasonably be expected of a 16-year-old GCSE candidate.

Awarding zero marks

Marks should only be awarded for valid responses and no marks should be awarded for an answer which is completely incorrect or inappropriate.

Marking Calculations

In marking answers involving calculations, examiners should apply the 'own figure rule' so that candidates are not penalised more than once for a computational error.

Types of mark schemes

Mark schemes for tasks or questions which require candidates to respond in extended written form are marked on the basis of levels of response which take account of the quality of written communication.

Other questions which require only short answers are marked on a point for point basis with marks awarded for each valid piece of information provided.

Listing

Where one response is required to gain a mark, candidates will not gain credit if a correct response is given alongside one or more incorrect responses. This is referred to as listing.

Levels of response

Tasks and questions requiring candidates to respond in extended writing are marked in terms of levels of response. In deciding which level of response to award, examiners should look for the 'best fit' bearing in mind that weakness in one area may be compensated for by strength in another. In deciding which mark within a particular level to award to any response, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement. The following guidance is provided to assist examiners.

- ***Threshold performance:*** Response which just merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the bottom of the range.
- ***Intermediate performance:*** Response which clearly merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the middle of the range.
- ***High performance:*** Response which fully satisfies the level description and should be awarded a mark at or near the top of the range.

Quality of written communication

Quality of written communication is taken into account in assessing candidates' responses to all tasks and questions that require them to respond in extended written form. These tasks and questions are marked on the basis of levels of response. The description for each level of response includes reference to the quality of written communication.

For conciseness, quality of written communication is distinguished within levels of response as follows:

Level 1: Quality of written communication is basic.

Level 2: Quality of written communication is good.

Level 3: Quality of written communication is excellent.

In interpreting these level descriptions, examiners should refer to the more detailed guidance provided below:

Level 1 (Basic): The candidate makes only a limited selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. The organisation of material may lack clarity and coherence. There is little use of specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar may be such that intended meaning is not clear.

Level 2 (Good): The candidate makes a reasonable selection and use of an appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with some clarity and coherence. There is some use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently competent to make meaning clear.

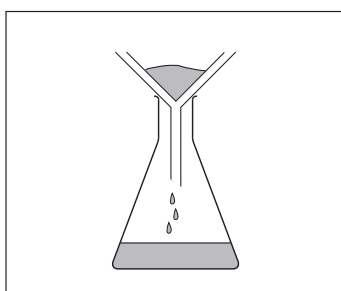
Level 3 (Excellent): The candidate successfully selects and uses the most appropriate form and style of writing. Relevant material is organised with a high degree of clarity and coherence. There is widespread and accurate use of appropriate specialist vocabulary. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a sufficiently high standard to make meaning clear.

- 1 (a) Hazard [1]
- (b) Toxic [1]
- (c)  [1]
- (c) Getty Images

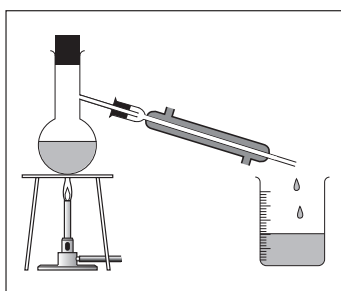
AVAILABLE
MARKS

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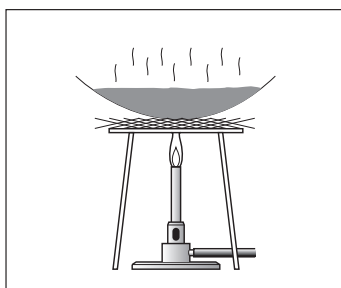
- 2 (a) Apparatus Separation method



crystallisation



filtration



distillation

(all correct [2], one correct [1])

[2]

- (b) Chromatography [1]

3

3 (a) (i) Man-made

[1]

(ii)

Material	Natural	Synthetic
glass		✓
wood	✓	
plastic		✓
silk	✓	
cotton	✓	

(all correct [2], 2/3 correct [1])

[2]

(b) Insulator [1]

protects hand from getting **burnt** [1]

[2]

(c) Surroundings [1]

thermochromic [1]

[2]

7

4 (a) C

[1]

(b) Hydrochloric acid

[1]

(c) (i) Sodium chloride

[1]

(ii) Neutralisation

[1]

(d) (i)

Indicator	Colour in acid	Colour in alkali
red litmus	red	blue

[1]

(ii) • wider range of colours

• to show different strengths of acid/alkali

[2]

(iii) pH 12 –14

[1]

8

AVAILABLE
MARKS

5	(a) Alkanes contain carbon and hydrogen only	[1]	AVAILABLE MARKS
(b)	<pre> H H H — C — C — H H H </pre>	[1]	
(c)	Crude oil is formed from the remains of plants and animals [1], over millions of years [1], under conditions of heat and pressure [1]	[3]	
(d)	(i) Fractional distillation	[1]	
	(ii) D	[1]	
(e)	(i) 100 – 99.2 [1] 0.8 [1]	[2]	
	(ii) More CO ₂ in petrol engine exhaust gases	[1]	
	(iii) Any one from: • climate change • sea levels rise • flooding	[1]	
6	(a) Calcium [1] argon [1]	[2]	
	(b) (i) Electron arrangement drawn for fluorine 2,7	[1]	
	(ii) Ionic	[1]	
	(iii) NaF	[1]	
	(c) Lithium	[1]	
	(d) (i) 4	[1]	
	(ii) 6	[1]	8
7	(a) Z X Y	[1]	
	(b) Sodium	[1]	
	(c) Glowing splint [1] relights [1]	[2]	
			4

8 (a) Indicative content

- (any **two**) arch, whorl, loop, composite
- dust with carbon black powder for white surface
- brush off excess powder
- use (sticky) tape to lift fingerprint
- transfer print to card
- compare to national database
- fingerprints are unique

Band	Response	Mark
A	Candidates use six or more of the points above to explain, using appropriate specialist terms, and in a logical sequence, the method used to collect a fingerprint from a white surface. They use good spelling, punctuation and grammar and the form and style are of a high standard.	[5]–[6]
B	Candidates use four to five of the points above to explain, using some appropriate specialist terms, and in a logical sequence, the method used to collect a fingerprint from a white surface. They use satisfactory spelling, punctuation and grammar and the form and style are of a satisfactory standard.	[3]–[4]
C	Candidates use one to three of the points above to explain how a fingerprint is collected from a white surface. They use limited spelling, punctuation and grammar and the form and style are of a limited standard.	[1]–[2]
D	Response not worthy of credit.	[0]

[6]

(b) Blood or other body fluids [1]

(c) Tiny pieces or fragments of physical evidence [1]

8

9 (a) (i) 6 pts correct [2] (5 pts [1])
line of best fit [1] [3]

(ii) As time increases, volume of gas produced increases [1]
At 50 s/48 cm³ volume of gas remains constant [1] [2]

(iii) Exothermic [1]

(b) Line drawn below [1]
levelling out at 30 cm³ [1] [2]

Total

60