



Rewarding Learning

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

Single Award Science: Physics

Unit P3

Foundation Tier

[GSA31]

WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025, MORNING

**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.

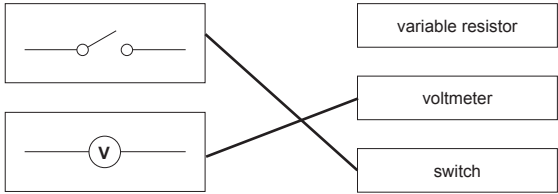
Level 3: Quality of written communication is excellent.

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) Switch [1] voltmeter [1]		[2]	AVAILABLE MARKS
	(b) (i) Parallel (ii) 2A (iii) Stay lit/no change/nothing (iv) 4×2 [1] 8(W) [1]		[1] [1] [1] [2]	
	(c) Any two from three: • as the number of bulbs increases, voltage decreases • as the number of bulbs increases, the brightness decreases • as the voltage across each bulb increases, the brightness increases		[2]	9
2	(a) 30 cm		[1]	8
	(b) 25 cm		[1]	
	(c) Energy		[1]	
	(d) $6 \div 4$ [1] 1.5(m) [1]		[2]	
	(e) (i) Microwave (ii) Ultraviolet		[1] [1]	
	(f) Speed		[1]	
3	(a) Increases		[1]	4
	(b) 17–18(m)		[1]	
	(c) Friction		[1]	
	(d) Increase (thinking distance)		[1]	

4	(a) Neptune	[1]	8																			
	(b) Jupiter/Saturn/Uranus/Neptune	[1]																				
	(c) Comet [1] Moon [1]	[2]																				
	(d) Earth observation/weather monitoring/astronomy/spying/communication	[1]																				
	(e) (i) Decreases (ii) 55×4 [1] 220(N) [1]	[2]																				
5	(a) Constant speed	[1]	6																			
	(b) 135(m)	[1]																				
	(c) C – D [1] gradient is the steepest [1]	[2]																				
	(d) $300 \div 60$ [1] 5(m/s) [1]	[2]																				
6	(a)	<table><tr><th rowspan="2">Type of radiation</th><th colspan="3">Material</th></tr><tr><th>Paper</th><th>Aluminium</th><th>Lead</th></tr><tr><td>alpha</td><td>(✓)</td><td>(✓)</td><td>(✓)</td></tr><tr><td>beta</td><td></td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>gamma</td><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr></table>	Type of radiation	Material			Paper	Aluminium	Lead	alpha	(✓)	(✓)	(✓)	beta		✓	✓	gamma			✓	6
	Type of radiation	Material																				
		Paper	Aluminium	Lead																		
	alpha	(✓)	(✓)	(✓)																		
	beta		✓	✓																		
	gamma			✓																		
	[1] mark per row	[2]																				
	(b) (i) Radiation around us (all the time)	[1]																				
	(ii) Cosmic rays/radon gas	[1]																				
	(c) Neutrons	[1]																				
(d) Detecting cracks in pipes/measuring thickness of metals	[1]																					
7	(a) Neutral	[1]	3																			
	(b) A and C	[1]																				
	(c) Fuse wire melts	[1]																				

- 8 (a) Convection [1]
- (b) Conduction: carpet/loft insulation/double glazing/cavity wall insulation [1]
Convection: double glazing/cavity wall insulation/loft insulation [1] [2]
- (c) Dark, matt is the best absorber of heat [1]
to keep house cool [1] [2]

9 (a) **Indicative content**

- coal/oil/gas
- fuel produces heat
- (heat turns) water to steam
- steam drives a turbine
- turbine drives a generator
- magnet and coil (in generator)
- relative motion
- burner: chemical to heat
- boiler: heat to kinetic
- generator: kinetic to electrical

	Response	Mark
A	Candidates must use appropriate specialist terms throughout to describe fully how a power station generates electricity (using at least 6 of the above points). They use good spelling, punctuation and grammar and the form and style are of a high standard.	[5]–[6]
B	Candidates use some appropriate specialist terms to partially describe how a power station generates electricity (using 4 to 5 of the above points). They use satisfactory spelling, punctuation and grammar and the form and style are of a satisfactory standard.	[3]–[4]
C	Candidates describe how a power station generates electricity (using 1 to 3 of the above points). However, these are not in a logical sequence. They use limited spelling, punctuation and grammar and they have made little use of specialist terms. The form and style are of a limited standard.	[1]–[2]
D	Response not worthy of credit.	[0]

[6]

(b) Advantage – any **one** from:

- renewable/fuel not running out
- no air pollution
- saves fossil fuels [1]

Disadvantage – noisy/unsightly [1]

[2]

(c) From June to November the time the lamp stays lit for decreases [1] as there is less light [1]

battery less charged/less electricity produced [1]

[3]

Total

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

5

11

60