

AS and A-level Chemistry

Mark scheme instructions for examiners

Introduction to marking

Before beginning the standardisation process, you must:

- access the online tutorial
- access all relevant documents on your Examiner Extranet page
- mark a minimum of 10 training clips of each item.

When standardising online, you must review the marking of the standardisation clips and all comments and annotations made by the Lead Examiner, which exemplify the marking standard. You must discuss the results of your marking of the standardisation clips with your Team Leader before you will be cleared to mark live clips.

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question
- the total marks available for the question
- the typical answer or answers which are expected
- extra information to help the examiner make his or her judgement and help to delineate what is acceptable or not worthy of credit or, in discursive answers, to give an overview of the area in which a mark or marks may be awarded.

The extra information in the 'Comments' column is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

You should mark according to the contents of the mark scheme. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme to a particular response, consult your Team Leader.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example: where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation; or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right-hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent.

The use of M1, M2, M3 etc in the right-hand column refers to the marking points in the order in which they appear in the mark scheme. So, M1 refers to the first marking point, M2 the second marking point etc.

2. Emboldening

- 2.1** In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following bullet points is a potential mark.
- 2.2** A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.

- 2.3** Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **OR**. Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; eg allow smooth / free movement.

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which students have provided extra responses. The general principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

Each error / contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of error / contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (often prefaced by 'Ignore' in the mark scheme) are not penalised.

3.2 Marking procedure for calculations

Full marks should be awarded for a correct numerical answer, without any working shown, unless the question states 'Show your working' or 'justify your answer'.

If an answer to a calculation is incorrect and working is shown, process mark(s) can usually be gained by correct substitution / working and this is shown in the 'Comments' column or by each stage of a longer calculation.

3.3 Equations

In questions requiring students to write equations, state symbols are generally ignored unless otherwise stated in the 'Comments' column.

Examiners should also credit correct equations using multiples and fractions unless otherwise stated in the 'Comments' column.

Equations are not correct unless they are balanced.

3.4 Organic structures

Where students are asked to draw organic structures, these may be given as displayed, structural or skeletal formulas unless a specific type of structure is required in the question and stated in the mark scheme.

3.5 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

3.6 Errors carried forward, consequential marking and arithmetic errors

Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation ECF or consequential in the marking scheme.

An arithmetic error should be penalised for one mark only unless otherwise amplified in the marking scheme. Arithmetic errors may arise from a slip in a calculation or from an incorrect transfer of a numerical value from data given in a question.

3.7 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term or if the question requires correct IUPAC nomenclature.

3.8 Brackets

(.....) are used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.9 Ignore / Insufficient / Do not allow

Ignore or insufficient is used when the information given is irrelevant to the question or not enough to gain the marking point. Any further correct amplification could gain the marking point.

Do **not** allow means that this is a wrong answer which, even if the correct answer is given, will still mean that the mark is not awarded.

3.10 Marking crossed out work

Crossed out work that **has not been** replaced should be marked as if it were not crossed out, if possible. Where crossed out work **has been** replaced, mark the replacement work and not the crossed out work.

3.11 Extended responses

For questions marked using a 'Levels of Response' mark scheme:

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into three levels, each of which has a descriptor. Each descriptor contains two statements. The first statement is the Chemistry content statement and the second statement is the communication statement.

Determining a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the Chemistry content descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level, then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level.

Once the level has been decided, the mark within the level is determined by the communication statement:

- If the answer completely matches the communication descriptor, award the higher mark within the level.
- If the answer does not completely match the communication descriptor, award the lower mark within the level.

The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help you to determine the appropriate level. There will be an exemplar in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme and for each mark within each level. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the exemplar to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the exemplar.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other chemically valid points. Students may not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme. The mark scheme will state how much chemical content is required for the highest level.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

For other extended response answers:

Where a mark scheme includes linkage words (such as 'therefore', 'so', 'because' etc), these are optional. However, a student's marks for the question may be limited if they do not demonstrate the ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured. In particular answers in the form of bullet pointed lists may not be awarded full marks if there is no indication of logical flow between each point or if points are in an illogical order.

The mark schemes for some questions state that the maximum mark available for an extended response answer is limited if the answer is not coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured. During the standardisation process, the Lead Examiner will provide marked exemplar material to demonstrate answers which have not met these criteria. You should use these exemplars as a comparison when marking student answers.