GCSE

## Biology A

## General Certificate of Secondary Education

## Mark Scheme for January 2013

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 will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this mark scheme.

## Annotations

Used in the detailed Mark Scheme:

| Annotation | Meaning |
| :--- | :--- |
| $l$ | alternative and acceptable answers for the same marking point |
| $(1)$ | separates marking points |
| not/reject | answers which are not worthy of credit |
| ignore | statements which are irrelevant - applies to neutral answers |
| allow/accept | answers that can be accepted |
| (words) | words which are not essential to gain credit |
| words | underlined words must be present in answer to score a mark |
| ecf | error carried forward |
| AW/owtte | credit alternative wording / or words to that effect |
| ORA | or reverse argument |

Available in scoris to annotate scripts:

| indicate uncertainty or ambiguity |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| BOD | benefit of doubt |
| contradiction |  |
| incorrect response |  |
| error carried forward |  |
| n | draw attention to particular part of candidate's response |
|  | draw attention to particular part of candidate's response |


| NBOD | no benefit of doubt |
| :---: | :---: |
| R | reject |
| $\sqrt{2}$ | correct response |
| 廷 | draw attention to particular part of candidate's response |
| $\square$ | information omitted |

## Subject-specific Marking Instructions

a. Accept any clear, unambiguous response (including mis-spellings of scientific terms if they are phonetically correct, but always check the guidance column for exclusions).
b. Crossed out answers should be considered only if no other response has been made. When marking crossed out responses, accept correct answers which are clear and unambiguous.
e.g. for a one-mark question where ticks in the third and fourth boxes are required for the mark:


This would be worth 1 mark.


This would be worth 0 marks.


This would be worth 1 mark.
c. The list principle:

If a list of responses greater than the number requested is given, work through the list from the beginning. Award one mark for each correct response, ignore any neutral response, and deduct one mark for any incorrect response, e.g. one which has an error of science. If the number of incorrect responses is equal to or greater than the number of correct responses, no marks are awarded. A neutral response is correct but irrelevant to the question.
d. Marking method for tick-box questions:

If there is a set of boxes, some of which should be ticked and others left empty, then judge the entire set of boxes.
If there is at least one tick, ignore crosses and other markings. If there are no ticks, accept clear, unambiguous indications, e.g. shading or crosses. Credit should be given according to the instructions given in the guidance column for the question. If more boxes are ticked than there are correct answers, then deduct one mark for each additional tick. Candidates cannot score less than zero marks.
e.g. if a question requires candidates to identify cities in England:

Edinburgh
Manchester
Paris
Southampton

the second and fourth boxes should have ticks (or other clear indication of choice) and the first and third should be blank (or have indication of choice crossed out).

| Edinburgh |  |  | $\checkmark$ |  |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Manchester | $\checkmark$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  |  |  | $\checkmark$ |  |
| Paris |  |  |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  |
| Southampton | $\checkmark$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |  | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ |  |
| Score: | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | NR |

e. For answers marked by levels of response:
i. Read through the whole answer from start to finish
ii. Decide the level that best fits the answer - match the quality of the answer to the closest level descriptor
iii. To determine the mark within the level, consider the following:

| Descriptor |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| A good match to the level descriptor | The higher mark in the level |
| Just matches the level descriptor | The lower mark in the level |

iv. Use the L1, L2, L3 annotations in Scoris to show your decision; do not use ticks.

Quality of Written Communication skills assessed in 6-mark extended writing questions include:

- appropriate use of correct scientific terms
- spelling, punctuation and grammar
- developing a structured, persuasive argument
- selecting and using evidence to support an argument
- considering different sides of a debate in a balanced way
- logical sequencing.



| Question |  | Answer | Marks | Guidance |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | (a) | Rupert; <br> Jemma; | 2 |  |  |
|  | (b) | meristems / cambium | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Total | 3 |




| Question |  | Answer | Marks | Guidance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | (a) | phototropism | 1 | more than one response $=0$ marks accept phonetic spelling options |
|  | (b) | ...give the plant more water. <br> ...give the plant a light source from above. <br> ...grow the plant next to another plant. <br> ...grow the plant in the same position but in a brighter light. | 1 | more than one response $=0$ marks <br> accept any clear response eg underline the correct sentence, use of a single cross, shade the box |
|  | (c) | hormones (1) <br> roots (1) unspecialised (1) | 3 | 1 mark per correct response in each sentence response is incorrect if more than one word per line |
|  |  | Total | 5 |  |
|  |  | Paper Total | 42 |  |

## OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)

1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU

## OCR Customer Contact Centre

Education and Learning
Telephone: 01223553998
Facsimile: 01223552627
Email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

## www.ocr.org.uk

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England


Registered Office; 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU
Registered Company Number: 3484466
OCR is an exempt Charity
OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
Head office
Telephone: 01223552552
Facsimile: 01223552553


