



Examiners' Report June 2015

GCSE Physics 5PH1F 01



Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at <u>www.edexcel.com</u> or <u>www.btec.co.uk</u>.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at <u>www.edexcel.com/contactus</u>.



Giving you insight to inform next steps

ResultsPlus is Pearson's free online service giving instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam results.

- See students' scores for every exam question.
- Understand how your students' performance compares with class and national averages.
- Identify potential topics, skills and types of question where students may need to develop their learning further.

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit <u>www.edexcel.com/resultsplus</u>. Your exams officer will be able to set up your ResultsPlus account in minutes via Edexcel Online.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk.

June 2015

Publications Code UG042621

All the material in this publication is copyright © Pearson Education Ltd 2015

Introduction

This unit is divided into six topics and all six topics were tested in the examination.

- 1. Visible light and the Solar System tested mainly in Q 5
- 2. The electromagnetic spectrum tested mainly in Q 4
- 3. Waves and the Universe tested mainly in Q 2
- 4. Waves and the Earth tested mainly in Q 6
- 5. Generation and transmission of electricity tested mainly in Q 3
- 6. Energy and the future tested mainly in Q 1

Each examination paper allows every candidate to show what they know, understand and can do.

The paper contains a mixture of question styles, including objective questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions. The two 6 mark items (in Q5 and Q6) test both Physics and candidates' quality of written communication.

This report will provide exemplification of candidates' work, together with tips and/or comments, for a selection of questions. The exemplification comes mainly from items which require more complex responses from candidates. It does not demonstrate all of the acceptable answers to each question. These can be found in the published mark scheme. Further, it only mentions some of the more common incorrect suggestions offered by candidates, to help teachers tackle these misconceptions in the classroom.

Question 1 (b) (i)

(b) This photograph shows a fan.



The blades of the fan are turned by an electric motor.

In one second, the motor gets 200 J of electrical energy from the mains supply. Only 180 J of this energy is used to turn the blades of the fan.

The rest of the energy is wasted.

(i) Calculate how much of the 200 J of energy is wasted.

wasted energy = $\frac{(1)}{36}$



Unfortunately, more candidates than expected did not understand the question or the meaning of their answer. Any value greater than 200 **must** be wrong. 0 marks.



Read through the task line of the question and check that the answer agrees with this.

Question 1 (b) (ii)

This question was challenging for some candidates.

(ii) State what happens to the wasted energy.



Other suggestions also not creditworthy include: 'It isn't used' and 'it remains there, runs the electric motor'

Question 1 (b) (iii)

Calculations are usually good indicators of overall performance. This one involved substitution into a standard, and provided equation.

Most candidates who scored well overall arrived at the correct answer often with working correctly shown.



Question 2 (b) (i)

This question tested the idea of orbits and how they differ from each other.

(b) Both the Hubble telescope and the Moon orbit the Earth. The table gives data about these



	average radius of orbit / km	time of orbit
Moon	385 000	27 days
Hubble	560	96 minutes

(i) What is the closest distance between the Moon and the Hubble telescope?

(1)





(b) Both the Hubble telescope and the Moon orbit the Earth. The table gives data about these

	average radius of orbit / km	time of orbit		
Moon	385000	27 days		
Hubble	560	96 minutes		

(i) What is the closest distance between the Moon and the Hubble telescope?

(1)





Question 2 (b) (ii)

An explanation, for the varying separations of Moon and Hubble, proved difficult for some of the weaker candidates.

Some candidates were able to provide a limited explanation in terms of elliptical orbits.

Some candidates had problems with technical terms.

(ii) Explain why the distance between the Moon and the Hubble telescope changes.

You may add to this diagram to help your answer.

(2) 101 larger Earth Side Smaller Hubble Moon the moon Movement Des OVAL n (Δ Uere Ine (01 aren orbit **Examiner Comments** This showed different separations on the diagram. 1 mark. Earth Hubble Moon Universe The and NC. Ś



Here is an example of a good response.

they born take different because time to orbit the Earth tubble could be almost ately. E the st the moon i artat whi 5 **sultsPlus Examiner Comments** This response states that orbital times are different and clearly implies that they can be at different (relative) places in their orbits. 2 marks. Earth Moon Hubble telescopes MOVES arour Faster than NUD MOON PS which OPES M) **JUIT** aw HOU 11 **Results** IS **Examiner Comments**

This response was sufficient for the two marks available.

Question 2 (c) (i)

Most candidates were able to plot the required point correctly

(c) Hubble measured the distance of many galaxies from Earth. He also measured the speed at which each galaxy moved away from Earth.

Hubble plotted his data on a graph like this.



(i) Plot the point: distance = 5 units, speed = 4 units

Results Plus Examiner Comments Some candidates mixed up the axes. This candidate plotted distance 4 units and speed 5 units. 0 marks.

both producing and interpreting graphs.

141

Question 2 (c) (ii)

This question required candidates to draw a *straight* line of best fit.



(i) Plot the point: distance = 5 units, speed = 4 units

(1)

(1)

(ii) Draw the straight line of best fit.





Question 2 (d)

This question tested the Big Bang theory. There were many and varied ideas as to the meaning.

(d) Hubble's work led to the theory of the Big Bang.

Describe what is meant by the Big Bang theory.

(2) theory is that there was with lots in it and ONGO Results

This was awarded two marks based on the final six words.

Examiner Comments

(d) Hubble's work led to the theory of the Big Bang.

Describe what is meant by the Big Bang theory.

It all started with a particle which exploded and expanded Still expanding) to our universe ~ planets, Stars and made and a theory = how the universe was formed. 15 moons. ia bana

(2)



This was given 1 mark as the idea of origin of Universe was clear. It was not awarded two marks since it mentions that a particle exploded. This is incorrect since it implies that there was something present before the Big Bang. (d) Hubble's work led to the theory of the Big Bang.



Describe what is meant by the Big Bang theory.

(d) Hubble's work led to the theory of the Big Bang.

Describe what is meant by the Big Bang theory.

(2) where th Cir*ficles* Dir Ir ρ ar



Question 3 (a) (ii)

This question asked candidates to provide an explanation.

- (ii) Explain why the voltage produced by this wind-powered generator is not always the same. (2) there. One wind next and onu 101 Ó cou**Examiner Comments** This response correctly introduces the idea that wind speed varies and is worth 1 mark. But it does not relate the voltage / 'electricity' to it.
 - (ii) Explain why the voltage produced by this wind-powered generator is not always the same.

15 int always the R HOB DUO+'nk 818 IE ma

(2)



Question 3 (a) (iii)

Working out the cost of using electricity regularly appears on examination papers.

(iii) It would cost the homeowner 15 p to buy 1.0 kW h of electrical energy from the National Grid.

His generator has a maximum power of 2.0 kW. The generator produces energy at this maximum power for 3 hours.

Calculate how much it would cost to buy the same amount of energy from the National Grid.



Others are able to score partial marks even though the electricity seems excessively expensive!



Question 3 (b)

It was very pleasing to note that many candidates scored all of the three marks available for this question.

(b) An electric kettle is plugged into a 230 V mains supply. It has a power of 2.5 kW.

Use this equation to calculate the current in the kettle.

$$current (in amps) = \frac{power (in watts)}{voltage (in volts)}$$
(3)
$$\frac{2.5}{230} = 92$$

$$current = \frac{92}{92}$$
KesultsPus
Examiner Comments
This response has used the values given in the stem and so scores the first mark only as both the units and the arithmetic are incorrect.

(b) An electric kettle is plugged into a 230 V mains supply. It has a power of 2.5 kW.

Use this equation to calculate the current in the kettle.

current (in amps) =
$$\frac{\text{power (in watts)}}{\text{voltage (in volts)}}$$

current = 10,86 A

(3)



Question 3 (c)

For this question there were many ways of suggesting why the generator would be insufficient

(c) Suggest why a 2 kW wind-powered generator may not supply all the electrical energy needed in a house.

(1)Not be able to 3 May for house lnough energi **Examiner Comments** This response scored 0 as it simply rephrases the information in the stem of the question. to wash kids you reed aot. tr, charge, and more 2xw might not Chen enaugh lon a home **Zesults Examiner Comments** Here, the idea of insufficiency is expressed in terms of the use of more than one appliance. This scored 1 mark. esults **Examiner Comments** In this case, the candidate refers back to the kettle and shows that this already needs more than 2 kW. This scored 1 mark.

Question 4 (c)

This question asked for a comparative description of two graphs.

There were three possible marking points. One was for the limitations of the human eye, another for the extension outside the (human) range and a third for the relative spacing of the three peaks.

(c) The diagrams show the radiations to which the human eye and the bee eye are sensitive. human eye sensitivity to radiation frequency visible bee eye sensitivity to radiation n frequency visible ultraviolet infrared Describe differences in the sensitivity to radiation of a human eye and a bee eye. (2)A human is only able to see visible light but the bee can also see infrared and ultraviolet as there are more sensitive **Examiner Comments** For this part, 'seeing' light was accepted even though we do not actually see the light. This response scored on the first two marking points. invisible light Bees can わり such traviolet where as adda ar can't humans ResultsP **Examiner Comments** Bees 'can' but humans 'cannot' is only one point so only scores one mark.

(c) The diagrams show the radiations to which the human eye and the bee eye are sensitive.



Question 4 (e)

In this 'cultural' question, a change of unit was required to finish with the unit given.

The most common erroneous response involved just the numbers as stated i.e. 4 minutes.



Question 4 (f)

A variety of responses were allowable for this 'suggest' question.

(f) A scientist wrote this sentence:

"Ultraviolet radiation is harmful to humans but useful to honey bees."

Suggest what the scientist means by this sentence. You may wish to look back at the graphs in part (c).

1	TCC MUCH	(2)
and a second sec	ultravicier radiation tenumano nairer	deye
All and a second se	can cause caturacts whereas tought	1010
the second se	bees can use uv for mony things c	lepan
and the second s	ant to them egg food searching. This	Sente
	nce is saying that uv has more dance	persto
	numans thérefore needs caution unereds	ÚV
And in case of the local division of the loc	COD DE USEFUL TO DEES (Total for Question 4 = 10 m)	arks)

Results Plus Examiner Comments This response mentions the most common response, i.e. causing cancer, and the idea that bees use UV to search for food. For the food mark, it was acceptable for 'see pollen' but 'see/ make honey/food was insufficient.'

Ultraviolet is harmful to humans
as it can cause a skin cancer
but ultraviolet radiation is useful
to honey bees they don't have a
high sensitivity towards ultraviolet
radiation.



This example scores only two marks.

(f) A scientist wrote this sentence:

"Ultraviolet radiation is harmful to humans but useful to honey bees."

Suggest what the scientist means by this sentence. You may wish to look back at the graphs in part (c).

Humans cannot see Ultraviolet light whereas honey bees can, human eyes are more sensitive to different lights. Honeybees may use it to see the pollen in flowers but it can damage humans cells & and sking if used too much.

(2)



Question 5 (a) (i)

Nearly all candidates managed to correctly label at least one of the two. Wavelength was the most popular correct answer although sometimes this was incorrectly labelled frequency.

Question 5 (b) (i)

Unfortunately, candidates struggled with this question so it appears that the working of a reflecting telescope was not well known.

A strong hint was given in the stem for a refracting telescope but this seems not to have been a help to many.

 (i) The two types of telescope form their images of a distant object in different ways. A refracting telescope uses a converging lens to form an image of a distant object. Describe how a reflecting telescope forms an image of a distant object.

 (2)
 (2)
 (2)
 (2)
 (3)
 (4)
 (4)
 (5)
 (6)
 (7)
 (8)
 (9)
 (10)
 (11)
 (12)
 (12)
 (12)
 (12)
 (12)
 (12)
 (13)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (15)
 (15)
 (16)
 (16)
 (16)
 (16)
 (17)
 (18)
 (19)
 (10)
 (11)
 (12)
 (12)
 (12)
 (12)
 (13)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (14)
 (1

Somed eypiere were you un see the then 610 60



mirror (1 mark) but also to the fact that it was curved (sufficient).

IF	<i><u>Cellech</u></i>	The	I Mag ?	<u>On</u>	difference	MICTORI
. bizai	the	Telesco	ęc.			



(i) The two types of telescope form their images of a distant object in different ways.

A refracting telescope uses a converging lens to form an image of a distant object.

Describe how a reflecting telescope forms an image of a distant object.

 Beca	use	ıt	reflects	the	light	from
 the	disto	nt	object	and	then	magnified
 tt.						

(2)

<	ResultsPlus
	Examiner Comments
	Often the word 'reflect' was used without saying what caused the reflection. Even the use of the word 'reflector' would have been sufficient in place of mirror.
	This response scored 0.

Question 5 (b) (ii)

This tested a direct statement from the specification.

Most candidates who answered correctly used the technical term 'magnify.' Other ideas which did not score involved focusing, being a place to put your eye, inverting the image or making the image clear. While some of these may be correct things that the eyepiece does, they are not what it is *intended* to do to the image.

	(ii) Both telescopes use a converging lens as an eyepiece.
	State what the eyepiece of a telescope is intended to do to the image.
	male the image bigger the
	it is
l	\wedge



Question 5 (c)

The important part of this question was 'evidence'. Thus, there were no marks at level 2 or above for describing one or other model. Similarly, a simple mention of Jupiter's moons was insufficient evidence.

Some responses gained credit for evidence which agreed with the geocentric model but there were also responses seen that gave evidence against.

(0) the geocentric model: It is very under-For Standing Phat People would think that the p Ear other Was orbited berna by planets because Stars and WK See the Mom and ar Day looks Ŷ like Hre und Vt Cialline 15 the geocentric model: 142 tha Haainst Oprious planets centre other Eanth usht in and the like dont because orbit de earth 15 planets smallest ON 04 ١S Eh cur 0 the From 1Mpossible would nanets stars for other cund Furth arbit ٥

Results Plus Examiner Comments

Evidence such as movement of Sun, Moon and stars across the sky, everyday, in the same direction etc. was acceptable. The 'Moon orbits Earth' is not *evidence.*

This response scored 2 marks for the first five lines, but nothing for 'against'.

religion Back then. ω and Hno that MOJOLS tn the antre Of MU pp PI the ance more ontric mode 3 Q

evidence, (such as Galileo's of Jupiter's moons) rather than pservations Faith



The evidence was that the moons were seen to be moving round/orbiting Jupiter. This response was thus limited to level 1 since there is no evidence either of the geocentric model.

The geocentric model was proved wrong by Galileo as he found that there were 4 moons orbiting jupiter. This meant that' if the Earth could not be geocentricas there was something that was in arbit with something other the Earth. However it could not then be ploved that the universe was heliocentric because at that time people were not able to view the whole sugar system and could only provide evidence such as drawings which were inconclusive. Therefore speculation remained of which model was correct until more modern technology was available



The candidate shows that they are clear what the geocentric model is and how Galileo's observations disprove it. However, there is no evidence in favour of the geocentric and so the response scores 4 marks. A large amount of writing is unnecessary to gain full marks.

or the geocentric model is Videdence the sun and the See ond we MOON rising every thay could Sekking day be orbiting US. Evidence a gainsk i other around Z have moons orbie Chat pursond 64 Nor and the Earen, 02



These six lines contain sufficient argument to score all six marks. It contains some evidence for and against the geocentric model and explains how they fit in with or refute this model.

Question 6 (b)

To predict earthquakes it is necessary to know their cause(s).

(b) Explain why it is difficult to predict when an earthquake will happen.





There are other aspects of earthquakes which contribute to the difficulty.

(b) Explain why it is difficult to predict when an earthquake will happen.	(2)
Because it only happens when a	
Sudden muvement taxes place. And	
MORAT you can't see under around as	the
Plates are to deep.	



Here the candidate has alluded to the random/ sudden nature of the shift and also mentions that, since they happen deep underground, direct observation is impossible. This scores 2 marks.

Question 6 (c)

Two of the three marks for this part were for working out the scale and then reading the values from the graph. The third mark was for knowing how to use them to find the time of travel.

(c) The graph shows how long it takes the P-waves and the S-waves from an earthquake to travel different distances.



The time difference between these waves arriving at a place allows scientists to find out how far away the earthquake was.

Use the graph to find the time difference between the P- and S-waves when the distance is 4800 km.

		-	(3)
	time for P-wave =	6	minutes
	time for S-wave =	15	minutes
	time difference =	9	minutes
Results Plus Examiner Comments			
This candidate misread the value was successful with the S-wave. subtracted the two to gain two m	e for the P-wave but They then correctly narks.		

The time difference between these waves arriving at a place allows scientists to find out how far away the earthquake was.

Use the graph to find the time difference between the P- and S-waves when the distance is 4800 km.

		(3)
	time for P-wave =	7 minutes
	time for S-wave =	1.6 minutes
	time difference =	9 minutes
		1
Results Plus		
This candidate was unsuccessful a	at reading the values	

The time difference between these waves arriving at a place allows scientists to find out how far away the earthquake was.

Use the graph to find the time difference between the P- and S-waves when the distance is 4800 km.

	(3)	
time for P-wave =		minutes
time for S-wave = \4.30	2	minutes
time difference = 6-30	3	minutes



Many carried out the task correctly, after allowing for the decimal place. This response was clearly worth all 3 marks.

Question 6 (d)

Marks for this question varied. Many candidates scored reasonably well but some struggled to gain even the odd mark.

A piece of writing like this, accompanied by annotation on the diagram has some merit.

Scientists know where a earth que has append because USING SEISMIC Stations because CLOSEF an earthquere is to a Seismic time will be quicker if the earthquill wall will les at Jeismie quicher than Seismic Station Z. **Examiner Comments** It refers to the difference in arrival times somewhat. It would allow some idea to be gained of the earthquake's position. It scored 2 because the language was considered just sufficient to communicate the idea at level 1.

Answers such as this were not uncommon.

Sesmic wave travel at the same speed in a vacumm and they are transverse. The Seismic waves doe is a peice of technollogy that sends ultra sound down to the carthquake core and then it reflects causing an echo, which would show the co-ordinates of where it had ismic P waves are for transverse waves which happen on the surface of water and seismic 5 waves are for longitude where the seismic waves more across. Also the seismic P waves mare back and forth

Results Plus Examiner Comments Several technical terms are introduced but are irrelevant, in the wrong context or just wrong. Unfortunately this response was not creditworthy. look at the time difference The sciennest and the - womes S-Waves Ameen the D alculate hav place among HU а earnquake WUS and away ppened



This candidate got part way through the process and scored 4 marks. It could have scored full marks by mentioning doing the same process at several stations.

(6)The process of finding out where the earthquake came from is called Triangulation. This is bosically have sers mometers potioned in a triangle. When an earthquake arrives it will be of Friangle. They will then find out the middle and the S tween the each WELVES 1 sersnonete Cet stations, to find at exactly where it came from.





Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates would have benefited from:

- practicing memory games /quizzes to ensure that they have a sound knowledge of the fundamental ideas in all six topics
- being regularly challenged to recognise SI prefixes such as m and k and how to handle these in standard calculations
- practicing the showing of working (and inclusion of units) on a regular (habit-forming) basis
- regularly analysing and interpreting between a variety of data types
- making notes of the science to include in a written answer each time they start to construct a response
- using the marks at the side of a question as a guide to the form and content of their answer
- getting used to the idea of applying their knowledge to new situations by attempting questions in support materials or previous examination papers during normal classroom lessons

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx





Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government



Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828 with its registered office at 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.