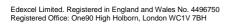


Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009 IGCSE

IGCSE Science (Double Award)(4437) Paper 3F





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Question 1

In part (a) either 'friction' or 'gravity' was seen. In (b)(i) GPE and KE were often seen the wrong way round although (ii) and (iii) were often correct.

Question 2

Hooke's law was not always identified and hardly ever written out correctly. However (b)(iii) on plastic behaviour was well answered.

Question 3

Mostly candidates could not identify the electrical components in this question and so had little idea how to change the resistance of an LDR. 'Change the current' was a common answer.

Question 4

Candidates showed a reasonable knowledge of waves often scoring three or four marks on this question.

Question 5

Many candidates scored well on this question about the use of parts of the electromagnetic spectrum with little crossing out seen.

Question 6

Hardly any candidates thought that all six sources could be used for electricity generation though most suggested four or five. The rest of the question was well answered.

Question 7

Candidates showed a very poor knowledge of the structure of the atom appearing to insert the words from the box in a random fashion.

Question 8

The type of question in (a) is rarely answered well and this was no exception. The arrow from the centre of gravity either did not appear or was drawn horizontally. The calculation was well done with some correctly following the instruction to give the answer to the nearest whole number.

Question 9

Some candidates failed to mention that when the fuse wire melts this breaks the circuit. The calculation was well done with many candidates scoring all three marks in (b). Candidates were less sure about the choice of fuse in (c). A wide variety of answers, such as electric kettle, were acceptable in part (d).

Question 10

Most candidates did not have sufficient understanding to score well on this question. Some were able to name a source of background radiation other than cosmic rays. In part (b) the idea that, in space, there would not be any molecules to interact with alpha particles was not understood. The graph work was disappointing and generally the idea of 'half-life' was not known.

Question 11

Part (a), where three marks were awarded for the definition of work done, rarely scored well with 'velocity' often appearing in the first gap. The calculations were well done.

Question 12 Part (a) was poorly answered and in (b) a mark was occasionally scored for 'rising' in a description of convection.

SCIENCE (DOUBLE AWARD) 4437, GRADE BOUNDARIES

	A*	А	В	С	D	E	F	G
Foundation Tier				52	42	32	23	14
Higher Tier	76	65	54	44	35	30		

Option 1 : with Paper 7 (Biology) & Paper 8 (Chemistry)

Option 2 : with Paper 7 (Biology) & Paper 9 (Physics)

	Α*	А	В	С	D	E	F	G
Foundation Tier				52	42	32	23	14
Higher Tier	76	65	54	43	35	31		

Option 3 : with Paper 8 (Chemistry) & Paper 9 (Physics)

	A*	А	В	С	D	E	F	G
Foundation Tier				53	43	33	24	15
Higher Tier	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

No candidates at higher tier entered so there are no grade boundaries for this category.

Option 4: with Coursework (Paper 10)

	A*	А	В	С	D	E	F	G
Foundation Tier				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Higher Tier	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

No candidates entered coursework so there are no grade boundaries for this option.

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demand of the question paper.

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