AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.7.3.4

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and other naturally occurring polymers

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**1**
Available paper years	**2024–2024**

Using this booklet

1. Booklet answer numbers match the question booklet.
2. Use the original question number within marking tables.
3. Examiner comments are included where available.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Where a precise marking extract is unavailable, the full source document is included in an appendix. Any missing mark scheme is explicitly identified.

4.7.3.4 DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and other naturally occurring polymers

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

Question 4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	percentage of nitrogen increases until 2.3 billion years then remains constant	 allow a value in the range 2.1 to 2.4 billion years allow until 80%	1 1 1	AO2 4.9.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.2	the percentage of carbon dioxide decreased		1	AO1 4.9.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.3	light		1	AO1 4.9.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.4	algae plants		1 1	AO1 4.9.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.5	cellulose starch		1 1	AO1 4.7.3.4

4.7.3.4 DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and other naturally occurring polymers

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.6	1.4×10^{11}		1	AO2 4.3.1.2 4.7.3.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.7	70 000 000 000		1	AO2 4.7.3.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.8	helix		1	AO1 4.7.3.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.9	4		1	AO1 4.7.3.4

Total Question 4	**13**

4.7.3.4 DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and other naturally occurring polymers

Answer 01 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8462/2F | Original Q4

Question 4 (low and standard demand)

04.1 One in four students obtained all three marks in this question with two out of five obtaining two marks. The most frequently seen reason for not obtaining full marks was to incorrectly determine the date in billions of years at which the percentage of nitrogen in the atmosphere became constant. Students need to be exposed to as many examples as possible of explaining trends as some struggled to express the percentage of nitrogen becoming constant, describing the line as becoming, steady, calm, stable, stopping or going at a constant speed or using vague statements about 'it.'

04.2 Almost 80% of students correctly identified that the percentage of carbon dioxide decreased.

04.3 Well over 80% of students correctly identified light as being the energy source for photosynthesis.

04.4 Nearly 80% of students identified the two organisms that produce oxygen. A further 15% correctly identified one organism, usually plants.

04.5 Less than 30% of students could correctly identify the two natural polymers produced from glucose. It is important that students read the question carefully as there was a significant number of students who ticked only one box rather than the two requested.

04.6 Well over 75% of students correctly expressed the relative formula mass of DNA in standard form.

© 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

Answer 01 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8462/2F | Original Q4

04.7 Only one in two students were able to correctly calculate the relative formula mass of each polymer chain in DNA. The most popular incorrect distractor was 140 000 000 000 where the student had failed to realise that the DNA molecule was comprised of two chains.

04.8 Just under 75% of students correctly described the shape of a DNA molecule as a double helix. The most common incorrect response was double bond.

04.9 Less than 35% of students were able to correctly identify the number of different nucleotides present in a molecule of DNA.