AQA GCSE Physics | 8463

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.4.2.2

Nuclear equations

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**9**
Available paper years	**2006–2025**

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.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 01 · Mark scheme June 2006 | 3451 | Original Q4 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 12. Follow original question 4 in that document.

Answer 02 · Mark scheme June 2006 | 3462 | Original Q4 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 32. Follow original question 4 in that document.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 03 · Mark scheme January 2010 | PHY2F | Original Q4 | Legacy

Question 4

<table>
<tr><th>question</th><th>answers</th><th>extra information</th><th>mark</th></tr>
<tr><td>4(a)(i)</td><td>all correct
<table><tr><td>Number of protons</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Number of electrons</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Number of neutrons</td><td>4</td></tr></table></td><td>accept presented as a tally chart

allow 1 mark for 1 correct</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>4(a)(ii)</td><td>7

number of protons and neutrons</td><td>reason may score even if 7 not chosen

accept number of particles in the nucleus
accept number of nucleons

do not accept number of electrons and neutrons</td><td>1

1</td></tr>
<tr><td>4(b)</td><td>an ion</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>4(c)(i)</td><td>smaller than</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>4(c)(ii)</td><td>radon loses an alpha (particle)
or
radon loses an (alpha) particle
or
(mass of) polonium plus an alpha = (mass) radon
or
radon loses 2 protons and 2 neutrons (to become polonium)</td><td>accept radon has less protons and neutrons</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td></tr>
</table>

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 03 · Mark scheme January 2010 | PHY2F | Original Q4 | Legacy

PHY2F

Answer 04 · Mark scheme June 2015 | PH2FP | Original Q6 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 46. Follow original question 6 in that document.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8463/1F | Original Q2

Question 2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
2.1	$^{210}_{84}Po \rightarrow {}^{206}_{82}X + {}^{4}_{2}He$		1	4.4.2.2 AO1
2.2	Alpha radiation is highly ionising		1	4.4.2.1 AO1
2.3	Change in mass = 460 – 280 Change in mass = 180 (mg)	allow reading between 460 and 465 allow reading between 278 and 282 allow an answer between 178 and 187 inclusive for **2** marks	1 1	4.4.2.3 AO2
2.4	130 (mg)	allow an answer between 126 and 150 (mg) inclusive	1	4.4.2.3 AO3
2.5	an electron a positive	in this order only	1 1	4.4.1.2 AO1
Total			**7**	

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

November 2020 | 8463/1F | Original Q5

Question 5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	radiotherapy		1	AO1 4.4.3.1
05.2	a neutron energy gamma rays	energy and gamma rays can score in reverse order	1 1 1	AO1 4.4.4.1
05.3	An alpha particle is the same as a helium nucleus.		1	AO1 4.4.2.2
05.4	24 000 (years)	allow an answer between 24 000 and 24 500 (years) inclusive	1	AO2 4.4.2.3
05.5	24 000 (years) **or** their **05.4**		1	AO1 4.4.2.3
05.6	Any **one** from: • irradiation • cancer • genetic damage • mutations to DNA / genes • radiation sickness / poisoning		1	AO3 4.4.3.3
Total			**8**	

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8463/1F | Original Q5

Question 5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	atomic number		1	AO1 4.4.1.2
05.2	number of neutrons		1	AO1 4.4.1.2
05.3	Alpha		1	AO3 4.4.2.2 4.4.2.1
05.4	Beta		1	AO3 4.4.2.2
05.5	decrease increase	this order only	1 1	AO3 AO1 4.4.2.1
05.6	the time it takes for the count rate of a sample to halve		1	AO1 4.4.2.3
05.7	so the activity of the source is approximately constant		1	AO3 4.4.2.3
Total			**8**	

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8463/1F | Original Q4

Question 4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	2 protons and 2 neutrons		1	AO1 4.4.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.2	an electron		1	AO1 4.4.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.3	$^{85}_{36}Kr \longrightarrow {}^{85}_{37}Rb + {}^{0}_{-1}e$		1	AO1 4.4.2.2

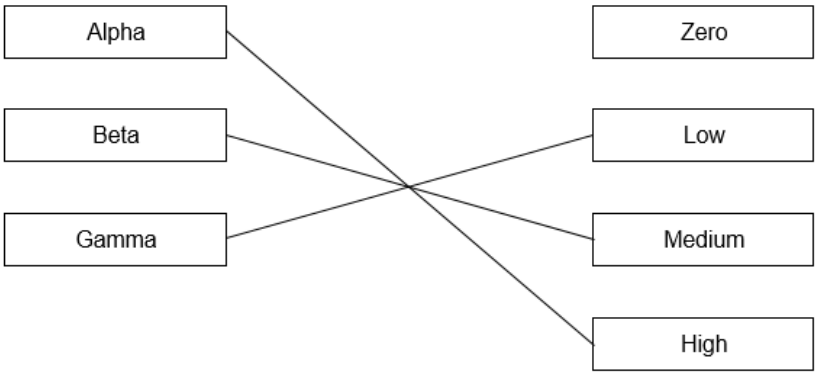
Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.4			3	AO1 4.4.2.1

Type of radiation	Most radiation is stopped by:		
	the sheet of paper	the sheet of aluminium	the block of lead
Alpha	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beta	No	Yes	Yes
Gamma	No	No	Yes

1 mark for each correct row
allow ticks and crosses in place of yes and no
any incorrect answer on a row negates the mark for the row

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.5	 **1** mark for each correct line if more than one line drawn from radiation type list principle applies		1 1 1	AO1 4.4.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.6	nuclear accidents		1	AO1 4.4.3.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.7	number = $\frac{2.0}{0.005}$ number = 400		1 1	AO2 4.4.3.1

Total Question 4		**12**

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 09 · Mark scheme

June 2025 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	$^{230}_{92}U \rightarrow {}^{226}_{90}Th + {}^{4}_{2}He$		1	AO1 4.4.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	20 (days)		1	AO3 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	20 (days)	allow ecf from question **03.2**	1	AO1 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	isotope **A** shortest half-life **or** decays quickest **or** graph is steepest (initially) **or** smallest percentage of atoms left (at any time after t = 0)	 MP2 dependent on MP1	1 1	AO3 4.4.2.1 4.4.2.3

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	**A**		1	AO3 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	**D**		1	AO3 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.7	**B** and **C** same number of protons (and different number of neutrons)	 MP2 dependent on MP1 allow same atomic number ignore electrons	1 1	AO3 AO1 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.8	plum pudding model		1	AO1 4.4.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.9	the mass of the atom is concentrated in the nucleus		1	AO1 4.4.1.3

Total Question 3	**11**

Version 1.0: 0906

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Physics 3451/F
Specification B

Mark Scheme

2006 examination - June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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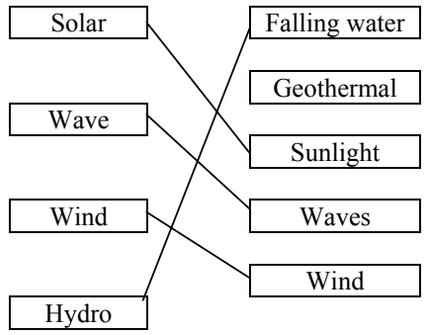
4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Physics (Specification B)
Foundation Tier 3451/F

3451/F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	4 correct lines drawn  	**1** mark for each correct line if more than 4 lines are drawn mark incorrect ones first. Mark only 4 lines	4
(b)	4		1
(c)(i)	nuclear		1
(ii)	(natural) gas	do **not** accept natural	1
total			7

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	ultra violet		1
(ii)	kill the cells	accept destroys the cells accept makes cells cancerous accept damage cells accept harms cells accept changes DNA accept cause cells to mutate accept skin cells for cells accept cause cancer do **not** accept skin for cells do **not** accept burns the cells	1
(b)(i)	the sunbed uses an alternating current (a.c.) supply		1
(ii)	10.8	accept **1** mark for correct substitution of power in W or kW and time in hours or seconds	2
total			5

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	M		1
(ii)	K		1
(iii)	J		1
(iv)	O		1
(b)(i)	billions of years		1
(ii)	red giant	any answer in terms of explosion or supernova is **incorrect**	1
	contracts / shrinks to	incorrect reference to black hole negates **1** mark	1
	white dwarf		1
total			8

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	A and C	**both** answers must be correct in either order	1
(ii)	A and B	**both** answers must be correct in either order	1
(iii)	same number of protons plus neutrons **or** same number of nucleons	accept number of particles in nucleus the same do **not** accept they add up to 6 unless qualified	1
(b)(i)	any **two** from: • boron - 12 • carbon - 14 • oxygen - 15 • lead - 209	**both** required both name **and** number must be given	1
(ii)	any **two** from: • boron - 11 • carbon - 12 • oxygen - 16 • lead - 207	**both** required both name **and** number must be given	1
(c)	alpha		1
total			6

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3451/F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	(good) insulator	accept does not conduct (electricity) accept does not conduct heat or electricity do **not** accept does not conduct heat outside is tough is insufficient	1
(b)	fuse		1
(c)	connect the green and yellow / earth wire	accept wires must be connected to screws	1
	swap the brown and blue wires round		1
total			4

3451/F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	fossils	answers can be in either order	1
	water		1
(b)	increased		1
(c)	radio telescope		1
total			4

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	electrical		1
	kinetic	accept movement	1
(ii)	heat	answers can be in either order	1
	sound		1
(b)(i)	360	accept **1** mark for correct substitution	2
(ii)	watt		1
(c)	the stairlift is not moving the stairlift is moving at constant speed	**both** answers are required for the mark	1
total			8

3451/F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	(up) further **or** (up) faster	any reference to downwards movement loses credit accept <u>with</u> more force accept motion would increase	1
(ii)	down	accept the opposite way accept drop	1
(b)(i)	direct current		1
(ii)	Z		1
total			4

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	level of radiation (detected) will not change	ignore reference to particles	1
	if thickness of aluminium changes	accept for **both** marks a specific example eg if the aluminium gets thicker the level of radiation detected stays the same. accept for **1** mark gamma will pass through aluminium	1
	QoWC for 2 points in a sensible sequence		1
(b)	S W T V	all in correct order accept **2** marks for 2 correct accept **1** mark for 1 correct	3
total			6

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q10

<table>
<tr><th>question</th><th>answers</th><th>extra information</th><th>mark</th></tr>
<tr><td>(a)</td><td>thermistor(s)
LDR(s)
switch(es)
LED(s)
buzzer(s)
motor(s)</td><td>1 mark each
or light dependent resistor(s)
or light emitting diode(s)</td><td>6</td></tr>
<tr><td>(b)(i)</td><td><table><tr><th>1st input</th><th>2nd input</th><th>Output</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr></table></td><td>all correct</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>(ii)</td><td><table><tr><th>Input</th><th>Output</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr></table></td><td>both correct</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>(iii)</td><td><table><tr><th>1st input</th><th>2nd input</th><th>Output</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr></table></td><td>all correct</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>(c)(i)</td><td></td><td>do not credit any attempt which could equally well be a poorly drawn attempt at the symbol for a cell</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>(ii)</td><td>charge

increases</td><td>accept ‘electrons’
accept ‘energy
or gets bigger/larger</td><td>1

1</td></tr>
<tr><td>total</td><td></td><td></td><td>12</td></tr>
</table>

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	A		1
(ii)	B		1
(iii)	mass is larger	credit if the response is clear by some other means e.g. it is ringed	1
	wire is shorter	credit if the response is clear by some other means e.g. it is ringed	1
(b)	moment		1
	distance		1
(c)(i)	1		1
(ii)	5		1
(iii)	any **two** from • remove slotted mass(es) • slide (slotted) masses / weights nearer pivot • slide forcemeter away from the pivot • slide rod to the left	 **or** ….. to the left **or** ….. to the right **or** …. so that the slotted masses side is shorter **or** …. so that the forcemeter side is longer	2
(d)	centre of the rectangle	accept *2*mm tolerance any direction	1
	centre of the circle	accept *2*mm tolerance any direction	1
	on centre line and 10mm above base	accept *2*mm tolerance any direction	1
total			13

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	0.05 (A)	ignore incorrect units if given accept 'the same' / 'the same as K' / 'the same as the other ammeter' do **not** accept 'same as the other meter'	1
(b)(i)	any **two** from: • two cells are joined + to +	answers in terms of current gain no marks accept one cell in the wrong way accept two cells are joined back-to-back accept two cells are joined – to – accept battery for cell do **not** accept answers in terms of all the cells or in terms of energy only	2
	• some of the cells potential difference is across the diode / ammeters / wires **or** the pd of the cells is shared by all components	accept voltage for pd do **not** accept using up pd	
	• the other components have a resistance	accept a named component / components / wire has a resistance	
	• cells not fully charged **or** cells partially run down	do **not** accept voltage of cells is less than 1.5 unless explained do **not** accept cells are not as powerful unless explained	
	• cells have an internal resistance		
(ii)	the diode has a (very) high resistance (in the reverse direction)		1
	a diode only conducts / allows current to flow in one direction	accept little / no current flows do **not** accept blocks / cuts flow	1

Continued

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3451/F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(c)	**QoWC** for the use of the word resistance	annotate Q✓ Q✗ accept resistant	1
	accept increase / change / decrease throughout question but a contradiction loses **one** mark with change as neutral		
	as the pd / current increases / changes	accept voltage for pd must be correctly linked to at least one of the following points accept	1
	the temperature of the filament increases / changes	lamp / bulb for filament accept filament becomes hotter	1
	increasing / changing the **resistance** of the lamp		1
		accept for **1** mark only the filament lamp does not obey Ohm's law	
total			9

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	0.5		1
	hertz	accept Hz but **not** HZ / hz / hZ accept (waves) per second **or** / sec **or** / s **or** s^{-1} **or** sec^{-1}	1
(b)	any **one** from: • any named part of the electromagnetic spectrum • S – waves / secondary waves • wave on a rope	 do **not** accept seismic waves / earthquake do **not** accept slinky unless clearly described	1
(c)	transverse – disturbance / vibration is perpendicular to the direction of energy transfer / wave travel	accept a correctly labelled diagram	1
	longitudinal – disturbance / vibration is parallel to the direction of energy transfer / wave travel	accept a correctly labelled diagram part explanation of the difference between transverse **and** longitudinal gains **1** mark	1
(d)(i)	TIR shown	needs to stay inside water jet ignore number of reflections **or** arrow heads lines straight by eye	1
(ii)	bigger than	any indication of correct answer	1
total			7

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

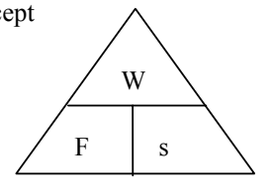
Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3451/F Q14

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	W		1
	has only two states **or** is either on or off	accept discrete values only do **not** credit answer purely in terms of shape	1
(b)	any **one** from:		1
	• higher quality	accept clearer do **not** accept easier to read ignore faster accept <u>less</u> distortion **or** <u>less</u> weakening of signal strength do **not** accept no distortion / weakening on its own	
	• increased carrying capacity	accept more information can be sent **or** more channels	
	• errors can be rectified		
total			3

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q15

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	all points plotted accurately	accept **1** mark for 5 correct plots ± ½ small square on stopping distance	2
	line of best fit must be continuous	accept attempt at a reasonable curve does not need to go through 0 0 do **not** accept a straight line do **not** accept dot-to-dot	1
(ii)	4 to 6 (metres)	accept ecf from (a)(i) accept **1** mark for value taken correctly from graph at 25mph **or** correct method shown	2
(b)(i)	0.7 (s)	incorrect unit = 0 marks	1
(ii)	constant speed / velocity	accept (continued as) 30mph accept did not change / stayed the same accept no acceleration	1
(iii)	3.3(s)	penalise incorrect unit once only	1
(iv)	reaction time <u>increases</u> / is <u>longer</u> **or** thinking distance <u>increases</u>	do **not** accept reaction time slower **or** reactions are slower	1
	stopping distance / it <u>increases</u>	do **not** accept travels at constant speed for longer	1
(c)(i)	work done = force (applied) × distance (moved)	accept W = F × s or W = F × d accept  provided subsequent method is correct	1

Continued

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3451/F Q15

question	answers	extra information	mark
(ii) **E**	2100	accept 2.1 kilo accept **1** mark for using 7000 N	2
(iii)	2100 (joules)	accept their (c)(ii)	1
total			14

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q16

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	refraction		1
(ii)	it changes speed **or** change in density	accept it speeds up do **not** accept it slows down do **not** accept air is more dense than glass	1
(b)(i)	sound / waves <u>diffract</u> through the gap (in the wall) **or** over the wall **or** because the gate is open	do **not** accept reflection this only scores if first marking point is given accept for **1** mark only sound / waves go through the gap and <u>spread out</u> **or** diagram showing wave fronts spreading out from open gates if diagram is labelled as diffraction both marks can be scored	1 1
(ii)	less diffraction	accept no diffraction accept gates <u>absorb</u> sound / noise / waves accept gates <u>reflect</u> sound / noise / waves do **not** accept rebounds / stops / blocks out	1
total			5

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q17

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	both rays brought to a focus at F on the right	do **not** have to be continued beyond F	1
	lines have been drawn **accurately** with a ruler	only credit if 1st mark credited do **not** credit if contradictory arrow(s) added	1
(b)	rays seem to come from a focus at G on the left and continued to the right of the lens	this mark is for the current idea of divergence	1
	lines have been drawn **accurately** with a ruler	only credit if 1st mark credited do **not** credit if contradictory arrow(s) added	1
(c)	…lens… …image… …object… …image… ...object… …lens…	lens as 1st and 6th words (1) image and object in the correct order 2nd and 3rd words (1) image and object in correct order 4th and 5th words (1)	max 3
(d)(i)	correct statement about real image real rays intersect / cross to form a real image **or** a real image can be formed on a screen **or** real image is (always) on the opposite side (of the lens) **or** real image is (always) upside down (to the object)	may be credited from a correct diagram	1
	correct statement about virtual / imaginary image virtual / imaginary rays intersect / cross to form a virtual image **or** a virtual / imaginary image cannot **or** virtual / imaginary image is (always) on the same side (of the lens) **or** virtual / imaginary image is (always) same way up (as the object)	may be credited from a correct diagram	1

Continued

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q17

question	answers	extra information	mark
(ii)	**either** image needs to fall on / affect the film **or** image needs to fall on / affect the light sensors / charged coupled devices (CCDs) (in a digital camera / mobile phone) **or** image needs to cause a chemical reaction (in / on the film)		1
total			10

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3451/F Q18

<table>
<tr><th>question</th><th>answers</th><th>extra information</th><th>mark</th></tr>
<tr><td>(a)</td><td>AND (gate)

OR (gate)

NOT (gate)

LED or light emitting diode</td><td>accept ‘and’

accept ‘or’

accept ‘not’ or invert gate

accept ‘led’</td><td>1

1

1

1</td></tr>
<tr><td>(b)(i)</td><td>NOT (gate) and AND (gate)</td><td>both in either order or ‘(the) gates’

any additions lose the mark</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>(ii)</td><td><table><tr><th>Switch for fire</th><th>Tilt switch</th><th>Signal to relay</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>…0…</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>…0…</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>…1…</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>…0…</td></tr></table></td><td>all correct

allow off or no
off no
on yes
off no</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>(iii)</td><td>(relay) acts as / is a switch

either
small current from the electronic / control circuit / system (1)

large current through the output / (electric) fire (1)

or

full current through electronic control system (1)

may damage components / lead to overheating / electric shock (1)

QoWC for correct use of the scientific term ‘current’</td><td>accept implication that it works as a switch e.g. ‘turns on fire’

or ‘small current through the coil (of the relay)’

do not accept small current is turned into a large current

annotate Q✓ Q✗

if answer in terms of voltage isolation / voltage/ p.d. accept QoWC mark for correct use</td><td>1

1

1

1</td></tr>
<tr><td>total</td><td></td><td></td><td>10</td></tr>
</table>

Version 1.0: 0906

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Science: Double Award 3462/3F
Specification B

Mark Scheme

2006 examination - June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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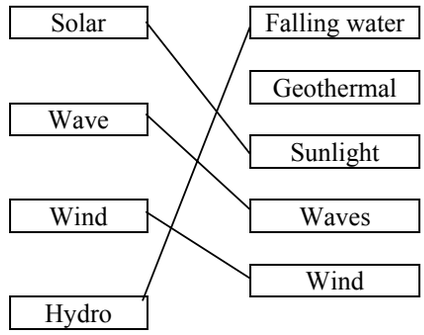
4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

Double Award (Co-ordinated)
Foundation Tier 3462/3F

3462/3F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	4 correct lines drawn  	**1** mark for each correct line if more than 4 lines are drawn mark incorrect ones first. Mark only 4 lines	4
(b)	4		1
(c)(i)	nuclear		1
(ii)	(natural) gas	do **not** accept natural	1
total			7

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3462/3F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	ultra violet		1
(ii)	kill the cells	accept destroys the cells accept makes cells cancerous accept damage cells accept harms cells accept changes DNA accept cause cells to mutate accept skin cells for cells accept cause cancer do **not** accept skin for cells do **not** accept burns the cells	1
(b)(i)	the sunbed uses an alternating current (a.c.) supply		1
(ii)	10.8	accept **1** mark for correct substitution of power in W or kW and time in hours or seconds	2
total			5

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3462/3F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	M		1
(ii)	K		1
(iii)	J		1
(iv)	O		1
(b)(i)	billions of years		1
(ii)	red giant	any answer in terms of explosion or supernova is **incorrect**	1
	contracts / shrinks to	incorrect reference to black hole negates **1** mark	1
	white dwarf		1
total			8

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3462/3F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	A and C	**both** answers must be correct in either order	1
(ii)	A and B	**both** answers must be correct in either order	1
(iii)	same number of protons plus neutrons **or** same number of nucleons	accept number of particles in nucleus the same do **not** accept they add up to 6 unless qualified	1
(b)(i)	any **two** from: • boron - 12 • carbon - 14 • oxygen - 15 • lead - 209	**both** required both name **and** number must be given	1
(ii)	any **two** from: • boron - 11 • carbon - 12 • oxygen - 16 • lead - 207	**both** required both name **and** number must be given	1
(c)	alpha		1
total			6

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3462/3F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	(good) insulator	accept does not conduct (electricity) accept does not conduct heat or electricity do **not** accept does not conduct heat outside is tough is insufficient	1
(b)	fuse		1
(c)	connect the green and yellow / earth wire	accept wires must be connected to screws	1
	swap the brown and blue wires round		1
total			4

3462/3F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	fossils	answers can be in either order	1
	water		1
(b)	increased		1
(c)	radio telescope		1
total			4

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3462/3F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	electrical		1
	kinetic	accept movement	1
(ii)	heat	answers can be in either order	1
	sound		1
(b)(i)	360	accept **1** mark for correct substitution	2
(ii)	watt		1
(c)	the stairlift is not moving the stairlift is moving at constant speed	**both** answers are required for the mark	1
total			8

3462/3F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	(up) further **or** (up) faster	any reference to downwards movement loses credit accept <u>with</u> more force accept motion would increase	1
(ii)	down	accept the opposite way accept drop	1
(b)(i)	direct current		1
(ii)	Z		1
total			4

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3462/3F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	level of radiation (detected) will not change	ignore reference to particles	1
	if thickness of aluminium changes	accept for **both** marks a specific example eg if the aluminium gets thicker the level of radiation detected stays the same. accept for **1** mark gamma will pass through aluminium	1
	QoWC for 2 points in a sensible sequence		1
(b)	S W T V	all in correct order accept **2** marks for 2 correct accept **1** mark for 1 correct	3
total			6

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3462/3F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	0.05 (A)	ignore incorrect units if given accept 'the same' / 'the same as K' / 'the same as the other ammeter' do **not** accept 'same as the other meter'	1
(b)(i)	any **two** from: • two cells are joined + to +	answers in terms of current gain no marks accept one cell in the wrong way accept two cells are joined back-to-back accept two cells are joined – to – accept battery for cell do **not** accept answers in terms of all the cells or in terms of energy only	2
	• some of the cells potential difference is across the diode / ammeters / wires **or** the pd of the cells is shared by all components	accept voltage for pd do **not** accept using up pd	
	• the other components have a resistance	accept a named component / components / wire has a resistance	
	• cells not fully charged **or** cells partially run down	do **not** accept voltage of cells is less than 1.5 unless explained do **not** accept cells are not as powerful unless explained	
	• cells have an internal resistance		
(ii)	the diode has a (very) high resistance (in the reverse direction)		1
	a diode only conducts / allows current to flow in one direction	accept little / no current flows do **not** accept blocks / cuts flow	1

Continued

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3462/3F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(c)	**QoWC** for the use of the word resistance	annotate Q✓ Q✗ accept resistant	1
	accept increase / change / decrease throughout question but a contradiction loses **one** mark with change as neutral		
	as the pd / current increases / changes	accept voltage for pd must be correctly linked to at least one of the following points accept	1
	the temperature of the filament increases / changes	lamp / bulb for filament accept filament becomes hotter	1
	increasing / changing the **resistance** of the lamp	accept for **1** mark only the filament lamp does not obey Ohm's law	1
total			9

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3462/3F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	0.5		1
	hertz	accept Hz but **not** HZ / hz / hZ accept (waves) per second **or** / sec **or** / s **or** s^{-1} **or** sec^{-1}	1
(b)	any **one** from: • any named part of the electromagnetic spectrum • S – waves / secondary waves • wave on a rope	 do **not** accept seismic waves / earthquake do **not** accept slinky unless clearly described	1
(c)	transverse – disturbance / vibration is perpendicular to the direction of energy transfer / wave travel	accept a correctly labelled diagram	1
	longitudinal – disturbance / vibration is parallel to the direction of energy transfer / wave travel	accept a correctly labelled diagram part explanation of the difference between transverse **and** longitudinal gains **1** mark	1
(d)(i)	TIR shown	needs to stay inside water jet ignore number of reflections **or** arrow heads lines straight by eye	1
(ii)	bigger than	any indication of correct answer	1
total			7

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

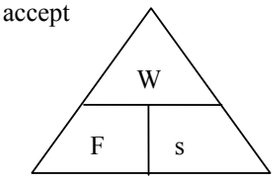
Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3462/3F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	W		1
	has only two states **or** is either on or off	accept discrete values only do **not** credit answer purely in terms of shape	1
(b)	any **one** from:		1
	• higher quality	accept clearer do **not** accept easier to read ignore faster accept <u>less</u> distortion **or** <u>less</u> weakening of signal strength do **not** accept no distortion / weakening on its own	
	• increased carrying capacity	accept more information can be sent **or** more channels	
	• errors can be rectified		
total			3

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

3462/3F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	all points plotted accurately	accept **1** mark for 5 correct plots ± ½ small square on stopping distance	2
	line of best fit must be continuous	accept attempt at a reasonable curve does not need to go through 0 0 do **not** accept a straight line do **not** accept dot-to-dot	1
(ii)	4 to 6 (metres)	accept ecf from (a)(i) accept **1** mark for value taken correctly from graph at 25mph **or** correct method shown	2
(b)(i)	0.7 (s)	incorrect unit = 0 marks	1
(ii)	constant speed / velocity	accept (continued as) 30mph accept did not change / stayed the same accept no acceleration	1
(iii)	3.3(s)	penalise incorrect unit once only	1
(iv)	reaction time increases / is longer **or** thinking distance increases	do **not** accept reaction time slower **or** reactions are slower	1
	stopping distance / it increases	do **not** accept travels at constant speed for longer	1
(c)(i)	work done = force (applied) × distance (moved)	accept W = F × s or W = F × d accept  provided subsequent method is correct	1
(ii)	2100	accept 2.1 kilo accept **1** mark for using 7000 N	2
(iii)	2100 (joules)	accept their (c)(ii)	1
total			14

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2006 June series

3462/3F Q14

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	refraction		1
(ii)	it changes speed **or** change in density	accept it speeds up do **not** accept it slows down do **not** accept air is more dense than glass	1
(b)(i)	sound / waves <u>diffract</u> through the gap (in the wall) **or** over the wall **or** because the gate is open	do **not** accept reflection this only scores if first marking point is given accept for **1** mark only sound / waves go through the gap and <u>spread out</u> **or** diagram showing wave fronts spreading out from open gates if diagram is labelled as diffraction both marks can be scored	1 1
(ii)	less diffraction	accept no diffraction accept gates <u>absorb</u> sound / noise / waves accept gates <u>reflect</u> sound / noise / waves do **not** accept rebounds / stops / blocks out	1
total			5

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

GCSE

Additional Science / Physics

PH2FP

Mark scheme

4408/4403
June 2015

Version/Stage: 1.0: Final

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

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Further copies of this mark scheme are available from aqa.org.uk

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Mark Scheme

Information to Examiners

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 Assessment Objectives and specification content that each question is intended to cover.

The extra information 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.

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.

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.

2.4 Any wording that is underlined is essential for the marking point to be awarded.

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 errors / contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (indicated as * in example 1) are not penalised.

Example 1: What is the pH of an acidic solution? (1 mark)

Student	Response	Marks awarded
1	green, 5	0
2	red*, 5	1
3	red*, 8	0

Example 2: Name two planets in the solar system. (2 marks)

Student	Response	Marks awarded
1	Neptune, Mars, Moon	1
2	Neptune, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.2 Use of chemical symbols / formulae

If a student writes a chemical symbol / formula instead of a required chemical name, full credit can be given if the symbol / formula is correct and if, in the context of the question, such action is appropriate.

3.3 Marking procedure for calculations

Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, without any working shown.

However, if the answer is incorrect, mark(s) can be gained by correct substitution / working and this is shown in the 'extra information' column or by each stage of a longer calculation.

3.4 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.

3.5 Errors carried forward

Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward is kept to a minimum. Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation e.c.f. in the marking scheme.

3.6 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term.

3.7 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.

3.8 Accept / allow

Accept is used to indicate an equivalent answer to that given on the left-hand side of the mark scheme. Allow is used to denote lower-level responses that just gain credit.

3.9 Ignore / Insufficient / Do not allow

Ignore of 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.

4. Quality of Communication and levels marking

In Question **8c** students are required to produce extended written material in English, and will be assessed on the quality of their communication as well as the standard of the scientific response.

Students will be required to:
- use good English
- organise information clearly
- use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

The following general criteria should be used to assign marks to a level:

Level 1: basic
- Knowledge of basic information
- Simple understanding
- The answer is poorly organised, with almost no specialist terms and their use demonstrating a general lack of understanding of their meaning, little or no detail
- The spelling, punctuation and grammar are very weak.

Level 2: clear
- Knowledge of accurate information
- Clear understanding
- The answer has some structure and organisation, use of specialist terms has been attempted but not always accurately, some detail is given
- There is reasonable accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar, although there may still be some errors.

Level 3: detailed
- Knowledge of accurate information appropriately contextualised
- Detailed understanding, supported by relevant evidence and examples
- Answer is coherent and in an organised, logical sequence, containing a wide range of appropriate or relevant specialist terms used accurately.
- The answer shows almost faultless spelling, punctuation and grammar.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.	ID
1(a)	increases	accept reaches highest value do **not** accept increases and decreases	1	AO2 2.3.2	**E**
1(b)(i)	increases		1	AO1 2.3.2m	**A**
1(b)(ii)	increases		1	AO1 2.3.2m	**A**
1(c)	18 watt	allow **1** mark for correct substitution i.e. 12 x 1.5 provided no subsequent step accept W answer may be indicated in the list	2 1	AO2 2.4.2c AO1 2.4.2c	**E**
Total			**6**		

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.	ID
2(a)	inside the Sun		1	AO1 2.6.2b	**A**
2(b)	fusion		1	AO1 2.6.2a	**G**
2(c)	energy		1	AO1 2.6.2f	**A**
Total			**3**		

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.	ID
3(a)	3 (.0)	allow **1** mark for correct substitution i.e. 25 x 0.12 provided no subsequent step	2	AO2 2.1.5d	**E**
3(b)(i)	elastic potential kinetic	correct order only	1 1	AO1 2.1.5c 2.2	**G**
3(b)(ii)	increases to 80(mm) (or more)	accept any number greater than 75 an answer 'it (more than) doubles' gains both marks	1 1	AO3 2.1.5a	**E**
3(c)(i)	weight		1	AO1 2.1	**A**
3(c)(ii)	Downward speed increases		1	AO1 2.1.1e	**A**
Total			**8**		

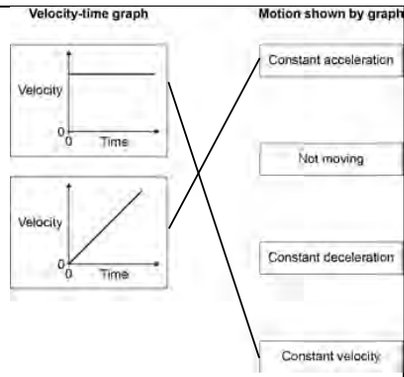
4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

PMT

MARK SCHEME – GCSE ADDITIONAL SCIENCE / PHYSICS – PH2FP– JUNE 2015

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.	ID
4(a)(i)	(3-pin) plug	do **not** accept plug socket	1	AO1 2.4.1d	**E**
4(a)(ii)	live and neutral		1	AO1 2.4.1e	**A**
4(a)(iii)	double		1	AO1 2.4.1j	**G**
4(b)	Direct current (d.c.) only		1	AO1 2.4.1a	**A**
4(c)(i)	live		1	AO1 2.4.1g	**G**
4(c)(ii)	too great a current flows	accept a surge of current accept too great a power accept an electrical fault do **not** accept voltage / energy / electricity too high	1	AO1 2.4.1g	**E**
4(c)(iii)	can be reset (disconnects circuit) faster	accept does not need replacing cheaper is insufficient does not melt is insufficient quicker to fix / replace is insufficient	1 1	AO2 2.4	**E**
Total			**8**		

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

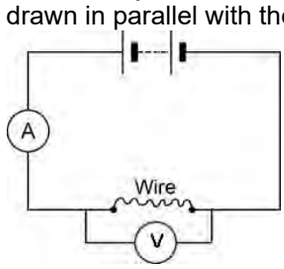
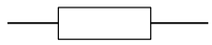
Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.	ID
5(a)		if more than one line is drawn from a graph then all those lines are wrong allow **1** mark for 1 correct line	2	AO1 2.1.2f	**G**
5(b)	speed		1	AO1 2.1.2d	**G**
5(c)(i)	2.25	allow **1** mark for correct substitution i.e. $a = \frac{9-0}{4}$ or $a = \frac{9}{4}$ provided no subsequent step	2	AO2 2.1.2e	**E**
5(c)(ii)	The air resistance increases		1	AO1 2.1.4a	**A**
5(d)	2000 J mass is half **or** kinetic energy depends on mass	 do **not** accept weight for mass	1 1	AO2 2.2.1g	**E**
Total			**8**		

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.	ID
6(a)	cell damage *or* cancer	accept kills/mutates cells radiation poisoning is insufficient ionising is insufficient	1	AO3 2.5.2g	**E**
6(b)(i)	any **one** from: • use tongs to pick up source • wear gloves • use (lead) shielding • minimise time (of exposure) • maximise distance (between source and teacher)	accept any other sensible and practical suggestion ignore reference to increasing / decreasing the number / thickness of lead sheets	1	AO3 2.5	**E**
6(b)(ii)	background		1	AO1 2.5.2b	**E**
6(c)(i)	curve drawn *from point 2,160*	do **not** accept straight lines drawn from dot to dot	1	AO2 2.5	**E**
6(c)(ii)	(also) increases	less radiation passes through is insufficient	1	AO3 2.5	**E**
6(c)(iii)	50	accept any value from 40 to 56 inclusive	1	AO3 2.5	**E**
6(d)	gamma only gamma (radiation) can pass through lead	 accept alpha **and** beta cannot pass through lead a general property of gamma radiation is insufficient	1 1	AO2 2.5.2e	**E**
Total			**8**		

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.	ID
7(a)(i)	p.d. is (directly) proportional to current **or** gradient/slope is constant ***or*** the lines show constant resistance	accept lines are straight / diagonal	1	AO2 2.3.2d/e/g	**E**
7(a)(ii)	C for the same p.d. the current is the smallest	reason only scores if C is chosen accept lowest gradient **and** the gradient = 1/R	1 1	AO2 2.3.2i	**E**
7(b)(i) clip with table 1	ohm	accept correct symbol Ω accept an answer written in Table 1 if not given in answer space	1	AO1 2.3.2h	**E**
7(b)(ii)	K and L only length varies	reason only scores if both K and L are chosen accept type of metal and the diameter are the same	1 1	AO3 2.3.2	**E**
7(b)(iii)	measure the resistance of more wires made from different metals	accept test more (types of) metals measure the resistance of more wires is insufficient they only use two metals is insufficient	1	AO3 2.3.2	**E**

7(c)(i)	voltmeter symbol correct and drawn in parallel with the wire 	accept voltmeter symbol correct and drawn in parallel with the battery	1	AO1 2.3.2c/f	**E**
7(c)(ii)	correct symbol drawn 	symbol must be rectangular	1	AO1 2.3.2c	**E**
Total			**9**		

Question	**Answers**	**Extra information**	**Mark**	**AO / Spec. ref.**	**ID**
8(a)	(an equal amount of) positive charge	do **not** accept charge on the atom / nucleus is positive	1	AO3 2.5.1	**E**
8(b)(i)	a (significant) number of alpha particles were scattered by more than 4° **or** alpha particles deflected backwards measurements / results could not be explained by 'plum pudding' model **or** measurements / results did not support predictions	accept (some) measurements / results were unexpected can be explained by the nuclear model is insufficient accept measurements / results did not support hypothesis	1 1	AO1 2.5 AO1	**E**
8(b)(ii)	many/(over)100 000 measurements / results taken	accept Rutherford(and Marsden) were respected scientists **or** scientists were respected accept measurements / results taken over several months the experiment was repeated many times is insufficient	1	AO3 2.5	**E**

Question 8 continues on the next page . . .

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.	ID
8(c)			6	AO1 2.5.1a/b/c	**E**

Marks awarded for this answer will be determined by the Quality of Written Communication (QWC) as well as the standard of the scientific response. Examiners should also refer to the information on page 5 and apply a 'best-fit' approach to the marking.

0 marks	Level 1 (1–2 marks)	Level 2 (3–4 marks)	Level 3 (5–6 marks)
no relevant content	A brief description is given with some particles correctly named	A description is given with all three particles named **plus either** the polarity of charge associated with the three particles **or** the relative mass of the three particles **or** the relative mass for one particle and the relative charge for one particle given	A more detailed description is given, naming the particles and polarity of charge **and either** the relative mass is given for at least two particles **or** the relative charge is given for at least two particles

examples of the points made in the response	extra information		
brief description contains protons, neutrons and electrons protons are positive electrons are negative neutrons are uncharged has a nucleus **relative charge** proton +1 electron – 1 neutron 0 **relative mass** proton 1 neutron 1 electron (about) 1/2000 **more detailed description** protons and neutrons make up the nucleus electrons orbit the nucleus electrons are in shells most of the atom is empty space nucleus occupies a very small fraction of the volume of the atom electrons orbit at a relatively large distance from the nucleus most of the mass of the atom is contained in the nucleus the nucleus as a whole is positively charged total number of protons in the nucleus equals the total number of electrons orbiting it in an atom	accept protons and neutrons have the same mass accept electrons have tiny / negligible mass zero mass is neutral		

Total		**10**

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 08 · Examiner comments

June 2022 | 8463/1F | Original Q4

Question 4 (Low demand)

04.1 About 50% of students correctly identified what an alpha particle consists of.

04.2 Approximately 40% of students correctly identified what a beta particle is.

04.3 About 45% of students chose the correct equation for the decay.

04.4 This question discriminated well with a good spread of marks. A quarter of students scored 3 marks, 40% of students scored 2 marks or more and 70% of students gained 1 mark or more.

04.5 This question discriminated well with a good spread of marks. About 30% of students scored 3 marks, approcimately 40% of students scored 2 marks or more and about 80% of students scored 1 mark or more.

04.6 About 75% of students correctly identified the man-made source of background radiation.

Please note there is no reference to 04.7

Answer 09 · Examiner comments

June 2025 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

03.1

Almost 70% of the students chose the correct nuclear equation for alpha decay.

03.2

The vast majority of the students scored a mark for correctly reading the value on the graph for 50 %.

03.3

Just fewer than 40 % of the students scored this mark for identifying the half-life of uranium. Most students did not realise that the two questions, 03.2 and 03.3 were asking for the same value in slightly different ways.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Answer 09 · Examiner comments

June 2025 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

03.4

A surprisingly large number of the students chose isotope B, scoring no marks. 13 % of the students scored 1 mark for choosing isotope A with an incorrect reason, while 27 % of the students scored 2 marks. A comparison was needed to score the second mark. 'A steep graph' was insufficient, but 'a steeper graph' would have scored the reason mark.

03.5

The vast majority of the students chose the nucleus with the smallest mass number correctly.

03.6

Just over half of the students chose the correct nucleus with an atomic number of 4.

03.7

Students who realised that the nuclei should have the same number of protons generally scored both marks. 'Same amount of protons' was equivalent to 'same number of protons'.

03.8

Just over half of the students chose the correct model of the atom.

03.9

Nearly 70 % of the students knew that the mass of an atom is concentrated in the nucleus.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

AQA

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4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

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4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

General

Grade 1-3 calculation questions were well answered, where the equation is always given and students will not be required to rearrange the equation. Grade 4-5 calculation questions involving equation recall were answered better this year than in 2018 and students are scoring many of their marks on the paper by answering the subsequent calculation questions correctly. At grade 4-5 students are expected to be able to either rearrange an equation or convert a unit, so it is beneficial for students to be able to quickly identify if the units given in a question are correct for the use in the equation. Question 10.1 was generally well attempted and students who had carried out Required Practical Activity 2 would have had a material advantage over those who hadn't.

Handwriting sometimes makes it very difficult for examiners to read what has been written. Students who have handwriting that is difficult to read may benefit from a scribe or from word processing their answers in exams.

Levels of demand

Questions are set at two levels of demand on this paper:

- low demand questions are targeted at students working at grades 1–3
- standard demand questions are targeted at students working at grades 4–5.

A student's final grade, however, is based on their attainment across the qualification as a whole, not just on questions that may have been targeted at the level at which they are working.

Question 1 (Low demand)

01.1 Around 77% of students scored 2 marks. Around 16% of students scored 1 mark.

01.2 Only around 8% of students scored 2 marks. Both evaporation and change of state were common, insufficient answers for the first marking point. Less than half of the students scored 1 mark. The marking points were independent, so if the change of state was incorrect eg melting, the student could still score the second marking point.

01.3 Around 91% of students scored 2 marks. In calculations where students are provided with the equation (grades 1-3) students are not expected to rearrange the equation. Some students incorrectly tried to convert the kg into g and scored 0 marks.

01.4 Approximately 82% of students scored 3 marks. In calculations where students are provided with the equation (grades 1-3) students are not expected to rearrange the equation. Some students incorrectly tried to convert the kg into g and scored 0 marks for the calculation. Some students set out their calculation, but then multiplied the two values rather than dividing.

Question 2 (Low demand)

02.1 About 67% of students identified the correct decay equation.

02.2 More than three quarters of the students identified why alpha radiation is dangerous inside the human body.

02.3 Just below three quarters of students scored 2 marks. Most correct answers read the values from the graph as intended (460, 280) and students didn't need the tolerance given in the mark scheme.

02.4 About 60% of students correctly estimated the mass remaining.

02.5 Students found this question difficult, with around 55% of students scoring 2 marks and around 27% of students scoring 1 mark.

Question 3 (Low demand)

03.1 Approximately 45% of students scored 1 mark for identifying a measuring instrument that could be used. About 9% of students scored 2 marks for describing an appropriate way to use it. Pythagoras was insufficient as the triangle described would not give the height of the zip wire.

03.2 Students were often very successful in calculation, with around 91% scoring 2 marks.

03.3 This question gave a good spread of marks. Over a fifth scored 3 marks, almost two fifths scored 2 marks and slightly below a quarter scored 1 mark. Gravitational potential energy or gravitational field strength were insufficient to score a mark.

Question 4 (Low demand)

04.1 Over a third of students answered this question correctly.

04.2 About 14% of students answered this question correctly.

04.3 This question about the alpha particle scattering experiment discriminated well between students. Around 16% of students scored 3 marks, around 45% of students scored 2 marks and around 30% of students scored 1 mark.

04.4 About 77% of students correctly identified what reproducible means. .

Question 5 (Low demand)

05.1 The most common correct answers linked CO_2 to global warming. Around 38% of students scored 2 marks and around 35% scored 1 mark. Common incorrect answers were usually vague and mentioned air pollution without being specific. There were many students who incorrectly linked CO_2 with the ozone layer.

05.2 Over half of the students scored 2 marks and over a third scored 1 mark. Insufficient answers included hydro and water. Answers using specification wording eg the tides were acceptable, as were terms like tidal, etc. Oil was insufficient as this was assumed to be non-renewable oil as opposed to palm oil or other biofuel oils.

05.3 Around 83% of students scored 2 marks for this percentage calculation. An answer of 78 scored 1 mark even if spurious calculations followed.

05.4 About 67% of students scored 2 marks. Quite a large number of misreads from the graph resulting in 0 marks and around 29% of students scored 0 marks.

05.5 Only around 5% of students scored 2 marks whilst half of the students scored 1 mark. Some students failed to make the connection between the time of day and sunrise. Some students talked vaguely about the energy stored by solar panels, confusing them with solar heating panels rather than solar photovoltaic panels.

Question 6 (Low and Standard demand)

06.1 More than half of the students scored 2 marks. To score a mark a comparative statement was needed eg lower, not low mass of power source. A statement using the word 'better' would be insufficient.

06.2 Around 64% of students scored 2 marks. Many students scored 1 mark for truncating and not rounding their answers, an answer of 26.08 would score only 1 mark for the substitution.

06.3 This question discriminated well, with about 16% scoring 2 marks and more than half scoring 1 mark. 'Increases the battery's power output' was insufficient to score a mark. 'Battery lasts longer' was insufficient to score a mark.

06.4 The quantities in the question are given in alphabetical order; there is no need for students to recall the equation in this order. Any correct rearrangement of the equation or use of the correct symbols for quantities was allowed. A mixture of symbols and words would also score the mark. Approximately 70% of students answered this question correctly.

06.5 It was encouraging to see many Foundation tier students successfully rearranging the equation. Around 77% of students scored 3 marks.

Question 7 (Low and Standard demand)

07.1 About 86% of students answered this question correctly.

07.2 Approximately 83% of students answered this question correctly. Students should refer to the Physics specification for the accepted symbols for circuit components. Textbooks and revision guides do not necessarily use the specification symbols. The circles in the component symbol scored a mark even if shown as blobs rather than circles.

07.3 Around 93% of students scored 2 marks. At grade 1-3, the equation is given and no rearrangement of the equation is needed. Students need to simply substitute and calculate the answer.

07.4 Around 93% of students scored 2 marks. At grade 1-3, the equation is given and no rearrangement of the equation is needed. Students need to simply substitute and calculate the answer.

07.5 About 23% of students answered this question correctly.

07.6 About 38% of students answered this question correctly.

07.7 Students can recall the equation in any correct rearrangement. The stem of the question lists the quantities in alphabetical order, so that there is no suggestion of the correct order.

Correct letters for quantities are acceptable in place of the quantity names. Voltage or p.d. were acceptable for potential difference. Approximately 57% of students answered this question correctly.

07.8 The first mark is for the substitution into the correct equation. The second mark is for the correct rearrangement of the correct equation. The third mark is for the correct final answer. About 58% of students scored 3 marks for this question. Grade 4-5 calculation questions require either a unit change or a rearrangement of the equation.

Question 8 (Low and Standard demand)

08.1 Around 63% of students answered this question correctly.

08.2 Around 86% of students answered this question correctly. Some students gave a precaution instead of a risk, which was insufficient.

08.3 Around 62% of students answered this question correctly, demonstrating that students still confuse the terms resolution and range.

08.4 Around 96% of students answered this question correctly.

08.5 Many students failed to substitute correctly into the equation that was printed on the Physics Equations Sheet. Many students multiplied the 3 values given in the question, which scored zero marks. The unit mark was independent, but a large number of students failed to recognise the correct unit from the box. More than a third of students scored 4 marks and around 16% of students scored 3 marks. A quarter of students scored 1 mark for either the correct unit or the correct substitution.

Question 9 (Standard demand)

09.1 About 45% of students correctly identified the meaning of power input.

09.2 Only a quarter of students scored this mark. Students can recall the equation in any correct rearrangement. The stem of the question lists the quantities in alphabetical order, so that there is no suggestion of the correct order. Correct letters for quantities are acceptable in place of the quantity names. Voltage or p.d. were acceptable for potential difference.

09.3 Around 13% of students scored 3 marks and about 81% scored zero. Students found this question difficult to answer, presumably due to their inability to recall the correct equation in the preceding question.

09.4 More than half of students answered this correctly. Some students failed to score the mark by writing input for both the denominator and the numerator.

09.5 Students who successfully recalled the equation in **09.4** were likely to score all 3 marks for this question. Only around 15% of students scored zero.

09.6 Many students restated the stem, rather than going the extra stage in the reasoning and linking to efficiency because thermal energy is also transferred by the light bulb. A number of students believed that knowing the rate at which the bulbs emitted visible light was a

safety concern related to the household electrics. Only around 1% of students scored 2 marks, about 16% of students scored 1 mark and around 73% of students scored zero marks.

Question 10 (Standard demand)

10.1 This question produced a good spread of marks. A mean score of 2.1 was achieved by students on the Foundation tier. Students who had experience of a similar practical benefitted from this as they were able to describe a method in sufficient detail to achieve Level 2. To achieve Level 3, a student needed to indicate that several values of number of layers were used, referring to the interval of 8 layers (as the graph showed) or that the experiment should be done with no layers. A control variable was also needed, either the initial temperature of the water, or the volume of water in each experiment. Some students gained no credit by describing different required practical methods. Around 2% of students scored 6 marks, around 15% of students scored 4 marks and about a fifth of students scored 2 marks. Around 10% of students didn't attempt the question.

10.2 Many students stated that it wasn't necessary to use both as it would be confusing. The datalogger would produce too much data was a common insufficient answer. A number of students stated that using a normal thermometer would be more appropriate, scoring zero marks. Less than 1% of students scored 2 marks and less than a fifth of students scored 1 mark.

Question 11 (Standard demand)

11.1 Over two-fifths of students scored 3 marks for this question. It wasn't necessary to give the answer to an appropriate number of significant figures, so answers of 0.502, 0.50 and 0.5 were all creditworthy. Some students calculated the jump height to be unlikely values; students should be encouraged to consider whether it is likely that someone can jump a height of 4.92 m, a commonly seen answer achieved by multiplying the 2 values given (41 × 0.12). Less than half of the students scored zero marks.

11.2 A common incorrect answer was E_k = mass × speed, since these were the quantities given in the question. A number of students also left out the 0.5 value even if they remembered that speed should be squared. Velocity was allowed instead of speed in the equation. Correct symbols were acceptable for the quantities in the equation. About 30% of students answered this question correctly.

11.3 Despite being asked to recall the equation in 11.2, most students simply multiplied or divided the 2 values given in the question (3.0 and 270), scoring 0 marks. Only around 19% of students scored 3 marks.

11.4 Some students commented on muscle mass and strength which were insufficient to score marks. Clear comparisons, including at least one difference and one similarity, were needed to score 4 marks. This question discriminated well between students; around 6% of students scored 4 marks, around 29% of students scored 2 marks and around 13% of students scored zero.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

11.5 Some students failed to score a mark because they simply restated the question, 'the scientist wanted the highest muscle power reading' without adding any value. The answer either needed to refer to the effect of repetition on performance (improvement or worsening) or that it was the maximum (or peak) muscle power that the scientist was investigating. A fifth of students answered this question correctly.

4.4.2.2 Nuclear equations

Use of statistics

Statistics used in this report may be taken from incomplete processing data. However, this data still gives a true account on how students have performed for each question.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results Statistics page of the AQA Website.