AQA GCSE Physics | 8463

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.4.4.1

Nuclear fission

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**15**
Available paper years	**2009–2024**

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.

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

Question 1

question	answers	extra information	mark
1	**four** lines correct **List A** the nuclei of two atoms joining together the nucleus of an atom splitting into several pieces an atom losing an electron an electric charge moving through a metal **List B** gamma emission electric current ionisation nuclear fission nuclear fusion	allow **1** mark for each correct line if more than 1 line is drawn from a box in List A, mark each line incorrect	4
Total			**4**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 01 · Mark scheme January 2009 | PHY2F | Original Q1 | Legacy

PHY2F

Answer 02 · Mark scheme January 2009 | PHY3F | Original Q5 | Legacy

No matching mark scheme was available in the supplied archive for this question.

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

June 2009 | PHY2F | Original Q7 | Legacy

Question 7

question	answers	extra information	mark
7(a)	Particle: Proton — Relative Mass: 1 — Relative charge: Particle: Neutron — Relative Mass: Relative charge: 0	accept one, accept +1 do **not** accept -1 accept zero do **not** accept no charge/ nothing/ neutral unless given with 0	1 1
7(b)	equal numbers/amounts of protons and electrons		1
	protons and electrons have equal but opposite charge	accept protons charge +1 and electron charge -1 accept *(*charge) on proton cancels/balances (charge) on electron accept positive (charges) cancel out the negative(charges) neutrons have no charge is neutral do **not** accept total charge of protons, electrons (and neutrons) is 0 unless qualified	1

Question 7 continues on the next page . . .

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

PHY2F

Question 7 continued . . .

question	answers	extra information	mark
7(c)(i)	(3) fewer neutrons	accept lower/ smaller mass number do **not** accept different numbers of neutrons any mention of fewer/more protons/ electrons negates mark accept answers in terms of U-238 providing U-238 is specifically stated i.e. U-238 has (3) more neutrons	1
7(c)(ii)	neutron		1
7(c)(iii)	(nuclear) fission	accept fision do **not** accept any spelling that may be taken as fusion	1
Total			**7**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 03 · Mark scheme June 2009 | PHY2F | Original Q7 | Legacy

PHY2F

Answer 04 · Mark scheme March 2010 | PHY1AP | Original Q4 | Legacy

Four	**A**	Electricity is produced.	**4**
	B	Fission of uranium produces heat.	**1**
	C	The heat is used to produce steam.	**2**
	D	The turbine drives a generator.	**3**

Answer 05 · Mark scheme November 2010 | PHY1AP | Original Q2 | Legacy

Two	**A**	gas	**4**
	B	geothermal	**3**
	C	moving water	**2**
	D	uranium	**1**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

Question 1

question	answers	extra information	mark
1	**three** lines correct **List A**: fusion; chain reaction; alpha decay **List B**: in a star; in a nuclear reactor; in a smoke precipitator; in the nucleus of an atom	allow **1** mark for each correct line if more than 1 line is drawn from a box in **List A**, mark each line incorrect	3
Total			**3**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 06 · Mark scheme January 2011 | PHY2F | Original Q1 | Legacy

PHY2F

Answer 07 · Mark scheme November 2011 | PHY1AP | Original Q4 | Legacy

Four	**A**	coal-fired	**2**
	B	geothermal	**3**
	C	nuclear	**4**
	D	tidal	**1**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

June 2013 | PH2FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Question 5

question	answers	extra information	mark
5(a)	uranium-235	accept any correct indication	1
5(b)	splits / breaks (into two smaller parts)	nucleus is separated is insufficient do **not** accept atom splits – on its own	1
	and (two / three) neutrons		1
5(c)	steam	correct order only	1
	turbine		1
	generator		1
Total			6

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 08 · Mark scheme June 2013 | PH2FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

PH2FP

Answer 09 · Mark scheme June 2015 | PH2FP | Original Q2 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 20. Follow original question 2 in that document.

Answer 10 · Mark scheme June 2016 | PH1FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 35. Follow original question 1 in that document.

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 11 · Mark scheme

June 2016 | PH2FP | Original Q4 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
4(a)	neutrons		1	AO1 2.5.1e
4(b)	generate electricity	accept produce electricity accept heat water accept produce steam turns turbines is insufficient	1	AO1 2.6
4(c)(i)	a neutron		1	AO1 2.6.1c
4(c)(ii)	two particles **X** released from the uranium-235 uranium-235 shown splitting into two fragments **or** each particle **X** shown colliding with a uranium-235 and producing 2 further particles **X**	 one uranium-235 shown splitting is sufficient, provided no contradiction shown	1 1	AO1 2.6.1e
Total			**5**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 11 · Mark scheme

June 2016 | PH2FP | Original Q4 | Legacy



4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 12 · Mark scheme

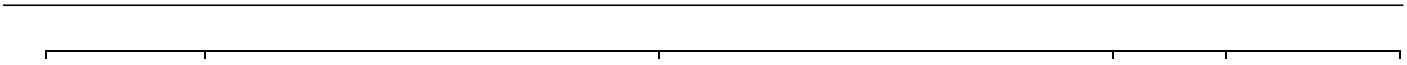
June 2018 | 8463/1F | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	nucleus neutron gamma rays	in this order only	1 1 1	AO1 4.4.4.1
06.2	$\frac{25\,000\,000}{2\,400\,000}$ 11	an answer of 11 scores **2** marks an answer of 10.4 with no working scores **1** mark	1 1	AO2 4.1.3
06.3	any **two** from: • waste is radioactive • waste has a long half-life • waste is toxic • waste needs to be buried • risk of catastrophic accidents • fuel is non-renewable	allow nuclear waste allow waste remains dangerous for a long time allow waste is difficult to dispose of allow named accident eg Fukushima, Chernobyl, Three Mile Island	2	AO1 4.1.3
06.4	**similarity:** (carbon dioxide concentration and global temperature have) both increased **difference:** the carbon dioxide (concentration) continues to increase whereas temperature (increase) levels off	allow they both show a positive correlation allow carbon dioxide (concentration) increases more quickly than temperature (increase)	1 1	AO3 4.1.3
Total			**9**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 12 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8463/1F | Original Q6



4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 13 · 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**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 14 · Mark scheme

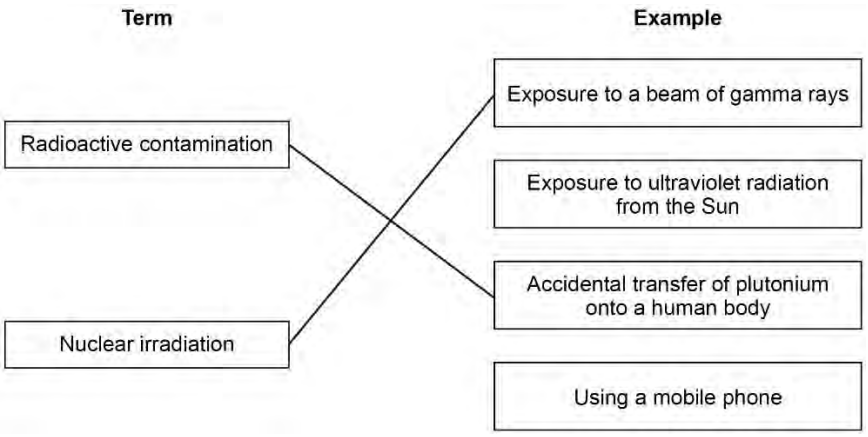
June 2023 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	protons neutrons	this order only	1 1	AO1 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	the time taken for half the nuclei in a sample to decay		1	AO1 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	carbon-18		1	AO3 4.4.2.3

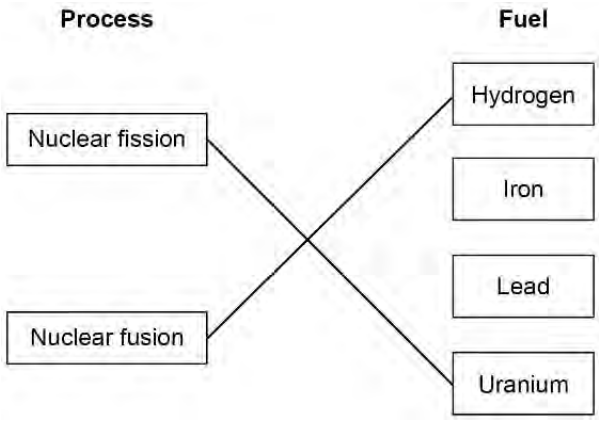
Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	 1 mark for each correct line additional line from a box on the left negates the mark for that box	1 1	AO1 4.4.2.4

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 14 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	to remove radioactive dust from their shoes		1	AO3 4.4.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	number of days = $\frac{0.072}{0.00050}$ number of days = 144		1 1	AO2 4.4.3.1

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.7	 1 mark for each correct line additional line from a box on the left negates the mark for that box	1 1	AO1 4.4.4.1 4.4.4.2

Total Question 3	11

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 15 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q10

Question 10

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	nuclei neutrons gamma rays	this order only	1 1 1	AO1 4.4.4.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.2	energy = power × time **or** $E = P \times t$		1	AO1 4.2.4.2 4.1.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.3	P = 500 000 000 (W) E = 500 000 000 × 3600 E = 1 800 000 000 000 (J) **or** $E = 1.8 \times 10^{12}$ (J)	 allow a correct substitution of an incorrectly / not converted value of P allow an answer consistent with an incorrectly / not converted value of P	1 1 1	AO2 4.2.4.2 4.1.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.4	any **one** from: • bury the radioactive waste • put the radioactive waste in cooling ponds • transport the radioactive waste in secure vessels • store the radioactive waste in metal containers • cover the radioactive waste in concrete	allow store it for (at least) one half-life ignore references to high / medium / low level waste ignore label the waste as hazardous	1	AO3 4.4.2.4

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 15 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.5	number of days = $\frac{92}{100} \times 365$		1	AO2 4.1.3
	number of days = 335.8	allow answers of 335 and 336 days allow an answer of 29.2 (days) for 1 mark	1	

Total Question 10	**10**



GCSE

Additional Science / Physics

PH2FP

Mark scheme

4408/4403
June 2015

Version/Stage: 1.0: Final

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Assessment Writer.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' 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.

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

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4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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.

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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.

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**		

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**		

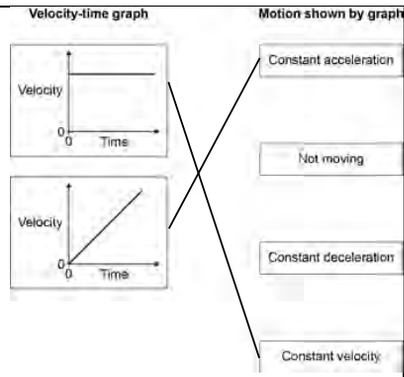
4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**		

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**		

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**		

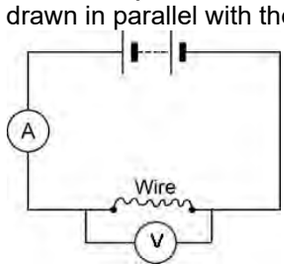
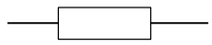
4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**		

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

PMT

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

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**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

AQA

GCSE

Science A / Physics

PH1FP

Mark scheme

4405/4403
June 2016

Version 1.0: Final Mark Scheme

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Assessment Writer.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' 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.

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.

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

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 **7(b)** 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.

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

MARK SCHEME – GCSE SCIENCE A / PHYSICS – PH1FP– JUNE 2016

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
1(a)	geothermal nuclear biofuel		1 1 1	AO1 1.4.1a 1.4.1d
1(b)	gravitational (potential) kinetic sound		1 1 1	AO1 1.3.1a 1.4.1b
1(c)(i)	90% or 0.9(0)	an answer of 0.9(0) with a unit gains **1** mark an answer of 90 with no unit or an incorrect unit gains **1** mark	2	AO2 1.2.1d
1(c)(ii)	60 (MW)	allow 10%	1	AO2 1.2.1b
1(c)(iii)	increased		1	AO1 1.2.1c
Total			**10**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
2(a)	46 200	accept 46 000 allow **1** mark for correct substitution ie 0.5 x 4200 x 22 provided no subsequent step	2	AO2 1.1.4d
2(b)	Energy is used to heat the kettle.		1	AO2 1.2.1b
2(c)	9 (pence)	allow **1** mark for correct substitution ie 0.6 x 15 provided no subsequent step	2	AO2 1.3.1d
2(d)(i)	conduction and convection		1	AO1 1.1.3a
2(d)(ii)	any **one** from: • water stays hotter for longer (than a 'conventional' kettle) • water boiled less often • less energy transferred to the surroundings • (new design is) more efficient		1	AO2 1.2
Total			**7**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
3(a)(i)	any **one** from: • (visible) light • UV / ultra violet • X-ray • gamma / γ-ray		1	AO1 1.5.1e
3(a)(ii)	less than less than the same as		1 1 1	AO1 1.5.1d 1.5.1e
3(b)(i)	(the) Big Bang (theory)		1	AO1 1.5.4e
3(b)(ii)	the red-shift of light from distant galaxies		1	AO1 1.5.4c
Total			**6**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

MARK SCHEME – GCSE SCIENCE A / PHYSICS – PH1FP– JUNE 2016

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
4(a)	dependent		1	AO3 1.1.3b
4(b)	The equipment has a better resolution.		1	AO3 1.1.3
4(c)	(probe) C largest difference between reading and actual temperature	allow 103.2 reason only scores if C chosen accept larger it is 3.2 greater is insufficient comparing C with only one other probe is insufficient	1 1	AO3 1.1.3
4(d)(i)	12(°C)	accept a value between 12.0 and 12.2 inclusive	1	AO2 1.1.3d
4(d)(ii)	140 (seconds) <u>temperature</u> starts to rise	accept an answer between 130 and 150 inclusive only scores if time mark awarded accept the <u>temperature</u> was lowest (at this time)	1 1	AO2 AO3 1.1.3b
4(d)(iii)	increase	accept faster (rate)	1	AO1 1.1.3b
Total			**8**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
5(a)	it would decrease the time		1	AO3 1.2.1a
5(b)	720 (J)	allow **1** mark for correct substitution ie 12 x 60 provided no subsequent step	2	AO2 1.3.1c
5(c)	<u>dense</u> rises falls	 accept equivalent words accept equivalent words	1 1 1	AO1 1.1.3a
5(d)	 decreases decreases decreases	more than one tick in any row negates the mark	 1 1 1	AO3 1.1.3c 1.1.3d
Total			**9**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
6(a)	frequency		1	AO1 1.5.3b
6(b)	echo(es)		1	AO1 1.5.3c
6(c)	spreading (out) equal to	changing direction is insufficient moving apart is insufficient bending is insufficient accept: similar to same (order of magnitude) as slightly smaller than slightly larger than	1 1	AO1 1.5.1g
6(d)	340 (m/s)	allow **1** mark for correct substitution ie 25 000 x 0.0136 provided no subsequent step or allow 1 mark for a correct calculation showing an incorrect value from conversion to hertz x 0.0136 an answer of 0.34 gains **1** mark	2	AO2 1.5.1j
6(e)	(a wave where the) oscillations are parallel to the direction of energy transfer causing (areas of) compression and rarefaction	both marking points may appear as labels on a diagram accept vibrations for oscillations accept in same direction as for parallel to allow direction of wave (motion) for direction of energy transfer accept correct description in terms of particles mechanical wave is insufficient needs a medium to travel through is insufficient	1 1	AO1 1.5.1b
Total			**8**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
7(a)	any **one** from: • high cost of installing overhead power lines or underground cables or pylons • high cost as (very) long cables needed • amount of electricity required is too low	allow not enough (surplus) electricity would be generated	1	AO1 1.4.1e

Question 7 continues on the next page . . .

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
7 (b)	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.		6	3 AO1 2 AO2 1 AO3 1.4.1b

0 marks	**Level 1 (1-2 marks)**	**Level 2 (3-4 marks)**	**Level 3 (5-6 marks)**
No relevant information	at least **one** advantage **or one** disadvantage of either method	at least **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage is stated for **one** method **and** a different advantage **or** disadvantage is stated for the other method	clear comparison of advantages **and** disadvantages of **each** method

examples of physics points made in the response	**extra information**
Advantages of both methods:	
• both renewable sources of energy	
• both have no fuel (cost)	accept carbon neutral
• both have very small (allow 'no') running costs	accept no greenhouse gases
• no carbon dioxide produced	accept doesn't contribute to global warming
Advantages of wind:	
• higher average power output	produces more energy is insufficient
Advantages of hydroelectric:	
• constant / reliable power (output)	
• lower (installation) cost	
Disadvantages of wind:	
• higher (installation) cost	
• variable / unreliable power output	
• (may) kill birds / bats	
Disadvantages of hydroelectric:	
• lower power output	
• (may) kill fish or (may) damage habitats	
• more difficult to set up (within river)	
Disadvantages of both methods	
• (may be) noisy	
• visual pollution	ignore payback time unless no other relevant points made ignore time to build for both

Total			**7**

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
8(a)	a proportion / percentage of the energy is wasted	allow heat for energy allow some energy is wasted	1	AO2 1.2.1b 1.2.1c
	(wasted) energy is transferred to surroundings **or** energy is needed to heat pan (before food is heated)		1	
8(b)	(fins have a) large(r) surface area	accept fins increase the surface area	1	AO1 1.1.1c 1.1.1e 1.1.3c
	(black metal surface is a) good / better absorber of infrared radiation	allow 'heat' or 'energy' for infrared radiation ignore good emitter of infrared radiation not a good reflector is insufficient	1	
8(c)	the higher the temperature (of the saucepan) the greater the rate at which infrared radiation is emitted	accept converse answer allow the higher the temperature the more infrared radiation is emitted allow there is a positive correlation	1	AO2 1.1.1b
Total			**5**	

4.4.4.1 Nuclear fission

Answer 14 · Examiner comments June 2023 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

Question 3 (Low and Standard Demand)

03.1 29% of students scored 2 marks, while 27 % of students scored 1 mark for this question about isotopes..

03.2 51% of students knew what half-life means.

03.3 77 % of students correctly identified the least stable isoptope.

03.4 Students found this question difficult with only 38% scoring 2 marks and 21% scoring 1 mark for this question about irradiation and contamination.

03.5 68% of students identified the purpose of the sticky floor.

03.6 72% of students scored 2 marks on this calculation question.

03.7 This question discriminated well with 46 % of students scoring 2 marks and 20 % of students scoring 1 mark for this question about fission and fusion

Answer 15 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q10

Question 10 (Standard demand)

10.1 15 % of students scored 3 marks, 39% scored 2 marks and 30% scored 1 mark. The most common mark to score was either ‘nuclei’ or ‘gamma rays’.

10.2 In this exam series all equations were provided for the students on the Physics Equations Sheet. 94% of students scored the mark.

10.3 67% of students scored 2 marks for multiplying the power by the time, whether they had converted the power or not. Most attempts to convert the power were incorrect. Only 3% of students scored all 3 marks for this calculation of energy.

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Answer 15 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q10

10.4 13% of students scored a mark. ‘Wear protective clothing’ or ‘hazmat suits’ were common incorrect answers. Any idea of burying the radioactive waste was credited, so ‘bury it in a field’ was ok, as was ‘bury it in landfill’, which from a student’s perspective is equivalent to burying it underground. ‘Keeping it away from people’ was insufficient.

10.5 74% of students scored 2 marks, while 3% scored 1 mark. The answer of 29.2 days was worth 1 mark as this could only have been calculated by doing the correct calculation and then subtracting the result from 365.