AQA GCSE Physics | 8463

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.5.6.2.1

Newton's First Law

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**8**
Available paper years	**2003–2025**

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.

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

June 2003 | 3451F | Original Q5 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 14. Follow original question 5 in that document.

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2003 | 3462F3 | Original Q5 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 36. Follow original question 5 in that document.

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

Question 4

	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	0.6 newtons	allow **1** mark for correct substitution accept N do **not** accept n accept Newtons	2 1
(ii)	the same as		1
(b)(i)	changed velocity	accept increased/ decreased for change accept speed for velocity accept change direction accept getting faster/ slower accept start/ stop moving accept correct equation in terms of change in speed or change in velocity	1
(ii)	down(wards)	accept towards the ground accept ↓ do **not** accept south	1
(iii)	increase velocity is increasing **or** it is accelerating	 can only credit second mark if answer is increase accept speed for velocity accept is moving faster accept an answer in terms of resultant force downwards mention of weight/ mass increasing negates second mark	1 1
total			8

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 04 · Mark scheme

June 2009 | PHY3F | Original Q2 | Legacy

Question 2

question	answers	extra information	mark
2(a)(i)	direction	accept any unambiguous indication	1
2(a)(ii)	centripetal	accept any unambiguous indication	1
2(b)	**A**	accept any unambiguous indication	1
2(c)	mass of the passengers is greater	accept any unambiguous indication	1
Total			**4**

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 04 · Mark scheme

June 2009 | PHY3F | Original Q2 | Legacy

PHY3F

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

Question 7

question	answers	extra information	mark
7(a)(i)	120		1
7(a)(ii)	20	accept 140-their (a)(i) provided answer is not negative	1
7(a)(iii)	as speed increases drag force / water resistance / friction / **D** increases (until) **D** = 140 N or (until) **D** = **T**	 forces balance is insufficient	1 1 1
7(b)(i)	(average) speed (of swimmer)		1
7(b)(ii)	any **two** from: • more data • force may vary (a lot) / change • give more <u>reliable average</u>	 accept results for data do **not** accept more accurate data ignore references to anomalies ignore accurate / precise	2

Question 7 continues on the next page . . .

PHY2F

Question 7 continued . . .

question	answers	extra information	mark
7(b)(iii)	examples of acceptable responses: • most / some females produce smaller forces • most / some males produce larger forces • some females swim as fast as males but use a smaller force • most of the faster swimmers are male • most of the slower swimmers are female • range of the (average) speed of males is smaller than the range of the (average) speed of females • range of the (average) force of the males is greater than the range of the (average) force of the females	do **not** accept <u>all</u> females produce smaller forces do **not** accept <u>all</u> males produce larger forces do **not** accept <u>all</u> males swim faster do **not** accept <u>all</u> females swim slower	1
7(b)(iv)	exert maximum (hand) force (throughout the swim / stroke)	accept (any method to) increase (hand) force practise more is insufficient	1
Total			**10**

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 05 · Mark scheme January 2011 | PHY2F | Original Q7 | Legacy

PHY2F

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

June 2015 | PH3FP | Original Q8 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. ref.
8(a)(i)	D		1	AO2 P3.2.4b
8(a)(ii)	friction		1	AO1 P3.2.4b
8(a)(iii)	any **two** from: • the speed / velocity • the radius of the bend • the mass (of the car)	 the radius is insufficient accept curvature of the road size of the bend is insufficient accept distance of car from centre (of bend) accept weight for mass	2	AO1 P3.2.4c
8(b)	the car has a wide base the car has a low centre of mass / gravity	accept any description of a wide base e.g. the wheels are far apart accept wide wheel base do **not** accept long wheel base a large surface area is insufficient wide tyre(s) is insufficient accept any description of low centre of mass e.g. mass is close to the ground a down force is insufficient	1 1	AO2 P3.2
Total			6	

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

June 2015 | PH3FP | Original Q8 | Legacy



4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8463/2F | Original Q6

Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
6.1	B		1	AO1/1 4.5.6.2.1
6.2	horizontal line drawn from (40, 20) to (300, 20) straight line drawn from the point where line B finishes to 0 m/s finishing on the x-axis at 360 s	 allow a straight line showing time to decelerate as 60s	1 1 1	AO2/2 4.5.6.1.5
6.3	acceleration= $\frac{\text{(change in) velocity}}{\text{time (taken)}}$	allow a = $\frac{(\Delta)v}{t}$	1	AO1/1 4.5.6.1.5 iso
6.4	$1.15 = \frac{\Delta v}{22}$ Δ v = 1.15 × 22 Δ v = 25.3 (m/s)	an answer 25.3 scores **3** marks	1 1 1	AO2/1 4.5.6.1.5
Total			**8**	

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

June 2025 | 8463/2F | Original Q4

Question 4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	car **X** has a smaller maximum acceleration		1	AO3 4.5.6.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.2	$F = 900 \times 2.5$ 2250 (N)	 allow 2300 (N)	1 1	AO2 4.5.6.2.2

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.3	**Level 2:** Relevant points (reasons/causes) are identified, given in detail and logically linked to form a clear account.	3–4	AO2
	Level 1: Points are identified and stated simply, but their relevance is not clear and there is no attempt at logical linking.	1–2	AO3
	No relevant content	0	4.5.1.4 4.5.6.1.5 4.5.6.2.1 4.5.6.2.2
	Indicative content • driving force increases • driving force has a maximum value • driving force is greater than air resistance • there is a resultant forward force • air resistance increases (as speed increases) • resultant force decreases • air resistance becomes equal to the driving force (at maximum speed) • resultant force is zero For **Level 2** answers must include how both driving force and air resistance change.		

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Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.4	time		1	AO1 4.5.6.3.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.5	force		1	AO1 4.5.6.3.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.6	(thinking distance =) 20 **and** (braking distance =) 60	subsequent marks may be awarded if incorrect reading(s) are taken from the graph	1	AO2 4.5.6.3.1
	stopping distance = 20 + 60		1	
	80 (m)		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.7	the driver becoming tired		1	AO1 4.5.6.3.2
	driving on a wet road		1	4.5.6.3.3

Total Question 4	**14**

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

Mark scheme June 2003

GCSE

Physics

3451

Foundation

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Kathleen Tattersall: *Director General*

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

INFORMATION FOR 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 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 lines 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 / ; e.g. allow smooth / free movement.)

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of Quality of Written Communication

Examiners are reminded of the need to assess QoWC by the following statement appearing in the appropriate parts of the mark scheme:

The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.

The maximum marks available to a candidate whose answer is not well expressed will be (the number of marks available –1).

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3.2 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which candidates 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 error/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)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	4,8	0
2	green, 5	0
3	red*, 5	1
4	red*, 8	0

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

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	Pluto, Mars, Moon	1
2	Pluto, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.3 Use of chemical symbols/formulae

If a candidate 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.

3.4 The marking of quantitative relationships

Full credit can be given for a correct quantitative relationship expressed in:

- named units;
- physical quantities;
- standard symbols;
- a combination of physical quantities and units.

No credit can be given for any quantitative relationship expressed in terms of:

- a combination of physical quantities, units and symbols;
- a diagram, e.g. the ohm's law triangle, unless the rest of the answer shows clearly that the candidate understands the relationships involved.

3.5 Marking procedure for calculations

3.5.1 Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, as shown in the column 'answers', 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.

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3.5.2 Where calculations are based on incorrectly recalled relationships, neither the incorrectly recalled relationship, nor the resulting calculation based on the incorrect relationship, will be credited.

3.6 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.

3.7 Errors carried forward

There should be no error carried forward from a previous answer which has been based on wrong science. Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Examples

(a) A candidate who calculates average speed using speed = time/distance **and** then proceeds to use this incorrect answer to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship should be given credit for the use of the correct acceleration relationship but none for either numerical answer.

(b) A candidate who incorrectly calculates average speed using speed = distance/time and then proceeds to use this incorrect value to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship, should be given credit for the use of both correct quantitative relationships **and** for the correct substitution and use of the incorrect value in the calculation of the rate of acceleration.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward are 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.

3.8 Phonetic spelling

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

3.9 Brackets

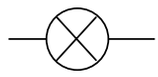
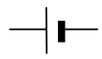
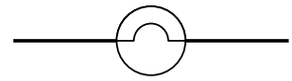
(…..) is used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.10 Unexpected Correct Answers not in the Mark Scheme

The Examiner should use professional judgement to award credit where a candidate has given an unexpected correct answer which is not covered by the mark scheme. The Examiner should consult with the Team Leader to confirm the judgement. The Team Leader should pass this answer on to the Principal Examiner with a view to informing all examiners.

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	circuit symbol for a lamp correct   circuit symbol for a cell correct	accept  accept any standard of drawing providing circuit would work	1 1
	2 lamps drawn in parallel with 3 cells	polarity of cells must be correct (+ to –) but cells may be either way around	1
(b)	4.5		1
(c)	the same as	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			5

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	gas		1
(b)	fuel burning stations produce electricity at any time / all the time wind generator can only produce when the wind is strong enough	accept fuel available all the time accept it's not always windy	1 1
(c)	no fuel is burnt **or** no fuel is used **or** uses only energy from wind **or** does not emit harmful gases / soot / smoke	do **not** accept wind is natural / environmentally friendly / renewable answer must be in terms of wind, **not** negative of fuel burning specific examples of gases CO_2, SO_2, acid rain and greenhouse gases can be accepted ozone negates credit	1
total			4

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	microwaves		1
(ii)	infra red		1
(iii)	ultrasonic		1
(b)(i)	B		1
(ii)	A		1
(c)	disturbance / vibration / movement direction	accept motion / force do **not** accept energy	1 1
(d)	sound wave	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			8

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	heat		1
(ii)	temperature increases **or** (cause) convection (currents)	accept gets warmer accept gets hotter	1
(iii)	60% **or** 0.6	60 without % scores **1** mark 0.6 with a unit scores **1** mark 60 with incorrect unit scores **1** mark **or** correct substitution $\frac{120}{200}$ for **1** mark	2
(b)	street more (energy transferred as) light **or** less (energy transferred as) heat **or** useful energy output the highest	 can only score this mark if first mark scored all efficiencies calculated correctly score 2nd mark point	1 1
total			6

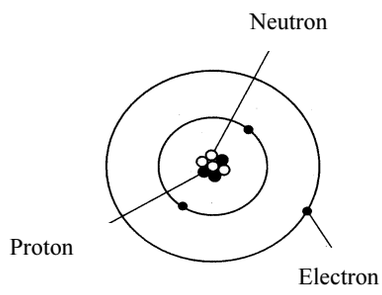
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	MN	accept 5.8, 8 seconds must include unit	1
(b)	LM	accept 0.8, 5.8 seconds must include unit	1
(c)(i)	0.8		1
(ii)	drinking alcohol		1
(d)	straight (by eye) line starting at 0.8 seconds line drawn steeper than LM starting before L	 ignore lines going beyond 2 seconds but line must exceed 2.5 metres per second before terminating	1 1
total			6

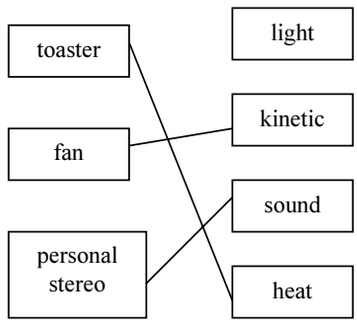
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	each correct label scores 1 mark  		3
(ii)	neutron		1
(iii)	7 number of protons and neutrons **or** number of nucleons **or** number of particles in the nucleus	 accept number of particles in the centre only if first answer = 7	1 1
(b)(i)	50 ± 5		1
(ii)	50 ± 5	accept their (b)(i)	1
(iii)	less	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
total			9

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	each correct line scores 1 mark  	if more than 3 lines are drawn mark incorrect ones first, to a maximum of 3 lines	3
(b)	toaster	accept 1.2 kW	1
(c)(i)	400		1
(ii)	£24 **or** 2400p	full credit for their (c)(i) × 6p for full credit the correct numerical answer must have the correct unit an answer of 24 or 2400 with no unit or the incorrect unit scores **1** mark (c)(i) × 6 incorrectly evaluated scores **1** mark	2
(d)	6	allow 6000 for **1** mark allow 3 × 2 for **1** mark	2
total			9

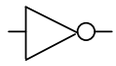
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	point where the rays cross	do not credit if ambiguous	1
(ii)	converging (lens)	do **not** accept convex	1
(b)(i)	point where the rays appear to diverge from	this should appear to be within 10mm in front of the back of the arrows on the approximate centre line need not be accurately constructed using a ruler	1
(ii)	diverging (lens)	do **not** accept concave	1
(c)	converging film smaller than nearer to	accept any clear indication of the correct response e.g. ticking, ringing, writing in after a mistake	1 1 1 1
(d)(i)	(image) bigger than object / enlarge	accept just 'made bigger'	1
(ii)	it / real image can be put on a screen **or** real image on the opposite side of the lens to the object	accept 'not an imaginary or virtual image' assume 'it' refers to a real image do **not** credit 'it can be seen'	1
(e)	**either** (the converging lens is) thick in the middle thin(ner) at the edge **or** (both) sides bend outwards (1) in the middle (1) **or** one side bends in the middle (1) more than the other side bends inwards (in the middle) (1)	thickest in the middle gains **2** marks convex gains **2** marks suitable diagrams gains **2** marks	1 1
total			12

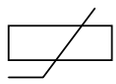
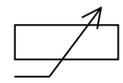
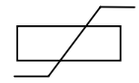
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	off off on	all correct	1
(ii)	AND (gate)	accept and (gate)	1
(iii)	on on on	all correct	1
(iv)	OR (gate)	accept or (gate)	1
(b)(i)	1 0 **or** 0 1 0 1 1 0	do **not** credit on / off responses	1
(ii)		accept mirror image accept  accept with either or both parts shaded accept line through as shading	1
(c)		accept off for 0 and on for 1 throughout	
	0 0	both correct	1
	0 1	both correct	1
	1 1	both correct	1
	1 1	both correct	1

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q9 continued

(d)(i)		accept mirror image **or** inverted do **not** credit  **or**  or similar	1
(ii)	resistance decreases / increases / changes current (through it) increases / decreases / changes **or** temperature changes / increases / decreases (1) resistance changes / decreases / increases (1) (NTC thermistor) both marks independent but must be compatible to score **2** marks	accept 'voltage across it decreases' for **2** marks but only if it is made clear that this refers to a thermistor in series	1 1
total			13

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	friction	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(ii)	gravity	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(b)(i)	accelerates **or** speed / velocity increases	accept faster and faster (**1** mark) do **not** accept faster pace / falls faster or suggestions of a greater but constant speed	1
	downwards / falls	accept towards the Earth / ground this may score in part (b)(ii) if it does not score here and there is no contradiction between the two parts	1
(ii)	constant speed / velocity **or** terminal velocity / speed **or** zero acceleration	stays in the same place negates credit	1
total			5

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	X – mantle		1
	Y – inner core	do **not** accept solid core	1
(ii)	different to the crust **or** contains a lot of (heavy) metals	accept iron and nickel for metals	1
	higher (average) density **or** denser	density higher than 5500 (kg/m^3) gets **2** marks	1
(b)	animals were able to move from one continent to the other		1
	(when bridge broke) animals evolved differently	accept animals adapted differently	1
(c)(i)	earthquakes occur at the boundary between plates **or** earthquakes occur where plates push against each other		1
	there are no plate boundaries running through Britain	accept Britain is not near the edge of a plate	1
(ii)	convection currents (in the mantle) **or** heat released by (natural) radioactive processes		1
total			9

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	outside the Earth **or** not from the Earth	accept alien accept life from / on another planet / space accept our planet for Earth	1
(ii)	radio telescope(s)	do **not** accept telescopes do **not** accept satellite dishes do **not** accept radio receivers **or** transmitters	1
(b)(i)	galaxies	do **not** accept stars	1
(ii)	any **one** from: the pulses were regular pulses from space are usually random (scientists) thought technology had been used to produce the pulses neutron stars were unknown signals from a single point	 accept signals / beats for pulses accept noise for random pulses idea of regular but not continuous	1
(iii)	neutron star is (the matter / mass) left behind after a star / red giant explodes (as a super nova)	 accept after a super nova (explosion) neutron star causing super nova gets no credit	1 1
(c)(i)	carried on the balloon / equipment	accept carried by a rocket / aircraft / satellite birds negates credit	1
(ii)	on comets or meteors	accept meteorites / shooting stars accept returning space craft accept solar wind ignore asteroids accept ufo do **not** accept solar flares do **not** accept satellites	1
total			8

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	silver is a (good) reflector of <u>heat</u> (radiation) **or** silver reflects the heat (radiation)	fact heat = infra red ignore references to light accept shiny for silver good radiator negates the mark ignore references to good conductor do **not** accept bounce back	1
	less heat is lost through the board **or** more heat is retained by the shirt	explanation accept both sides of shirt heated reflects heat back up gets **1** mark only ignore mention of friction	1
(b)	metal soleplate	accept soleplate / bottom / metal do **not** accept outside / case	1
(c)	plastic **or** rubber	accept any named plastic do **not** accept wood	1
	it is a (good) insulator **or** it is a poor conductor	ignore mention of heat if in conjunction with electricity	1
(d)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.*	*Maximum of **2** marks if ideas not well expressed.*	
	pulls iron bolt down **or** attracts the iron bolt **or** moves bolt out of plunger	answers in terms of charges attracting or repelling gain no credit	1
	plunger pushed / moved to the right (by spring) **or** plunger released		1
	push switch opens / goes to off / goes to right	accept circuit is broken for maximum credit the points must follow a logical sequence 3 correct points but incorrect sequence scores **2** marks only ignore reset action	1
total			8

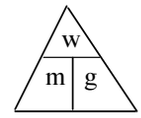
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q14

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	any **one** from: the ground the air radon (gas) building materials buildings rocks / granite food cosmic rays **or** solar rays X-rays nuclear weapons testing nuclear power stations / accidents	 do **not** accept mobile phones accept from outer space accept sun but **not** sunlight accept medical uses	1
(ii)	2	allow $\frac{1200}{60\times10}$ **or** $\frac{1200}{600}$ **or** 120 for **1** mark	2
(b)	 alpha: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the card **or** the card absorbs alphas but not betas beta: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the metal **or** the thin metal absorbs alphas and betas **or** the thin metal absorbs all of the radiation (from the source) gamma: would pass through the thin metal but count rate is background **or** no radiation passing through **or** a higher reading would be recorded **or** to reduce the count to 2 would require much more than 3 mm of metal	answers must be comparative accept converse answers throughout accept paper for the card accept aluminium for the metal accept aluminium for the metal accept lead / aluminium for the metal	 1 1 1
total			6

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q15

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	weight = mass × g.f.s.	accept w = m × g accept gravity for gfs accept  provided subsequent use of Δ correct do **not** accept N = kg × N/kg	1
(ii)	675	75 × 9 for **1** mark	2
(iii)	g.(f.s.) is higher (on Earth than Venus)	accept gravity for g.f.s. do **not** accept g.f.s. is lower unless answer states on Venus	1
(iv)	orbit time for Jupiter is <u>longer</u> / longest (than for the other planets)	do **not** give any credit for an answer that includes a comparison of diameter **or** a comparison of g.f.s.	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.* any **two** from: dust <u>and</u> gas **or** remnants of a super nova pulled together by (force of) <u>gravity</u> nuclear fusion starts	*Maximum of **1** mark if ideas not well expressed.* accept hydrogen for dust and gas do **not** accept hydrogen burns although candidates may include more detail these points are essential to score the credit	2
total			7

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q16

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	upright with the contacts at the bottom and still in place and unbent	no need for labels but incorrect label(s) cancel the mark accept a freehand drawing no need for details such as correct dimensions	1
	one blob of mercury touching <u>both</u> contacts	do **not** award mark if contacts bent to touch	1
(b)(i)	(X is a) battery	do **not** credit cell accept (set of) cells accept power supply do **not** accept power pack	1
	(Y is a) LED	**or** light emitting diode	1
(ii)	longer (time)	do **not** accept 'slower time'	1
(iii)	any **two** from: current less (so) rate of flow of charge less **or** less coulombs per second (so) discharge is slower	 do **not** accept current slower accept capacitor has charge for longer **or** charge lasts longer **or** (so total of) electrons take longer to travel round circuit	2
(c)	4200	translation correct (= 4000) but percentage addition incorrect gains **1** mark translation incorrect but 5% addition is correct gains **1** mark accept 422.1 **or** 42.2 **or** 6.3 for **1** mark	2
	ohms **or** Ω	4.2 kilohms **or** 4.2 kΩ gains all **3** marks	1
total			10

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3451/F Q17

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	point at which its mass (seems to) act **or** point at which gravity (seems to) act	accept …its weight acts accept correct statements if the intent is clear e.g. … if suspended, the centre of gravity will be directly under the point of suspension e.g. … (if the object is symmetrical), the centre of gravity is on the **or** an axis (of symmetry) do **not** credit just 'it is a point'	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.* any **five** from: clamp (steel) rod (horizontally) hang plastic / sheet by rod through (one) hole hang plumb line from rod mark ends of plumb line on the sheet and use the ruler to draw a straight line repeat with other hole centre of mass is where the lines cross check by balancing at this point	*maximum of **4** marks if ideas not well expressed* **no** marks if method quite unworkable maximum of **3** marks if no 'repeat with other hole'	5
(c)(i)	(turning) effect **or** moment force distance	all three correct accept weight accept length	1
(ii)	17.6 Nm **or** newton metre(s)	allow 44 × 0.4 **or** 0.4 × 44 for **1** mark do **not** accept N/m **or** N/cm 1760 Ncm gains all **3** marks	2 1
total			10

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

Mark scheme June 2003

GCSE

Science: Double Award Co-ordinated

3462

Paper 3F

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Kathleen Tattersall: *Director General*

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

INFORMATION FOR 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 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 lines 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 / ; e.g. allow smooth / free movement.)

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of Quality of Written Communication

Examiners are reminded of the need to assess QoWC by the following statement appearing in the appropriate parts of the mark scheme:

The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.

The maximum marks available to a candidate whose answer is not well expressed will be (the number of marks available –1).

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3.2 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which candidates 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 error/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)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	4,8	0
2	green, 5	0
3	red*, 5	1
4	red*, 8	0

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

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	Pluto, Mars, Moon	1
2	Pluto, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.3 Use of chemical symbols/formulae

If a candidate 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.

3.4 The marking of quantitative relationships

Full credit can be given for a correct quantitative relationship expressed in:

- named units;
- physical quantities;
- standard symbols;
- a combination of physical quantities and units.

No credit can be given for any quantitative relationship expressed in terms of:

- a combination of physical quantities, units and symbols;
- a diagram, e.g. the ohm's law triangle, unless the rest of the answer shows clearly that the candidate understands the relationships involved.

3.5 Marking procedure for calculations

3.5.1 Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, as shown in the column 'answers', 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.

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3.5.2 Where calculations are based on incorrectly recalled relationships, neither the incorrectly recalled relationship, nor the resulting calculation based on the incorrect relationship, will be credited.

3.6 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.

3.7 Errors carried forward

There should be no error carried forward from a previous answer which has been based on wrong science. Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Examples

(a) A candidate who calculates average speed using speed = time/distance **and** then proceeds to use this incorrect answer to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship should be given credit for the use of the correct acceleration relationship but none for either numerical answer.

(b) A candidate who incorrectly calculates average speed using speed = distance/time and then proceeds to use this incorrect value to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship, should be given credit for the use of both correct quantitative relationships **and** for the correct substitution and use of the incorrect value in the calculation of the rate of acceleration.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward are 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.

3.8 Phonetic spelling

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

3.9 Brackets

(…..) is 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.

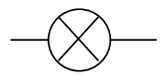
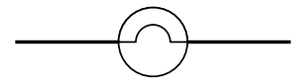
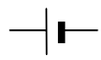
3.10 Unexpected Correct Answers not in the Mark Scheme

The Examiner should use professional judgement to award credit where a candidate has given an unexpected correct answer which is not covered by the mark scheme. The Examiner should consult with the Team Leader to confirm the judgement. The Team Leader should pass this answer on to the Principal Examiner with a view to informing all examiners.

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Double Award
Foundation Tier 3462/3F

3462/3F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	circuit symbol for a lamp correct 	accept  accept any standard of drawing providing circuit would work	1
	circuit symbol for a cell correct 		1
	2 lamps drawn in parallel with 3 cells	polarity of cells must be correct (+ to –) but cells may be either way around	1
(b)	4.5		1
(c)	the same as	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			5

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	gas		1
(b)	fuel burning stations produce electricity at any time / all the time	accept fuel available all the time	1
	wind generator can only produce when the wind is strong enough	accept it's not always windy	1
(c)	no fuel is burnt **or** no fuel is used **or** uses only energy from wind **or** does not emit harmful gases / soot / smoke	do **not** accept wind is natural / environmentally friendly / renewable answer must be in terms of wind, **not** negative of fuel burning specific examples of gases CO_2, SO_2, acid rain and greenhouse gases can be accepted ozone negates credit	1
total			4

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	microwaves		1
(ii)	infra red		1
(iii)	ultrasonic		1
(b)(i)	B		1
(ii)	A		1
(c)	disturbance / vibration / movement direction	accept motion / force do **not** accept energy	1 1
(d)	sound wave	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			8

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	heat		1
(ii)	temperature increases **or** (cause) convection (currents)	accept gets warmer accept gets hotter	1
(iii)	60% **or** 0.6	60 without % scores **1** mark 0.6 with a unit scores **1** mark 60 with incorrect unit scores **1** mark **or** correct substitution $\frac{120}{200}$ for **1** mark	2
(b)	street more (energy transferred as) light **or** less (energy transferred as) heat **or** useful energy output the highest	 can only score this mark if first mark scored all efficiencies calculated correctly score 2nd mark point	1 1
total			6

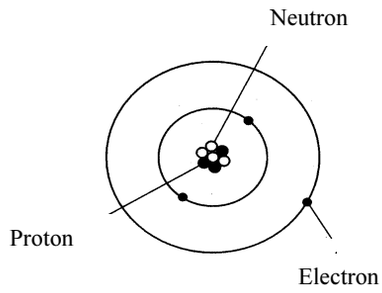
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	MN	accept 5.8, 8 seconds must include unit	1
(b)	LM	accept 0.8, 5.8 seconds must include unit	1
(c)(i)	0.8		1
(ii)	drinking alcohol		1
(d)	straight (by eye) line starting at 0.8 seconds line drawn steeper than LM starting before L	 ignore lines going beyond 2 seconds but line must exceed 2.5 metres per second before terminating	1 1
total			6

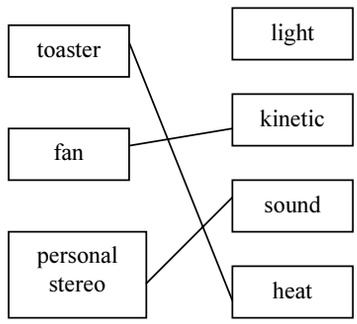
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	each correct label scores 1 mark  		3
(ii)	neutron		1
(iii)	7 number of protons and neutrons **or** number of nucleons **or** number of particles in the nucleus	 accept number of particles in the centre only if first answer = 7	1 1
(b)(i)	50 ± 5		1
(ii)	50 ± 5	accept their (b)(i)	1
(iii)	less	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
total			9

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	each correct line scores 1 mark  	if more than 3 lines are drawn mark incorrect ones first, to a maximum of 3 lines	3
(b)	toaster	accept 1.2 kW	1
(c)(i)	400		1
(ii)	£24 **or** 2400p	full credit for their (c)(i) × 6p for full credit the correct numerical answer must have the correct unit an answer of 24 or 2400 with no unit or the incorrect unit scores **1** mark (c)(i) × 6 incorrectly evaluated scores **1** mark	2
(d)	6	allow 6000 for **1** mark allow 3 × 2 for **1** mark	2
total			9

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	friction	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(ii)	gravity	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(b)(i)	accelerates **or** speed / velocity increases	accept faster and faster (**1** mark) do **not** accept faster pace / falls faster or suggestions of a greater but constant speed	1
	downwards / falls	accept towards the Earth / ground this may score in part (b)(ii) if it does not score here and there is no contradiction between the two parts	1
(ii)	constant speed / velocity **or** terminal velocity / speed **or** zero acceleration	stays in the same place negates credit	1
total			5

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	X – mantle		1
	Y – inner core	do **not** accept solid core	1
(ii)	different to the crust **or** contains a lot of (heavy) metals	accept iron and nickel for metals	1
	higher (average) density **or** denser	density higher than 5500 (kg/m^3) gets **2** marks	1
(b)	animals were able to move from one continent to the other		1
	(when bridge broke) animals evolved differently	accept animals adapted differently	1
(c)(i)	earthquakes occur at the boundary between plates **or** earthquakes occur where plates push against each other		1
	there are no plate boundaries running through Britain	accept Britain is not near the edge of a plate	1
(ii)	convection currents (in the mantle) **or** heat released by (natural) radioactive processes		1
total			9

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	outside the Earth **or** not from the Earth	accept alien accept life from / on another planet / space accept our planet for Earth	1
(ii)	radio telescope(s)	do **not** accept telescopes do **not** accept satellite dishes do **not** accept radio receivers **or** transmitters	1
(b)(i)	galaxies	do **not** accept stars	1
(ii)	any **one** from: the pulses were regular pulses from space are usually random (scientists) thought technology had been used to produce the pulses neutron stars were unknown signals from a single point	 accept signals / beats for pulses accept noise for random pulses idea of regular but not continuous	1
(iii)	neutron star is (the matter / mass) left behind after a star / red giant explodes (as a super nova)	 accept after a super nova (explosion) neutron star causing super nova gets no credit	1 1
(c)(i)	carried on the balloon / equipment	accept carried by a rocket / aircraft / satellite birds negates credit	1
(ii)	on comets or meteors	accept meteorites / shooting stars accept returning space craft accept solar wind ignore asteroids accept ufo do **not** accept solar flares do **not** accept satellites	1
total			8

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	silver is a (good) reflector of heat (radiation) **or** silver reflects the heat (radiation)	fact heat = infra red ignore references to light accept shiny for silver good radiator negates the mark ignore references to good conductor do **not** accept bounce back	1
	less heat is lost through the board **or** more heat is retained by the shirt	explanation accept both sides of shirt heated reflects heat back up gets **1** mark only ignore mention of friction	1
(b)	metal soleplate	accept soleplate / bottom / metal do **not** accept outside / case	1
(c)	plastic **or** rubber	accept any named plastic do **not** accept wood	1
	it is a (good) insulator **or** it is a poor conductor	ignore mention of heat if in conjunction with electricity	1
(d)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.*	*Maximum of **2** marks if ideas not well expressed.*	
	pulls iron bolt down **or** attracts the iron bolt **or** moves bolt out of plunger	answers in terms of charges attracting or repelling gain no credit	1
	plunger pushed / moved to the right (by spring) **or** plunger released		1
	push switch opens / goes to off / goes to right	accept circuit is broken for maximum credit the points must follow a logical sequence 3 correct points but incorrect sequence scores **2** marks only ignore reset action	1
total			8

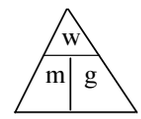
4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	any **one** from: the ground the air radon (gas) building materials buildings rocks / granite food cosmic rays **or** solar rays X-rays nuclear weapons testing nuclear power stations / accidents	 do **not** accept mobile phones accept from outer space accept sun but **not** sunlight accept medical uses	1
(ii)	2	allow $\frac{1200}{60\times10}$ **or** $\frac{1200}{600}$ **or** 120 for **1** mark	2
(b)	 alpha: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the card **or** the card absorbs alphas but not betas beta: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the metal **or** the thin metal absorbs alphas and betas **or** the thin metal absorbs all of the radiation (from the source) gamma: would pass through the thin metal but count rate is background **or** no radiation passing through **or** a higher reading would be recorded **or** to reduce the count to 2 would require much more than 3 mm of metal	answers must be comparative accept converse answers throughout accept paper for the card accept aluminium for the metal accept aluminium for the metal accept lead / aluminium for the metal	 1 1 1
total			6

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

3462/3F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	weight = mass × g.f.s.	accept w = m × g accept gravity for gfs accept  provided subsequent use of Δ correct do **not** accept N = kg × N/kg	1
(ii)	675	75 × 9 for **1** mark	2
(iii)	g.(f.s.) is higher (on Earth than Venus)	accept gravity for g.f.s. do **not** accept g.f.s. is lower unless answer states on Venus	1
(iv)	orbit time for Jupiter is <u>longer</u> / longest (than for the other planets)	do **not** give any credit for an answer that includes a comparison of diameter **or** a comparison of g.f.s.	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.* any **two** from: dust <u>and</u> gas **or** remnants of a super nova pulled together by (force of) <u>gravity</u> nuclear fusion starts	*Maximum of **1** mark if ideas not well expressed.* accept hydrogen for dust and gas do **not** accept hydrogen burns although candidates may include more detail these points are essential to score the credit	2
total			7

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Answer 07 · Examiner comments

June 2019 | 8463/2F | Original Q6

Question 6 (Low and standard demand)

06.1 Many of the students did not make the link between zero resultant force and constant velocity and so did not choose answer B.

06.2 This was well done with nearly half of the students scoring all three marks. Common errors were to have section B less than 260 s and / or the time for deceleration in part C to be 50 s.

06.3 67% of students correctly recalled the equation.

06.4 Virtually all of the students that scored a mark in part **06.3** went on to score both marks for the calculation.

4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Questions matter

GCSE

Physics

8463/2F

Report on the examination

Version: 1.0
June 2025

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4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

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Report on the examination – GCSE - Physics – 8463/2H – June 2025

General comments

Students should pay attention to the number of options that need to be ticked when doing multiple choice questions. They should make sure they cross out wrong options when they change their minds, as marks cannot be awarded where there are multiple ticks instead of one.

Many students demonstrated good maths skills, although there are always issues with rearrangements. Formula triangles are not always helpful. Students who had correctly written down an equation in a previous question and then tried to use a formula triangle often scored no marks, because they don't understand how to use them. If they had substituted into the equation from the equations sheet they would have scored the 1st mark.

Students had access to the equations sheet for this examination series. A minority of the students however did not use them to find the appropriate equation.

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, not just on questions that may have been targeted at the level at which they are working.

01.1

Over 90 % of the students knew that a protractor is used to measure angles. The phonetic spelling of protractor was allowed.

01.2

Almost 70% of the students scored all four marks for completing the graph. Despite a clear instruction a significant number did not label the y-axis. A number of the students did not use a ruler to draw the line of best fit.

01.3

Most of the students correctly identified the relationship between the angle of incidence and the angle of reflection.

01.4

Half of the students knew which measurement was the amplitude of a wave. Most of the others thought the vertical distance between a peak and a trough was the amplitude.

01.5

About 80 % of the students knew which line showed the wavelength of the wave. The most common incorrect answer was the distance showing half the wavelength.

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4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Report on the examination – GCSE - Physics – 8463/2H – June 2025

01.6

Over 90 % of the students correctly calculated the wavelength. Those who did not achieve full marks mainly did so by not choosing the correct unit for wavelength, with Pa being a popular incorrect choice.

01.7

This was well answered, with most of the students scoring both marks. A few inverted the equation and thus calculated the period incorrectly.

02.1

Most of the students correctly calculated the weight of coal.

02.2

Just over 90% of the students were able to use the work done equation correctly. Those that did not get full marks tended to put an additional step into the calculation by dividing the answer 68 000 000 by 4; the number of engines in total.
Occasionally a student would attempt to convert the number calculated into standard form. Whilst not being penalised, this was not required.

02.3

Well answered by most students. As with part 02.2, occasionally a student would attempt to convert the number calculated into standard form.

02.4

Nearly 90% of the students could identify that friction was a contact force.

02.5

Most of the students identified the correct distance-time graph for constant speed.

02.6

This was the 1st calculation that was more challenging for many students. A common error was to use only one of the quoted velocities to calculate the acceleration rather than using the difference between the velocities. However just over 80 % did score full marks, with 10 % scoring zero or not attempting the question.

03.1

Approximately 60% of the students scored both marks. Often students did not know the correct word for a natural satellite. However, many correctly identified ‘star’ for the second word.

03.2

Most of the students knew that we are part of the Milky Way galaxy.

03.3

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4.5.6.2.1 Newton's First Law

Only about 40 % of the students knew that the Sun will eventually become a black dwarf. The most popular wrong answer was that it would become a black hole.

03.4

Just fewer than 40 % of the students knew that a very distant galaxy moves faster than a nearer galaxy.

03.5

About 70 % of the students knew that an increase in the wavelength of light from a distant galaxy is called red-shift.

03.6

About 60 % of the students selected the correct word to describe the beginning of the universe.

03.7

Almost 80 % of the students knew that the universe is expanding.

04.1

Just over 70 % of the students were able to make the connection between the mass of a vehicle and how it would affect the maximum acceleration.

04.2

Over 90 % of the students scored full marks for calculating the resultant force using F = ma. However, some of the students thought that the value of acceleration needed to be squared and then multiplied by mass.

04.3

This level of response question proved too challenging for many. Only just over 1 % of the students scored full marks. Most identified that the driving force would increase, but fewer recognised that as this happened the air resistance would also increase, with many stating that the air resistance would decrease as the cars speed increased.

04.4

Most of the students knew that the thinking distance is affected by the driver's reaction time.

04.5

Just fewer than 70 % of the students were aware that the braking distance is the distance travelled under the braking force.

04.6

Only just over 20 % of the students scored full marks for using the graph of distance against speed to find the stopping distance. The correct distances were often identified from the graph. However, these were then either subtracted from each other, divided or multiplied rather than added.

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04.7

Nearly 80 % of the students identified factors that would increase the stopping distance of a car. Despite two being emboldened twice in the question, some students only ticked one box.

05.1

The principal focus was correctly identified by just over 60 % of the students.

05.2

About 80 % of the students knew that the change in direction of light as it enters a lens is called refraction.

05.3

Nearly 70 % the students recognised the shape of a convex lens.

05.4

Under a half of the students managed to correctly measure the object height and image height. This may have been due to a lack of skill or a lack of equipment.

05.5

This was much more successfully answered than part 05.4 with nearly 90 % of the students scoring both marks. These students used their values from part 05.4 to calculate magnification.

05.6

Just fewer than 50 % of the students knew that magnification is a ratio, but almost the same number thought it is a power.

05.7

This was a challenging question. Most of the students that did score a mark were awarded only the first mark point. This was for explaining that white light is transmitted through colourless glass. A lot of the students think of white light as an entity in itself rather than the result of the colours of the visible light combined. Few used the word transmitted but rather described it as passing through or goes through.
For the 2nd and 3rd mark points many of the students decided that white light was reflected or refracted, reinforcing the misconception that white light is a single entity rather than being made up of a combination of wavelengths. The idea that filters would absorb different wavelengths of light seemed to be difficult for the students to express, with very few achieving the third mark.

06.1

Only just over 30 % of the students could identify two magnetic materials from the list, with about 60 % being able to identify one. Again, a number of students ticked just one box or more than two boxes.

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06.2

Just over 70 % of the students correctly named the iron nails as induced magnets.

06.3

Just fewer than 40 % of the students knew the direction of the magnetic field.

06.4

Nearly 80 % of the students recognised the shape of the magnetic field around a current carrying wire.

06.5

Very few of the students could give two changes that would increase the magnetic field strength. 'Increasing the current' was a common correct response. Many of the students answered 'increasing the number of coils' as such they were implying the wire was already coiled and not answering the question asked, which was about the straight wire shown in Figure 10.

07.1

Nearly 60 % of the students understood what is meant by the moment of a force. The most common incorrect option was 'The direction of the force.'

07.2

The correct resultant moment was selected by just over 80 % of the students.

07.3

Students generally answered this well, identifying position 7 and on which side of the balance the tag should be placed. Some indicated this on the diagram which was an accepted alternative response, provided what was written did not contradict it.

07.4

Some students wrote the equation for the moment of a force in words and then in symbols. This risks not gaining the mark if either is incorrect. Also, correct use of symbols should be stressed, especially when they are given in the question. It was surprising that some of the students scored zero or did not attempt to write down an equation despite having the equations sheet.

07.5

Almost three quarters of the students were able to rearrange the equation and then calculate the distance between the pivot and the tag on the balance.

08.1

Most of the students found this level of response question difficult to answer. Only just over 1 % gave a level 2 answer. Many of the students scored 2, 1 or 0 marks. Of those that scored a mark the most common response was light travels faster than sound. Many also tried to describe light and sound as transverse and longitudinal waves, with the majority getting this

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confused. Very few identified acceptable similarities. Common answers that did not gain credit included light travels at the speed of light, sound travels at the speed of sound, light can be seen and sound cannot be seen.

08.2

Just fewer than 80 % of the students choose the correct equation for calculating speed.

08.3

This question required students to rearrange the equation. About three quarters of the students scored all three marks.

09.1

About 65 % of the students correctly stated the independent variable in this investigation.

09.2

Just over 40 % of the students scored both marks for identifying a risk of harm and a suitable safety precaution to reduce the risk. Too few students connected a hazard, such as a falling weight, becoming a risk of harm when it hit or hurt the student.

09.3

Students were expected to clearly describe two improvements to the arrangement shown that would improve the accuracy of the results. Many had difficulty describing their ideas clearly and answers were often too vague to gain credit.

09.4

Almost 40 % of the students scored this mark usually by explaining that the spring length was not 0 cm rather than describing the relationship between spring length and force.

09.5

This was not successfully answered, with only about 2 % of the students scoring both marks and a further 13 % scoring one mark. The 1st mark point was for stating or giving a clear description of inelastic deformation. Of those who were awarded marks most of them described how the spring had reached or passed its limit of proportionality.

09.6

Over 90 % of the students selected the correct equation.

09.7

Nearly 80 % of the students scored all three marks. Those that did not often rearranged the equation incorrectly.

10.1

Only about 5% of the students correctly calculated the uncertainty correctly from either the range or the mean.

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10.2

Just over 40 % of the students identified that a random error had caused the variation in this investigation. A greater proportion of the students thought there was a systematic error but this would not have accounted for the variation in the results.

10.3

This mark was awarded for a clear description of variation in the way the ball was dropped. For example, through different heights, at different speeds, or a different delay each time. Common answers giving reaction time or human error were too vague, to be awarded marks unless qualified.

10.4

Just fewer than 30 % of the students scored all three marks. Many of the students took only one value from the graph rather than a corresponding pair of values and so scored 0. Those that used a pair of correct values often then used them the wrong way round when calculating the gradient.

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Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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