AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.6.1.2

Meiosis

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**3**
Available paper years	**2018–2024**

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.

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

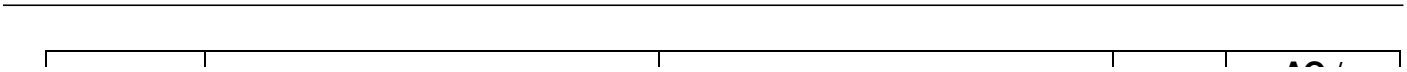
June 2018 | 8464/B/2F | Original Q2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1	a double helix a polymer		1 1	AO1 4.6.1.3
02.2	gene genome	in this order only	1 1	AO1 4.6.1.3
02.3	sperm **and** egg(s) / ova / ovum	in either order	1	AO1 4.6.1.1
02.4	fertilisation		1	AO1 4.6.1.2
02.5	the cell divides twice the new cells have half the number of chromosomes		1 1	AO2 4.6.1.2
Total			**8**	

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8464/B/2F | Original Q2



4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8464/B/1F | Original Q6

Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	gene chromosome nucleus cell	must be in this order	1	AO1 4.1.1.1 4.1.1.2 4.1.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	differentiation	ignore specialisation	1	AO1 4.1.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	4	allow 15	1	AO2 4.1.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	46	allow 23 pairs (of chromosomes)	1	AO2 4.1.2.1 4.1.2.2

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8464/B/1F | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.5	**Stage 1** any **one** from: • (cell) growth • increase in number of sub-cellular structures • DNA replicates • chromosomes double / duplicate / replicate	allow increase in number of organelles / ribosomes / mitochondria allow genetic material for DNA allow DNA doubles / duplicates	1	AO1 4.1.2.2
	Stage 2 any **one** from: • (one set of) chromosomes pulled to each end of cell • two nuclei form	ignore mitosis occurs allow chromosomes line up across the centre of the cell allow chromosomes move to opposite ends of the cell allow nucleus divides / splits (into two)	1	
	Stage 3 any **one** from: • cytoplasm / membrane divides • two identical cells formed	allow cytokinesis	1	

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8464/B/1F | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.6	**Level 2:** Scientifically relevant features are identified; the way(s) in which they are similar / different is made clear and (where appropriate) the magnitude of the similarity / difference is noted.	4–6	AO3
	Level 1: Relevant features are identified and differences noted.	1–3	AO2
	No relevant content	0	

	Indicative content General comparisons: • boys height at birth (slightly) greater than girls height • boys are (slightly) taller than girls up to age 11 • correct height comparisons eg boys are approximately 4 / 5 cm taller than girls up to age 11 • girls and boys are the same height at age 11 • girls are taller than boys between age 11 and age 14 • girls and boys are the same height at age 14 • boys are taller than girls above age 14 • correct height comparisons eg boys are 5 to 18 cm taller than girls above age 14 • boys (eventually) grow taller than girls • boys carry on growing for a longer time than girls • girls stop growing age 13 / 14 / 15 **and** boys stop growing age 17 / 18 Rate comparisons: • rate of growth similar up to age 10 / 11 • girls grow faster than boys between 10 / 11 and 14 allow girls have a greater increase in height between 11 and 14 • growth spurt occurs at a younger age in girls • growth spurt starts age 10 / 11 in girls **and** age 13 / 14 in boys • increased rate of growth in girls aged 10 to 13 /14 **and** in boys aged 13 to 17 / 18 Key points for Level 2 are correct reference to 0-11 year period, 11-14 period and after age 14, with at least one correct reference to rate of growth or use of correct values of height and age to illustrate rate.		4.1.2.2

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8464/B/1F | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.7	repair of tissues **or** replacement of cells	ignore growth allow repair of organs ignore repair of cells allow replacement of tissues ignore replacement of organs	1	AO1 4.1.1.4

Total Question 6		**14**

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8464/B/2F | Original Q6

Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	domain		1	AO1 4.6.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	offspring are genetically identical		1	AO1 4.6.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	a gamete contains half of the number of chromosomes		1	AO1 4.6.1.1 4.6.1.2

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	any **one** from: • similar / same structure / characteristics / phenotype (as potatoes)	allow named similar structure / characteristics such as same shape / leaves / flowers / taste allow studied with microscopes ignore 'look the same / similar' unqualified	1	AO1 4.6.4
	• similar DNA / genes	allow DNA analysis allow analysis of genetic material allow similar genetic material ignore genetic information do **not** accept same DNA / genes		
	• similar / same biochemistry			
	• same first part of binomial (name)	allow same first part of Latin / scientific name		

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.5	**Level 3:** Relevant points (reasons / causes) are identified, given in detail and logically linked to form a clear account.	5–6	AO3
	Level 2: Relevant points (reasons / causes) are identified, and there are attempts at logical linking. The resulting account is not fully clear.	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	AO1
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content allow reference to named crop throughout **effects of climate change** • climate change will change weather patterns / trends • climate change causes flooding **or** drought **or** temperature change • farming land decreased by sea level rise / flooding / desertification • current crops cannot grow / survive (in changing conditions) **benefits of GM** ○ GM may allow crops to grow in wider range of conditions ○ GM may allow crops to be resistant to wider range of pests / diseases ○ GM may allow crops to be stored for longer ○ GM may increase crop yield **or** increase growth rate ○ to feed the increasing human population ○ useful if less area available for farming ○ larger human population needs more land for housing **other relevant content** ▪ variation amongst current crops reduced by asexual reproduction **or** selective breeding ▪ rate of evolution (by natural selection) may be slower than rate of climate change For **Level 3**, answers must explain effect(s) of climate change **and** benefit(s) of GM with logical link.		4.6.2.4 4.7.3.2 4.7.3.5 4.7.3.6

Total Question 6	**10**

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 02 · Examiner comments

June 2022 | 8464/B/1F | Original Q6

Question 6 (standard demand)

06.1 A quarter of the students put gene, chromosome, nucleus and cell in order of increasing size.

06.2 Fewer than a tenth of students gave the correct answer, differentiation. Some said specialisation, whilst most students thought the process was mitosis or cell division.

06.3 19% of students correctly calculated the number of cell divisions to form a 16-cell embryo.

06.4 41% of students knew that the cells of a human embryo have 46 chromosomes.

06.5 23% of the students scored any marks for this question. Most of these students scored a mark for Stage 1 by saying that the cell grows or that there is an increase in the number of sub-cellular structures. Some students thought Stage 1 was fertilisation, and they went on to describe the development of an embryo.

A mark for Stage 2 was less often awarded. Many students said mitosis happens, but as this was written on the cell cycle diagram it did not gain credit.

For Stage 3 many students only referred to two daughter cells forming, when reference to two identical cells was required. Reference to specialised cells being formed was seen quite a lot.

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 02 · Examiner comments

June 2022 | 8464/B/1F | Original Q6

06.6 The question asked students to compare the growth of boys with the growth of girls, using data from growth curves.

There are three main sections in the graph:

- a section from birth to age 10 or 11, where the height and growth rate of boys and girls is very similar
- a section from age 10 or 11 up to age 14, where girls grow faster than boys
- the section from 14 to 18 years, where boys continue to grow rapidly whilst girls have stopped growing.

Within each section there were several comparisons that could be made.

To score the highest marks reference to all three sections of the graph was required, in addition to at least one comparison of the rate of growth. This was rarely seen, where a quarter of students scored three marks. Similar proportions scored two marks and one mark, amounting to 81% scoring at least a single mark.

As the command word was 'Compare' it was important that comparative statements about boys and girls were made. All the statements given in the indicative content are comparisons.

Many responses gave descriptions of what they had learnt about puberty and growth spurts, but if they did not match the data given in the graph they were not credited. Any data given had to be correct.

Common errors in interpreting the graph included:

- boys grow faster than girls up to age 11
- boys grow shorter, or stop growing, at age 11
- girls stop growing at age 18.

06.7 8% of students scored this mark. The question asked for one way that mitosis is important in fully grown animals; so saying 'to grow' was not credited. Some students said for growth and repair, which was insufficient.

Replacement of cells or tissues was required. Repair of tissues, organs or wounds all gained credit. Repair of damaged cells is incorrect.

Many students said mitosis is needed for reproduction, or development of an embryo, both of which were ignored.

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Use of statistics

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

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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

4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 03 · Examiner comments

June 2024 | 8464/B/2F | Original Q6

Question 6 (standard demand)

06.1 30% of students could select that the classification group 'Eukaryota' is a domain.

06.2 50% of students knew that asexual reproduction produces genetically identical offspring.

06.3 Just over 50% of students knew that a gamete contains half the number of chromosomes compared to the other cells in a potato plant.

06.4 Most students could describe how a new plant species could be identified as being in the same genus as potatoes. DNA analysis or similar characteristics were the most common correct answers.

Misconceptions were seen, such as the idea that the species would have identical DNA. On the Foundation tier, some answers were much too vague, such as 'by testing'.

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4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 03 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/B/2F | Original Q6

06.5 Few students appeared to follow the direction of the question, beyond stating that GM crops can be made to grow even if the climate changes. Some students were aware of food insecurity as a result of climate change, and this could be given credit for the idea that current crops will not be able to grow/survive.

Few students made links between climate change and the possible benefits of GM crops. Lists of possible benefits of GM with no link to climate were limited to Level 1. Some students made very good attempts at this question and a few recognised some of the effects of climate change and were able to link these to the idea that current crops would struggle to grow in these conditions. This was an attempt at a logical link and achieved a Level 2 mark.

Some students further developed this idea, and clearly had a grasp of the question being asked, as they then went on to describe how GM would enable crops (or potatoes) to survive the conditions that climate change brings. They could further strengthen their account with suggestions that more crops could be grown or crops could be grown faster. These responses were detailed and logically linked accounts and were therefore Level 3 responses.

Some students wrongly gave explanations of causes of climate change.

0 6 . 5 Scientists have collected and stored seeds from species in the same genus as potatoes.

In the future, these seeds may be used for genetic modification of potato plants.

Genetically modified potato plants could help supply food to the human population as the climate changes.

Explain why genetic modification of crop plants may be important for the human population to survive climate change.

[6 marks]

the genetically modified plants can photosynthesise ~~more~~ better leading to more Oxygen in the ~~plant~~ planet as the plants are reducing the Carbon Dioxide amount

Genetically Modified plants can grow faster, so providing more food to the population

Genetically Modified plants can thrive better without the needs that any other plant need.

In the second paragraph, this student has given the idea that GM crops may grow faster and therefore provide more yield. This is indicated on the mark scheme as one idea for a benefit of GM crops in this context. There is no attempt to link this idea with effects of climate change, therefore the response is within Level 1 and 1 mark was awarded.

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4.6.1.2 Meiosis

Answer 03 · Examiner comments

Contact us

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