AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 6.1.2.2

Efficiency

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**4**
Available paper years	**2019–2025**

Using this booklet

1. Answer the questions in order and show your working.
2. Original question numbers and marks are retained.
3. Print at actual size (100%) for measuring questions.
4. Use the companion answer booklet to check your work.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Whole questions are retained for context, so some parts assess other specification points. Current and legacy sources are labelled. Continue on extra paper if needed.

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 01

June 2019 | 8464/P/1F | Original Q2

0 2 A student investigated how the area of a solar panel affected the output potential difference of the solar panel.

The student placed different sized solar panels under a lamp.

Figure 3 shows a solar panel under a lamp.

Figure 3



0 2 . 1 Which variable should be controlled?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

The area of the solar panels ☐

The brightness of the lamp ☐

The output potential difference of the solar panels ☐

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 01 · continued

0 2 . 2 The student measured the output potential difference using a voltmeter.

When the voltmeter was **not** connected, the reading on the voltmeter was 0.7 V

What name is given to this type of error?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Zero error ☐

Random error ☐

Measurement error ☐

Question 2 continues on the next page

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 01 · continued

Table 1 shows the results of the investigation.

Table 1

Solar panel	Area of solar panel in cm^2	Output potential difference in volts			
		Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Mean
A	10	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.5
B	20	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0
C	30	7.5	11.9	7.5	7.5
D	50	12.4	12.6	12.5	12.5

0 2 . 3 The readings for which solar panel show an anomalous result?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

A ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐

0 2 . 4 The student did **not** have a solar panel with an area of 40 cm^2

Determine the most likely value for the mean output potential difference of a 40 cm^2 solar cell.

[1 mark]

Mean output potential difference = _____ V

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 01 · continued

0 2 . 5 The total input energy transfer to one of the solar panels was 8.0 joules.

The useful output energy transfer was 0.96 joules.

Calculate the efficiency of the solar panel.

Use the equation:

$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{\text{useful output energy transfer}}{\text{total input energy transfer}}$$

[2 marks]

Efficiency = _____

0 2 . 6 Solar power is a renewable energy resource.

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

burned	**replenished**	**consumed**

A renewable energy resource is one that is _____ as it is used.

Question 2 continues on the next page

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 01 · continued

0 2 . 7 Some homes have solar panels which generate electricity.

On a sunny day the potential difference across a solar panel is 31 volts.

A charge of 490 coulombs flows through the solar panel.

Calculate the energy transferred by the solar panel.

Use the equation:

energy transferred = charge flow × potential difference

Give your answer to 2 significant figures.

[3 marks]

Energy transferred = _____ J

0 2 . 8 Why do solar panels on homes help reduce the environmental impact of using electrical devices?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Less electricity is used in the home. ☐

Less fossil fuel is burned. ☐

The electricity from the solar panels is cheaper. ☐

11

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

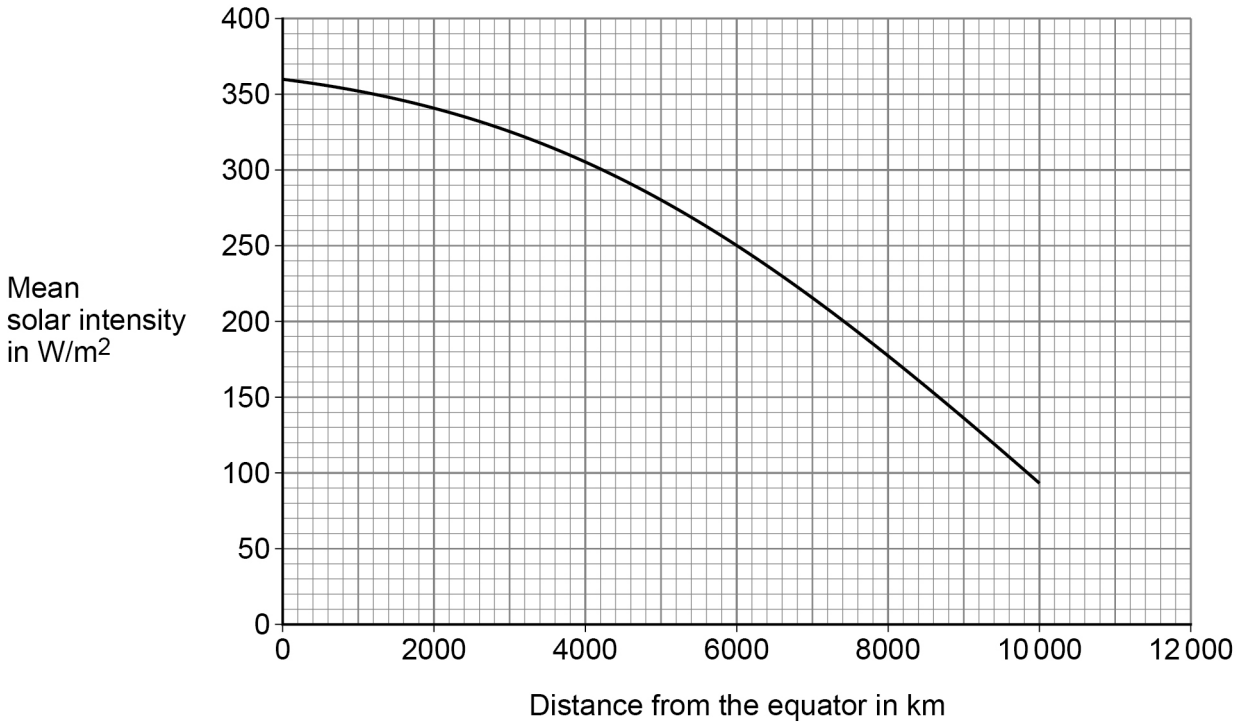
Question 02

November 2021 | 8464/P/1F | Original Q4

0 4 Solar intensity is a measure of the radiation received from the Sun at the surface of the Earth.

Figure 7 shows how the mean solar intensity changes with the distance from the equator.

Figure 7



0 4 . 1 The city of Athens is 4200 km from the equator.

What is the mean solar intensity in Athens?

[1 mark]

Mean solar intensity = _____ W/m^2

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

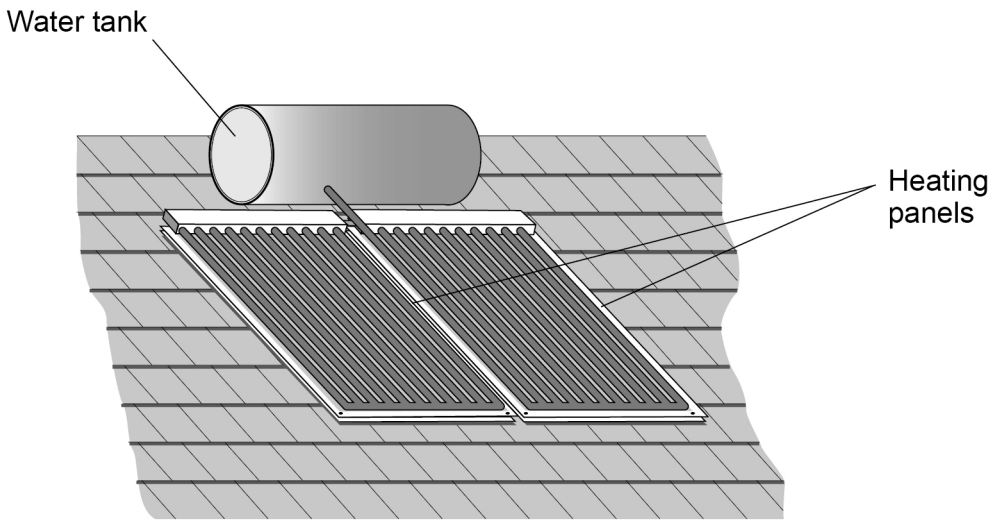
Question 02 · continued

Solar water heaters use radiation from the Sun to heat water.

The heated water is stored in a water tank.

Figure 8 shows a solar water heater on the roof of a building.

Figure 8



0 4 . 2 Cities closer to the equator have many more buildings with solar water heaters than cities further away from the equator.

Suggest why.

[1 mark]

0 4 . 3 The use of solar water heaters may reduce the need to burn fossil fuels.

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

carbon dioxide	**nitrogen**	**oxygen**

Burning fossil fuels contributes to global warming because there is an increase in the amount of _____ in the atmosphere.

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 02 · continued

0 4 . 4 The efficiency of the solar water heater is 0.61

Calculate the useful power output when the total power input to the solar water heater is 1100 W.

Use the equation:

useful power output = efficiency × total power input

[2 marks]

Useful power output = _____ W

0 4 . 5 Different solar water heaters have different sized heating panels.

Suggest how the size of the heating panels affects the input power to a solar water heater.

[1 mark]

0 4 . 6 Water has a high specific heat capacity.

What is meant by the specific heat capacity of water?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The energy required to change the state of 1 kg of water from liquid to gas. ☐
- The energy required to increase the temperature of 1 kg of water by 1 °C. ☐
- The power required to change the state of 1 kg of water from liquid to gas. ☐
- The power required to increase the temperature of 1 kg of water by 1 °C. ☐

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 02 · continued

0 4 . 7 The water tank contained 80 kg of water.

The change in thermal energy of the water was 8 400 000 J.

specific heat capacity of water = 4200 J/kg °C

Calculate the temperature change of the water.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

[3 marks]

Temperature change = _____ °C

0 4 . 8 The water tank is thermally insulated.

How does thermal insulation affect the rate of energy transfer from the water in the tank?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Thermal insulation decreases the rate of energy transfer. ☐
- Thermal insulation does not change the rate of energy transfer. ☐
- Thermal insulation increases the rate of energy transfer. ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 02 · continued

0 4 . 9 **Table 1** shows information about different materials.

Table 1

Material	Thermal conductivity in arbitrary units
A	3
B	2
C	8
D	4

Which material in **Table 1** is the best thermal insulator?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

A ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐

12

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 03

0 1 There are different types of electromagnetic waves.

0 1 . 1 What do all electromagnetic waves transfer?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Charge ☐

Energy ☐

Matter ☐

Sound ☐

0 1 . 2 Complete the sentence.

Choose answers from the box.

[2 marks]

charge	**frequency**	**speed**	**wavelength**

Different types of electromagnetic waves have a different _____

and a different _____ .

0 1 . 3 **Figure 1** shows the electromagnetic spectrum.

Figure 1

Radio waves	Microwaves	Infrared	**A**	Ultraviolet	X-rays	**B**

Give the names of parts **A** and **B** of the electromagnetic spectrum.

[2 marks]

A _____

B _____

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 03 · continued

0 1 . 4 Different types of electromagnetic waves have different uses.

Draw **one** line from each type of electromagnetic wave to its use.

[3 marks]

Type of electromagnetic wave	Use
Microwaves	Electrical heaters
Ultraviolet	Energy efficient lamps
X-rays	Imaging bones
	Satellite communications

8

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

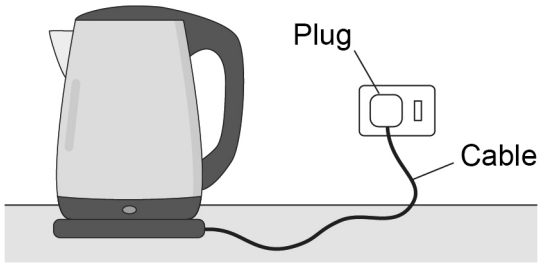
Question 04

June 2025 | 8464/P/1F | Original Q4

0 4 **Figure 5** shows a plastic kettle.

The kettle is connected to the mains electricity supply.

Figure 5



0 4 . 1 What is the frequency of the UK mains electricity supply?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

25 Hz ☐

50 Hz ☐

75 Hz ☐

100 Hz ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 04 · continued

0 4 . 2 The cable that connects the kettle to the plug contains two insulated wires.

Draw **one** line from each wire to the colour of the insulation on the wire.

[2 marks]

Wire	Colour of insulation
Live	Blue
Neutral	Brown
	Green and yellow stripes

Use the Physics Equations Sheet to answer questions **04.3** and **04.4**.

0 4 . 3 Write down the equation that links current (I), potential difference (V) and power (P).

[1 mark]

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 04 · continued

0 4 . 4 The power of the heating element in the kettle is 2100 W.

The potential difference across the heating element is 230 V.

Calculate the current in the heating element.

Give your answer to 2 significant figures.

[4 marks]

Current (2 significant figures) = _____ A

0 4 . 5 The kettle is designed to switch off when the water reaches boiling point.

Before the kettle switches off, 0.0080 kg of water changes state.

The energy transferred to change the state of the water is 18 000 J.

Calculate the specific latent heat of vaporisation of the water.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

[3 marks]

Specific latent heat of vaporisation = _____ J/kg

6.1.2.2 Efficiency

Question 04 · continued

0 4 . 6 A different kettle is used to heat some water.

The useful output energy transferred to the water is 75 600 J.

The total input energy transferred by the kettle is 84 000 J.

Calculate the efficiency of the kettle.

Use the equation:

$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{\text{useful output energy transfer}}{\text{total input energy transfer}}$$

[2 marks]

Efficiency = _____

0 4 . 7 Explain **one** advantage of electrical appliances having a high efficiency.

[2 marks]

15