



Rewarding Learning

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2023**

Physics
Assessment Unit AS 3A
assessing
**Practical Techniques
and Data Analysis**

[SPH31]
WEDNESDAY 10 MAY, MORNING

**MARK
SCHEME**

Physics Subject Specific Instructions

It is essential that, before using the mark scheme, markers familiarise themselves with the following guidance.

General

To ensure that all candidates receive the same treatment, the mark scheme must be applied consistently.

The mark scheme for each question shows typical intermediate steps, the answer expected and the marks available for each part of the question.

In cases where a candidate has responded with a seemingly correct response which has not been anticipated in the mark scheme, the marker must make a professional judgement of the correct physics/validity of the response when awarding marks.

Brackets (...) are used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded. Alternative answers are indicated by 'or', or the symbol for or, '/'.

Multiple/Cancelled Responses

If a candidate provides multiple responses, the general principle to be followed is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

Responses considered to be neutral are not penalised. For example, if additional irrelevant information is given in an explanation that does not contradict the correct information given, the mark(s) can be awarded.

In a numerical problem if two different solutions are presented without a definitive answer on the answer line, credit should not be given. If an answer is given on the answer line, then the solution that has led to the answer given should be marked according to the mark scheme.

If a candidate clearly cancels their working by scoring it out, then this should not be marked. It is not the role of the marker to select from the candidate's response what should or should not be marked.

Marking Numerical Problems

In numerical problems, the marks for the intermediate steps shown in the mark scheme are for the benefit of candidates who do not obtain the final correct answer.

A correct answer, if obtained from a valid starting point, gets full credit, even if all the intermediate steps are not shown.

This “correct answer” rule does not apply in situations where candidates have been asked to ‘show your working’ or ‘show that’. These answers must be valid in all stages to obtain full credit.

The answer to a ‘show that’ question should be quoted to one more significant figure than that given in the question.

Do not reward wrong physics. No credit is given for consistent substitution of numerical data, or subsequent arithmetic, in a physically incorrect equation.

The normal penalty for an arithmetical error is to lose the mark(s) for the answer/unit line. An arithmetic error should be penalised for one mark only. Arithmetic errors may arise from a slip in a calculation or from an incorrect transfer of a numerical value of a quantity given in a question.

10^n errors count as arithmetical slips and incur a penalty of one mark.

If a candidate rounds a value incorrectly this should be penalised one mark. However, care must be taken not to penalise a candidate for rounding correctly in parts leading up to their final answer in an unstructured numerical problem.

Answers should be given in decimal form. Fractional answers will not be credited with the answer mark.

Error Carried Forward

An ECF can occur between parts of a question or, in more unstructured numerical problems, within a part.

When an incorrect answer is carried forward from one question to the next, full credit should be awarded in the part where the incorrect answer is used, provided all the working is correct.

Within a part, ECF is applied where a candidate does an incorrect calculation, for example calculates a value for R incorrectly using V/I and then goes on to use their calculated value of R to calculate a resistivity value. The penalty is applied in the V/I calculation but then the value of R can be carried forward so that the remainder of the marks are available to the candidate provided all the remainder of their working is correct.

The ECF within a part will only apply in numerical problems where more than one calculation is required in a part.

Significant Figures

Candidates should show an awareness of using a sensible number of significant figures in their answers, based on the values given in the question. In SPH11, SPH21, APH11 and APH21, unless specifically asked for in the question, candidates will not be penalised for incorrect significant figures.

In SPH31, SPH32, APH31 and APH32, all answers should be given to a suitable number of significant figures and penalties will be applied in these papers unless otherwise stated in the mark schemes.

Units

In the majority of questions, the unit will be stated on the answer line.

When the unit is omitted, candidates will be clearly asked to state an appropriate unit and this will be credited in the mark scheme.

Where there is a final calculation required to get from the unit of the answer calculated to the unit on the answer line the required unit will be stated in the question. For example, if wavelength was calculated and the answer line was in nm a statement 'Give your answer in nanometres' would be included.

The unit on the answer line will generally be the SI unit but may in some cases be a more appropriate unit. For example, if values of mass in g and momentum in g cm s^{-1} were given, the unit on the answer line for speed could reasonably be cm s^{-1} without prompt.

			AVAILABLE MARKS	
1	(a)	Headings V and I	[1]	10
		Units of V and I correct with solidus. mA or A ok.	[1]	
		Values of V to 2 d.p.	[1]	
		Values of I to 0.1 mA + values consistent with unit in heading	[1]	
		Heading & unit for R - mΩ or kΩ ok.	[1]	
		Resistance calculated correctly consistent with heading + ecf from units of V and I	[1]	
		To correct s.f. (consistent with their V and I values)	[1] [7]	
	(b)	Y correct	[1]	
	Z correct with reason, ($R_z = 2R_y$) as R prop to length	[1]		
	X correct with reason, ($R_x = \frac{1}{2}R_y$) as R inv prop to A consistent with results [ecf from their values in (a)]	[1] [3]		
2	(a) (i)	Angle $\geq 90^\circ$ to nearest degree	[1]	10
		(ii) $\pm 1^\circ$	[1]	
		(iii) 2 readings and average To 0.1 N	[1] [2]	
	(b) (i)	New angle greater than a(i)	[1]	
	(ii)	New average	[1]	
	(c)	$\theta/2$ calculated	[1]	
	2T recognition	[1]		
	Use of $\cos \frac{\theta}{2}$ or $\sin \left(90 - \frac{\theta}{2}\right)$	[1]		
	Conversion to g (Penalty [-1] if both results not used)	[1] [4]		
	3	(a) (i)	2 d values for drop 1	
2 values for drop 2			[1]	
To 0.01 cm (or 0.001 if digital caliper)			[1]	
Ave correct and to 0.01 cm or consistent with values			[1]	
d values for 70 cm recorded			[1]	
70 cm d value greater than 20 cm value			[1] [6]	
(ii)			Crater may not be circular/diameter may vary	[1]
(b)		Calculates k once correctly (h/d^4)	[1]	
2nd k calculated in correct equation		[1]		
Conclusion consistent with their values (Alternative methods ok, e.g. 1k value and subs or ratio of d^4 compared to 20:70)		[1] [3]		

4	(a)	Mass of ice	[1]		AVAILABLE MARKS	
		Mass of water	[1]			
		To 0.1 g (Penalty if either value >100g)	[1]	[3]		
	(b)	(i)	T_1 recorded to 1°C	[1]		
			T_2 less than T_1	[1]		
			$\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$	[1]		[3]
		(ii)	Difference in T values correct $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ (ecf (i))	[1]		
			[1]	[2]		
	(c)	Subs correct value correct to correct sig. figs.	[1]			
			[1]	[2]		10
			Total	40		