## GCSE

## Physics A

## Mark Scheme for January 2012

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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## Annotations

Used in the detailed Mark Scheme:

| Annotation | Meaning |
| :---: | :--- |
| $/$ | alternative and acceptable answers for the same marking point |
| $(1)$ | separates marking points |
| not/reject | answers which are not worthy of credit |
| ignore | statements which are irrelevant - applies to neutral answers |
| allow/accept | answers that can be accepted |
| (words) | words which are not essential to gain credit |
| words | underlined words must be present in answer to score a mark |
| ecf | error carried forward |
| AW/owtte | credit alternative wording / or words to that effect |
| ORA | or reverse argument |

Available in scoris to annotate scripts:

|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| BOD | indicate uncertainty or ambiguity |
| CON | benefit of doubt |
| ECF | incorrect response |
| NBOD | draw attention to particular part of candidate's response |
| R | no benefit of doubt |
| reject | correct response |


| $\mathrm{L} 1, \mathrm{~L} 2, \boxed{\mathrm{~L}}$, | allocate level of response |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\square \wedge$ | information omitted |

## Subject-specific Marking Instructions

a. Accept any clear, unambiguous response (including mis-spellings of scientific terms if they are phonetically correct, but always check the guidance column for exclusions).
b. If a candidate alters his/her response, examiners should accept the alteration.
c. Crossed out answers should be considered only if no other response has been made. When marking crossed out responses, accept correct answers which are clear and unambiguous.
e.g. for a one-mark question where ticks in the third and fourth boxes are required for the mark:


This would be worth 1 mark.


This would be worth 0 marks.


This would be worth 1 mark.
d. The list principle:

If a list of responses greater than the number requested is given, work through the list from the beginning. Award one mark for each correct response, ignore any neutral response, and deduct one mark for any incorrect response, e.g. one which has an error of science. If the number of incorrect responses is equal to or greater than the number of correct responses, no marks are awarded. A neutral response is correct but irrelevant to the question.
e. Marking method for tick-box questions:

If there is a set of boxes, some of which should be ticked and others left empty, then judge the entire set of boxes.
If there is at least one tick, ignore crosses and other markings. If there are no ticks, accept clear, unambiguous indications, e.g. shading or crosses. Credit should be given according to the instructions given in the guidance column for the question. If more boxes are ticked than there are correct answers, then deduct one mark for each additional tick. Candidates cannot score less than zero marks.
e.g. if a question requires candidates to identify cities in England:

Edinburgh
Manchester
Paris
Southampton

the second and fourth boxes should have ticks (or other clear indication of choice) and the first and third should be blank (or have indication of choice crossed out).

| Edinburgh |  |  | $\checkmark$ |  |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Manchester | $\checkmark$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  |  |  | $\checkmark$ |  |
| Paris |  |  |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  |
| Southampton | $\checkmark$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |  | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ |  |
| Score: | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | NR |

f. For answers marked by levels of response:
i. Read through the whole answer from start to finish
ii. Decide the level that best fits the answer - match the quality of the answer to the closest level descriptor
iii. To determine the mark within the level, consider the following:

| Descriptor |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| A good match to the level descriptor | Award mark |
| Just matches the level descriptor | The lower mark in the level |

Use the L1, L2, L3 annotations in Scoris to show your decision; do not use ticks.

Quality of Written Communication skills assessed in 6-mark extended writing questions include:

- appropriate use of correct scientific terms
- spelling, punctuation and grammar
- developing a structured, persuasive argument
- selecting and using evidence to support an argument
- considering different sides of a debate in a balanced way
- logical sequencing.

| Question |  |  | Answer | Marks | Guidance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | (a) |  | as far as very distant galaxies $\square$ outside the Milky Way, but not as far as... outside the solar system but inside the... outside the solar system but closer than... $\square$ in the solar system | 1 |  |
|  | (b) |  | any four from: <br> red shift / increased wavelength; of spectral lines / in spectrum; greater red shift means greater speed / red shift shows speed (away from Earth); further away a galaxy the faster it is moving away / the greater the red shift; if space is expanding then all distances expand; the further away the greater the distance expands (therefore greater speed) | 4 | do not allow 'redder' for more red-shift |


| Question |  | Answer | Marks | Guidance |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | (c) | (i) | any one from: <br> creative thought involved in developing explanations; <br> scientists may be influenced by their experience / <br> background interests; <br> wasn't enough data / evidence to choose between the two <br> explanations; <br> data fits both conclusions/ can be interpreted in different <br> ways; | ignore 'different opinions' |  |  |
|  |  | (ii) | use additional / further evidence (1) <br> the idea of testing a prediction / the theory (1) | lack of evidence' is insufficient |  |  |
|  |  | allow example of evidence eg microwave background <br> radiation / no galaxies with all young stars nearby. |  |  |  |  |



| Question |  | Answer | Marks |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | (a) | (i) | $6 \div 12 \mathrm{~s}$ <br> $0.5(\mathrm{~Hz})$ | Guidance |  |
|  |  | (ii) | $10 \mathrm{~m} \div 4$ <br> $2.5(\mathrm{~m})$ | 2 | correct numerical answer gains both marks |



| Question |  |  | Answer | Marks | Guidance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 | (a) | (i) | identifies carbon dioxide as the important gas (1) <br> venus atmosphere has more / large amounts / 96\% carbon dioxide (1) <br> (greater) greenhouse effect (1) | 3 | accept $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ <br> do not allow $\mathrm{CO}^{2}$ etc (for first marking point) <br> ora <br> allow description of the greenhouse effect e.g traps heat / $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ is a greenhouse gas ignore any reference to the distance from the Sun |
|  |  | (ii) |  | 2 | one mark for line(s) from green plant one mark for line from no ozone layer <br> allow line from green plants to oxygen, or carbon dioxide, or both. <br> reject one correct and one incorrect line from green plants this loses the green plant mark |


| Question |  |  | Answer |  | Marks | Guidance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 | (b) | (i) | The photons have more energy when they get to Venus <br> More photons hit Venus than Earth <br> A day on Venus is about 240 times as long as on Earth <br> The Earth takes longer to orbit the Sun than Venus |  | 1 |  |
|  |  | (ii) | ```increases (1) distance (1) energy (1) decreases (1)``` |  | 4 |  |
|  |  | (iii) | $1 /(0.7)^{2}$ |  | 1 |  |
|  |  | (iv) | absorption / refraction / scattering / reflection (by particles / dust) |  | 1 | allow absorbed by atmosphere <br> ignore absorption etc by large bodies e.g. asteroids, comets, planets |
|  |  |  |  | Total | 12 |  |




| Question |  |  | Answer |  | Marks | Guidance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7 | (c) | (i) | $420 \div 0.9 \text { or } 420 \div 90 \% \text { or } 420 \div 90$ $467$ |  | 2 | if answer is between 466 and 467 inclusive (it does not have to be on the answer line) award 2 marks. <br> otherwise look to see if a correct calculation was written down for 1 mark |
|  |  | (ii) | ```energy lost / wasted (to environment) (1) example given (1)``` |  | 2 | eg heats kettle / air / produces sound / evaporates water / gives off steam accept light from indicator light |
|  |  |  |  | Total | 14 |  |

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