

General marking guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the last candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the first.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than be penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme – not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification/indicative content will not be exhaustive. However different examples of responses will be provided at standardisation.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, a senior examiner must be consulted before a mark is given.
- Crossed-out work should be marked unless the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Specific guidance for mathematics

1. These mark schemes use the following types of marks:

- M marks: Method marks are awarded for 'knowing a method and attempting to apply it', unless otherwise indicated.
- A marks: Accuracy marks can only be awarded if the relevant method (M) marks have been earned.
- B marks are unconditional accuracy marks (independent of M marks)
- Marks should not be subdivided.

2. Abbreviations

These are some of the traditional marking abbreviations that may appear in the mark schemes.

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| • bod | benefit of doubt | • SC: | special case |
| • ft | follow through | • o.e. | or equivalent (and appropriate) |
| • \surd | this symbol is used for correct ft | • d... | dependent or dep |
| • cao | correct answer only | • indep | independent |
| • cso | correct solution only. There must be no errors in this part of the question to obtain this mark | • dp | decimal places |
| • isw | ignore subsequent working | • sf | significant figures |
| • awrt | answers which round to | • * | The answer is printed on the paper or ag- answer given |

- \square or d... The second mark is dependent on gaining the first mark

3. All M marks are follow through.

All A marks are 'correct answer only' (cao.), unless shown, for example, as A1 ft to indicate that previous wrong working is to be followed through. After a misread however, the subsequent A marks affected are treated as A ft, but answers that don't logically make sense e.g. if an answer given for a probability is >1 or <0 , should never be awarded A marks.

4. For misreading which does not alter the character of a question or materially simplify it, deduct two from any A or B marks gained, in that part of the question affected.
5. Where a candidate has made multiple responses and indicates which response they wish to submit, examiners should mark this response. If there are several attempts at a question which have not been crossed out, examiners should mark the final answer which is the answer that is the most complete.
6. Ignore wrong working or incorrect statements following a correct answer.
7. Mark schemes will firstly show the solution judged to be the most common response expected from candidates. Where appropriate, alternative answers are provided in the notes. If examiners are not sure if an answer is acceptable, they will check the mark scheme to see if an alternative answer is given for the method used. If no such alternative answer is provided but deemed to be valid, examiners must escalate the response to a senior examiner to review.