

General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- 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 may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

EDEXCEL GCE MATHEMATICS

General Instructions for Marking

1. The total number of marks for the paper is 50.
2. The Edexcel Mathematics 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.

3. Abbreviations

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

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

Special notes for 9MA0-31 exams

Solving a 3-term quadratic (3TQ)

Any method can be used. The solving of the quadratic is a means to an end and not something we are assessing in itself. e.g. for $x^2 + bx + c = 0$ we would not usually worry about the $= 0$

they could use:

1. Factorisation

$$(x^2 + bx + c) = (x + p)(x + q), \text{ where } |pq| = |c|$$

2. Formula

Attempt to use the correct formula (with values for b and c)

3. Completing the square

$$\text{Solving: } x^2 + bx + c = 0 = \left(x \pm \frac{b}{2}\right)^2 \pm q = 0, \quad q \neq 0$$