



## Cambridge International AS & A Level

---

**MATHEMATICS**

**9709/42**

Paper 4 Mechanics

**March 2021**

**MARK SCHEME**

Maximum Mark: 50

---

**Published**

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the March 2021 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™, Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

---

This document consists of **14** printed pages.

**PUBLISHED****Generic Marking Principles**

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:**

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:**

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3**

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:**

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:**

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:**

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

**PUBLISHED**

Mathematics Specific Marking Principles	
1	Unless a particular method has been specified in the question, full marks may be awarded for any correct method. However, if a calculation is required then no marks will be awarded for a scale drawing.
2	Unless specified in the question, answers may be given as fractions, decimals or in standard form. Ignore superfluous zeros, provided that the degree of accuracy is not affected.
3	Allow alternative conventions for notation if used consistently throughout the paper, e.g. commas being used as decimal points.
4	Unless otherwise indicated, marks once gained cannot subsequently be lost, e.g. wrong working following a correct form of answer is ignored (isw).
5	Where a candidate has misread a number in the question and used that value consistently throughout, provided that number does not alter the difficulty or the method required, award all marks earned and deduct just 1 mark for the misread.
6	Recovery within working is allowed, e.g. a notation error in the working where the following line of working makes the candidate's intent clear.

**PUBLISHED****Mark Scheme Notes**

The following notes are intended to aid interpretation of mark schemes in general, but individual mark schemes may include marks awarded for specific reasons outside the scope of these notes.

**Types of mark**

- M** Method mark, awarded for a valid method applied to the problem. Method marks are not lost for numerical errors, algebraic slips or errors in units. However, it is not usually sufficient for a candidate just to indicate an intention of using some method or just to quote a formula; the formula or idea must be applied to the specific problem in hand, e.g. by substituting the relevant quantities into the formula. Correct application of a formula without the formula being quoted obviously earns the M mark and in some cases an M mark can be implied from a correct answer.
- A** Accuracy mark, awarded for a correct answer or intermediate step correctly obtained. Accuracy marks cannot be given unless the associated method mark is earned (or implied).
- B** Mark for a correct result or statement independent of method marks.
- DM or DB** When a part of a question has two or more ‘method’ steps, the M marks are generally independent unless the scheme specifically says otherwise; and similarly, when there are several B marks allocated. The notation DM or DB is used to indicate that a particular M or B mark is dependent on an earlier M or B (asterisked) mark in the scheme. When two or more steps are run together by the candidate, the earlier marks are implied and full credit is given.
- FT** Implies that the A or B mark indicated is allowed for work correctly following on from previously incorrect results. Otherwise, A or B marks are given for correct work only.
- A or B marks are given for correct work only (not for results obtained from incorrect working) unless follow through is allowed (see abbreviation FT above).
  - For a numerical answer, allow the A or B mark if the answer is correct to 3 significant figures or would be correct to 3 significant figures if rounded (1 decimal place for angles in degrees).
  - The total number of marks available for each question is shown at the bottom of the Marks column.
  - Wrong or missing units in an answer should not result in loss of marks unless the guidance indicates otherwise.
  - Square brackets [ ] around text or numbers show extra information not needed for the mark to be awarded.

**Abbreviations**

AEF/OE	Any Equivalent Form (of answer is equally acceptable) / Or Equivalent
AG	Answer Given on the question paper (so extra checking is needed to ensure that the detailed working leading to the result is valid)
CAO	Correct Answer Only (emphasising that no ‘follow through’ from a previous error is allowed)
CWO	Correct Working Only
ISW	Ignore Subsequent Working
SOI	Seen Or Implied
SC	Special Case (detailing the mark to be given for a specific wrong solution, or a case where some standard marking practice is to be varied in the light of a particular circumstance)
WWW	Without Wrong Working
AWRT	Answer Which Rounds To

**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1	$\pm 0.2 \times 0.5$ or $\pm 0.3 \times 1$	<b>B1</b>	For initial momentum for either particle. Allow kg or g.
	$0.2 \times 0.5 + 0.3 \times (-1) = 0.2 \times v + 0$	<b>M1</b>	For conservation of momentum. Dimensions correct. Allow if 3 relevant momentum terms are seen regardless of sign.
	Speed = $1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$	<b>A1</b>	Allow if final answer given as $v = 1$ or speed = 1 from an equation whose solution is $v = -1$
		<b>3</b>	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2(a)	Driving force = $DF = \frac{22500}{v}$	<b>B1</b>	
	$DF - 1400g \times 0.1 - 600 = 0$	<b>M1</b>	Apply Newton's 2nd law to the car with $a = 0$ , three relevant terms. May see term $1400g \sin 5.7^\circ$ .
	$v = 11.25 \text{ ms}^{-1}$	<b>A1</b>	<b>AG</b> From exact working only, may be implied if using $5.7^\circ$ .
		<b>3</b>	

**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2(b)	$DF - 1400g \sin 2 - 600 = 1400a$	<b>M1</b>	Use of Newton's second law for the car, 4 relevant terms.
	$\frac{22500}{11.25} - 1400g \sin 2 - 600 = 1400a$	<b>A1</b>	
	$a = 0.651 \text{ ms}^{-2}$ (3sf)	<b>A1</b>	
		<b>3</b>	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
3	For attempting to resolve forces in either direction.	<b>M1</b>	Correct number of relevant terms.
	$T_P \cos 60 = T_R \cos 30$	<b>A1</b>	
	$T_P \sin 60 = T_R \sin 30 + 0.2g$	<b>A1</b>	
	Attempt to solve simultaneously for either tension.	<b>M1</b>	From 2 equations, with correct number of relevant terms.
	$T_P = 3.46 \text{ N}$ and $T_R = 2 \text{ N}$	<b>A1</b>	Both correct. Allow $T_P = 2\sqrt{3} \text{ N}$ .
	<b>Alternative method for question 3</b>		
	$\frac{T_P}{\sin 60} = \frac{T_R}{\sin 150} = \frac{0.2g}{\sin 150}$	<b>M1</b>	Attempt one pair of Lami's equations. Correct angles.
	One pair correct	<b>A1</b>	
	Equations all correct	<b>A1</b>	
	Solve for $T_P$ or $T_R$	<b>M1</b>	From equations of the correct form.
$T_P = 3.46 \text{ N}$ and $T_R = 2 \text{ N}$	<b>A1</b>	Both correct. Allow $T_P = 2\sqrt{3} \text{ N}$	
	<b>5</b>		

**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4(a)	Acceleration = $\frac{4}{3} \text{ m s}^{-2}$	<b>B1</b>	Allow = $1.33 \text{ m s}^{-2}$ .
		<b>1</b>	
4(b)	$\frac{1}{2}(7+4.5) \times 2 = \frac{1}{2}(8.5+5) \times V$	<b>M1</b>	Equate expressions for the two areas (distances) leading to an equation in $V$ .
	$V = 1.7[0]$ (3sf)	<b>A1</b>	Allow $V = \frac{46}{27}$ .
		<b>2</b>	
4(c)	Acceleration = $-2 \text{ m s}^{-2}$	<b>B1</b>	Or Deceleration = 2.
	$T - 1500g = 1500 \times (-2)$	<b>M1</b>	Apply Newton's second law to the lift, using an acceleration ( $\neq \frac{4}{3}$ or <i>their 4(a)</i> ). Correct dimensions and number of relevant terms.
	$T = 12\,000 \text{ N}$	<b>A1</b>	
		<b>3</b>	



**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
5(a)	$[2 = \frac{1}{2} \times a \times 25]$	<b>M1</b>	Use of $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$ OE using $u = 0$ , $s = 2$ and $t = 5$ .
	$a = 0.16 \text{ ms}^{-2}$	<b>A1</b>	Allow $a = \frac{4}{25}$ .
		<b>2</b>	
5(b)	$R = 5g - X \sin 30$	<b>B1</b>	
	$X \cos 30 - F = 5a$	<b>M1</b>	Apply Newton's 2nd law to the block, using their $a$ .
	$X \cos 30 - 0.4(5g - X \sin 30) = 5 \times 0.16$	<b>M1</b>	Use $F = 0.4R$ to obtain an equation in $X$ only, using their $R$ which must involve $5g$ and a component of $X$ only.
	$X = 19.5$ (3sf)	<b>A1</b>	
		<b>4</b>	
5(c)	$R = (5g - 25 \sin 30)$ [ $R = 37.5$ ]	<b>B1</b>	
	$F = 25 \cos 30 \left[ F = \frac{25\sqrt{3}}{2} \right]$	<b>B1</b>	
	$\mu = \frac{F}{R} = 0.577$ (3sf)	<b>B1</b>	Allow $\mu = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$ or $\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ .
		<b>3</b>	

**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6(a)	$[s =] \int \left( t^2 - 8t^{\frac{3}{2}} + 10t \right) dt$	<b>*M1</b>	For attempting to integrate $v$ .
	$[s =] \frac{1}{3}t^3 - \frac{16}{5}t^{\frac{5}{2}} + 5t^2 [+C]$	<b>A1</b>	Allow unsimplified.
	For correct use of correct limits.	<b>DM1</b>	Use of limit at $t = 0$ may be implied.
	Displacement = 2.13 m (3sf)	<b>A1</b>	Allow displacement = $\frac{32}{15}$ .
		<b>4</b>	

## PUBLISHED

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6(b)	For attempting to differentiate $v$ .	<b>*M1</b>	
	$[a=]2t - 12t^{\frac{1}{2}} + 10$	<b>A1</b>	Allow unsimplified.
	$a = 0 \Rightarrow 2t - 12t^{\frac{1}{2}} + 10 = 0$	<b>DM1</b>	Dependent on *M1. Set $a = 0$ and attempt to solve their 3 term equation in $\sqrt{t}$ or $t$ or $p (= \sqrt{t})$ by treating it as a quadratic equation.
	$2\left(t^{\frac{1}{2}} - 5\right)\left(t^{\frac{1}{2}} - 1\right) = 0$ leading to $t = 1$ or $t = 25$	<b>A1</b>	Both correct.
	$\frac{da}{dt} = 2 - 6t^{-\frac{1}{2}}$	<b>*DM1</b>	Dependent on *M1. Determine the nature of the stationary point by: Either differentiating $a$ and testing the sign of $\frac{da}{dt}$ or by substituting values either side of their $t$ value(s) and attempt to determine the nature of the stationary point(s). If using $\frac{da}{dt}$ then must evaluate it at a $t$ value for M1. Allow use with any $t$ value from <i>their</i> 'quadratic'.
	Use $t = 25$ in $\frac{da}{dt} = 2 - 6 \times 25^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ Evaluating $\frac{da}{dt}$ correctly, hence a minimum.	<b>A1</b>	Or by using a convincing argument to show that $t = 25$ gives a minimum value of $v$ . If evaluated then $\frac{da}{dt}$ must be 0.8.
	Minimum velocity = $25^2 - 8 \times 25^{\frac{3}{2}} + 10 \times 25 = -125 \text{ m s}^{-1}$	<b>B1</b>	<b>AG</b> This mark is awarded only if the previous 6 marks are awarded.
		<b>7</b>	

**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
7(a)	Attempt Newton's 2nd law for either $P$ , $Q$ or the system.	<b>M1</b>	Correct number of relevant terms, dimensionally correct.
	For $P$ : $0.8 + 0.5g \sin 30 - T = 0.5a$ For $Q$ : $T - 0.3g \sin 45 = 0.3a$ System: $0.8 + 0.5g \sin 30 - 0.3g \sin 45 = 0.8a$	<b>A1</b>	For any one correct equation.
		<b>A1</b>	For two correct equations.
	Attempt to solve for $T$ .	<b>M1</b>	Using two equations, each with the correct number of relevant terms. [ $a = 1.4733$ may be seen].
	$T = 2.56 \text{ N (3sf)}$	<b>A1</b>	Allow $T = \frac{99 + 75\sqrt{2}}{80}$ .
		<b>5</b>	

**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
7(b)	KE and PE for $m$ kg particle: $\frac{1}{2}m \times 0.36 = 0.18m$ and $mg \sin 45 = 5\sqrt{2}m$	<b>B1</b>	Any 2 correct PE or KE terms.
	KE and PE for 0.5 kg particle: $\frac{1}{2} \times 0.5 \times 0.36 = 0.09$ and $0.5g \sin 30 = 2.5$	<b>B1</b>	All 4 correct PE and KE terms.
	Apply the work-energy equation to the system as: PE loss + WD by 0.8 N = KE gain + 0.5	<b>M1</b>	Must include at least 5 relevant terms only and no extra terms. All terms dimensionally correct.
	$0.5g \times 1 \times \sin 30 - mg \times 1 \times \sin 45 + 0.8 \times 1$ $= \frac{1}{2} \times (0.5 + m) \times 0.36 + 0.5$	<b>A1</b>	May be seen as: $2.5 - 5\sqrt{2}m + 0.8 = 0.09 + 0.18m + 0.5$
	$m = 0.374$	<b>A1</b>	
<b>Alternative method for question 7(b)</b>			
	KE and PE for $m$ kg particle: $\frac{1}{2}m \times 0.36 = 0.18m$ and $mg \sin 45 = 5\sqrt{2}m$	<b>B1</b>	Correct KE and PE for $m$ kg particle.
	$a = 0.18$ and $3.3 - T = 0.5(0.18)$ leading to $T = 3.21$	<b>B1</b>	Evaluate the tension in the string using Newton's second law applied to the 0.5 kg particle.
	For $m$ kg particle: WD by $T =$ KE gain + PE gain + 0.5	<b>M1</b>	At least 3 relevant terms including tension. All terms dimensionally correct.
	$3.21 \times 1 = \frac{1}{2}m \times 0.36 + mg \sin 45 + 0.5$	<b>A1</b>	
	$m = 0.374$	<b>A1</b>	

**PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
7(b)	<b>Alternative method for question 7(b)</b>		
	KE and PE for $m$ kg particle: $\frac{1}{2}m \times 0.36 = 0.18m$ and $mg \sin 45 = 5\sqrt{2}m$ KE and PE for 0.5 kg particle $\frac{1}{2} \times 0.5 \times 0.36 = 0.09$ and $0.5g \sin 30 = 2.5$	<b>B1</b>	Any 2 correct PE or KE terms.
		<b>B1</b>	All 4 correct PE and KE terms.
	Apply the work-energy equation to both particles as: $0.8 \times 1 + 0.5g \sin 30 = \frac{1}{2} \times 0.5 \times 0.36 + T \times 1$ and $T \times 1 = \frac{1}{2}m \times 0.36 + mg \sin 45 + 0.5$	<b>M1</b>	Must include at least 5 relevant terms only and tension terms in both. [T = 3.21] All terms dimensionally correct.
	$0.8 \times 1 + 0.5g \sin 30 - \frac{1}{2} \times 0.5 \times 0.36 = \frac{1}{2}m \times 0.36 + mg \sin 45 + 0.5$	<b>A1</b>	
	$m = 0.374$	<b>A1</b>	
		<b>5</b>	