

General guidelines on marking

Many descriptive answers can be expressed in a variety of ways. Professional judgement can be used in these cases, providing it matches the marking points and further information in the mark scheme.

Answers may have words spelt incorrectly. Credit is normally given for phonetically correct answers, unless the word has a scientifically different meaning. For example, where the answer should be antennae, credit will be given for antenna but not for anthen (too close to anther).

Only the science is being assessed so answers do not need to be grammatically correct. Significant figures will be indicated in the question or in the mark scheme. Unless specified all marking points are independent.

Annotations and abbreviations

/ or	alternate responses for the same marking point
() brackets	the words or units in brackets do not need to be stated, for example, (recycles or releases or provides) minerals = minerals scores the mark
<u>Underline</u>	exact word is required
Accept	an acceptable response
Do not accept	indicates an incorrect response that would contradict another otherwise correct alternative
Ignore	indicates an irrelevant answer that is not creditworthy. Full marks can still be achieved even with answers that are ignored.
Note	provides extra information when necessary
ecf	error carried forward; marks are awarded if an incorrect response has been carried forward from earlier working, provided the subsequent working is correct
ora	or reverse argument; for example, as mass increases, volume increases could be written as mass decreases, volume decreases