CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY **9626/04**

Paper 4 Advanced Practical **May/June 2026**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 90

Published

This mark scheme contains the instructions and marking guidance that our examiners used to mark candidate responses for this component.

Before they start marking, examiners complete a standardisation process. They review a range of candidate responses and discuss the mark scheme in detail to agree which answers can and cannot be accepted. Examiners award marks where it is clear that candidate responses have met the requirements of the mark scheme. These requirements may vary between different components or different versions of the same component, depending on the exact requirements of the question and the candidate responses seen during the standardisation process.

Sometimes, our mark schemes may allow marks to be awarded to responses which contain elements that are factually incorrect or for content not covered by the syllabus. We do this in response to the demands of a specific question to support candidates and make sure that our assessments are fair. However, these allowances should not be used as a guide for teaching and learning.

We cannot discuss the mark scheme with schools, and we recommend that schools read the mark scheme together with the assessment material and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

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General marking principles

All examiners must apply these marking principles when marking candidate responses.

1	Examiners must award marks for each response in line with: • the specific **content** defined in the mark scheme • the specific **skills** defined in the mark scheme or in the level descriptions • the **standard of response** required as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.
2	Examiners must award **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).
3	Examiners must award marks **positively**. This means that: • marks are not deducted for errors or omissions • marks are awarded for correct/valid answers as defined in the mark scheme and also for **other valid answers** which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme referring to your team leader as appropriate • the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar are judged **only** when the mark scheme indicates that these features are **specifically assessed** in the question. However, the meaning of all responses must be unambiguous.
4	Examiners must **consistently** apply the requirements of the mark scheme and any rules for what to do when candidates have not followed instructions correctly.
5	Examiners must use the **full range of marks** defined in the mark scheme, unless limited by the quality of the candidate responses seen.
6	Examiners must award marks according to the mark scheme and **must not** award marks with grade thresholds or grade descriptions in mind.

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Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	**Meaning**
Off-page comment	Allows comments to be entered at the bottom of the RM marking window and then displayed when the associated question item is navigated to.

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Task	Answer	Marks
1(a)(i)	Document created with logo	1
1(a)(ii)	Student ID text added Student name text added Year 3 Academic record text added	1
1(a)(iii)	3 column table added 6 rows in table Table positioned correctly and ¾ of page width	1
1(a)(iv)	Header row narrow Header row text correct Header row text emboldened	1
1(a)(v)	Module text correct in each row	1
1(b)(i)	Student given name and family names inserted in Data worksheet	1
	Student names populated accurately	1
	Tutor names column(s) inserted and populated accurately	1
1(b)(ii)	Years 1 and 2 hidden	1
1(b)(iii)	Nested IF() for year 3 results – Fail, Pass, Credit	1
	Only 2 tiers	1
	Thresholds use >=	1
	Thresholds use 70 and 45 only	1
1(b)(iv)	Formulae replicates accurately across and down	1
	Results correct	1
1(c)(i)	Nested IF() for year 3 conditional text – Resit, Retake	1
	Only 2 tiers	1
1(c)(ii)	Correct text for Resits	1
	Correct text for Retakes	1
1(c)(iii)	Closure selection as new columns	1
	Appropriate method for setting closure text	1
	Closure text for all students	1
1(c)(iv)	Appropriate method for setting congrats text	1
	Congrats text in formula or conditional field	1
	Congrats text uses single formula/condition	1

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Task	Answer	Marks
1(c)(v)	ID mergefield added	**1**
	Name(s) mergefield added	**1**
1(c)(vi)	SMS mergefield added	**1**
	AOS mergefield added	**1**
	CompC mergefield added	**1**
	MedC mergefield added	**1**
	PolyC mergefield added	**1**
1(c)(vii)	Conditional text for SMS added	**1**
	Conditional text for AOS added	**1**
	Conditional text for CompC added	**1**
	Conditional text for MedC added	**1**
	Conditional text for PolyC added	**1**
1(c)(viii)	Conditional closure text for fails added	**1**
	Closure text contains Tutor name mergefield	**1**
1(c)(ix)	Conditional closure text for Congrats added	**1**
	Congrats closure text correct	**1**
1(d)	Merged documents created	**1**
	Correct 7 letters created	**1**
	Merged data formatted consistently	**1**
	Commentary text in italic Closure text in italic	**1**
	Single closure text	**1**

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Task	Answer	Marks
2(a)(i)	Proton circular	1
	Colour RGB 255,0,0	1
	Gradient to RGB 166,0,0	1
	2 small blooms in correct place	1
	1 large crescent bloom in correct place	1
2(a)(ii)	Neutron circular	1
	Colour RGB 67,57,255	1
	Blooms preserved with suitable colour range	1
2(a)(iii)	Electron circular colour RGB 147,200,36	1
	Blooms preserved with suitable colour range	1
	Size correct and negative symbol included	1
2(b)	Orbit created	1
	Shape correct – contours seen	1
	Angle correct – not vertical or horizontal	1
	Colour correct – dark green	1
2(c)(i)	Carbon structure created with nucleus and orbits	1
	6 protons in nucleus	1
	6 neutrons in nucleus	1
2(c)(ii)	3 orbit images used	1
	Angle between orbits equal	1
	Nucleus placed centrally	1
2(c)(iii)	2 electrons placed in each orbit	1
	All electrons placed correctly as shown	1
2(c)(iv)	Carbon text correct and placed as shown	1
2(c)(v)	All images saved as .png files	1

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Task	Answer	Marks
3(i)	Frame size – 500 × 500 pixels	**1**
3(ii)	Gas image cloud shape correct – 8 lobes Gas image cloud transparency correct	**1**
	4 H atoms in gas image cloud 1 C atom in gas image cloud Atoms positioned approximately as shown	**1**
3(iii)	Methane text in gas image cloud Natural Gas text in gas image cloud	**1**
3(iv)	Gas image moves from bottom-left corner	**1**
	Gas image glides to centre of frame as a single image	**1**
	In 1 second	**1**
3(v)	Flame rises from the bottom of frame	**1**
	Flame glides to edge of gas image in 1 second	**1**
	Flame is the correct size	**1**
3(vi)	Small bang image appears immediately	**1**
	Bang grows to fill the frame in ½ second	**1**
3(vii)	1 × C atom, 4 × H atoms and 4 × O atoms appear in correct positions	**1**
	By 3 seconds, the bang image must have disappeared	**1**
3(viii)	Atoms glide to final positions in 2 seconds	**1**
3(ix)	Small text appears in correct positions	**1**
	Text grows smoothly to size shown	**1**
	In 1 second	**1**
3(x)	Image remains for 2 seconds	**1**
3(xi)	Animation restarts (loops) without ‘twitch’	**1**

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