

# Examiners' Report June 2022

**IAL Biology WBI13 01** 



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### Introduction

Despite the difficulties of the last couple of years the entry for this paper was very high and candidates showed a level of performance which was comparable with previous series. This is all the more remarkable in a paper in which performance traditionally tends to benefit from the performance of practical work.

## Question 1 (a)(i)

Generally, this item was very well answered, with candidates demonstrating a clear understanding of fertilisation in plants. Very few candidates wrote about the last point on the tissue of the style being digested.

Some responses were not specific enough about what exactly fuses with what.

(a) (i) Explain the role of the pollen tube in plant reproduction.

(3) Ereates a pathwary. For Male gameles. To reach oranger orang. works as a

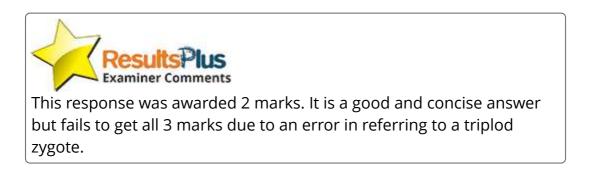


This response was awarded 1 mark. It is a very concise and correct answer. However, there is insufficient detail for 3 marks. If the candidate had gone on to say how the pathway was created and what the male gametes were going to the ovary for, 3 marks could have been awarded.

(a) (i) Explain the role of the pollen tube in plant reproduction.

(3)

allows to the male gameter to fuse with orom Transports the male gameter to the orum & allows double fortilization to occurs forming a & zygot Triploid zygot

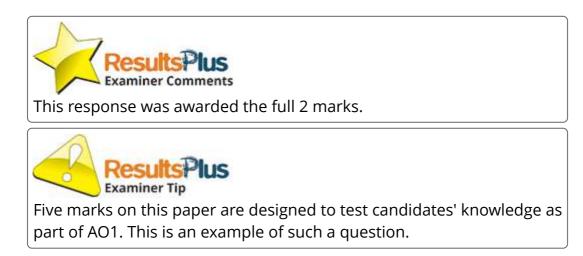


# Question 1 (a)(ii)

This question created a good deal of confusion as many weaker responses failed to identify that a destination was required. Better response gained just the mark detailing the destination. Chemotropism was very scarcely referenced. Weaker response which attempted to discuss a mechanism thought it was gravity driven.

(ii) Explain why pollen tubes grow in the same direction from the stigma, after pollination.

As the 2 synergials nucleis serveste chenicale that
directs the poller bube nucleus to the morany through
Ke nicrophyle.



# Question 1 (b)(i)

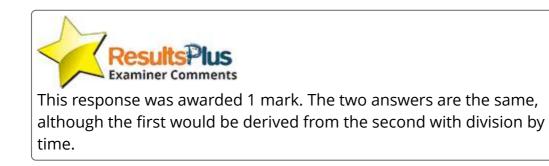
A regular feature of this paper is a question which examines the understanding of types of variable. In this question, candidates were asked about two dependent variables. The majority of response were able to demonstrate good understanding.

(b) The effect of sucrose solutions of different concentrations on the growth of pollen grains was investigated.

The percentage of pollen grains that germinated and the length of the pollen tubes were measured, one hour after they were placed in the sucrose solution.

(i) State two dependent variables in this investigation.

- 1 Growth rate of pollen grains
- 2 Re length of the pollen hiber



(b) The effect of sucrose solutions of different concentrations on the growth of pollen grains was investigated.

The percentage of pollen grains that germinated and the length of the pollen tubes were measured, one hour after they were placed in the sucrose solution.

(i) State two dependent variables in this investigation.

(2)

# 1 Number of pollen grains

#### 2 Tempreature

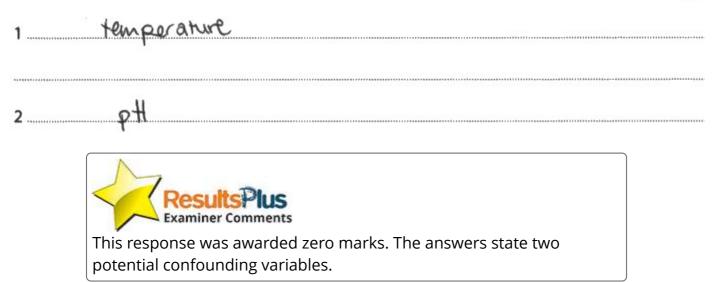


This response was awarded 1 mark. There are two distinct errors in this response in that the first answer is unfinished by not stating what the number of pollen grains would be doing, and the second answer states a potential confounding variable.

(b) The effect of sucrose solutions of different concentrations on the growth of pollen grains was investigated.

The percentage of pollen grains that germinated and the length of the pollen tubes were measured, one hour after they were placed in the sucrose solution.

(i) State two dependent variables in this investigation.





There are three types of variable you need to be aware of:

- Dependent the one measured (eg, pollen tube length and percentage germination).
- Independent the one changed (eg, sucrose solution concentration).
- Confounding the one that might affect the measurements you make and make your measurements invalid (eg, temperature is one such variable).

Make sure you fully understand all the variables.

# Question 1 (b)(ii)

This question was pleasingly well answered. The majority of candidates were able to gain two marks.

(ii) Explain why changes in temperature will affect this investigation.

Pollen tube uses enzymes to digest its way through the	
style; therefore, increase in temperature will increase	
rate of polles tube granth.	

(2)



This answer recognises that the temperature effect could be due to the involvement of enzymes in some aspect of the process of pollen grain germination or growth. However, it does not capitalise on this with a bit of detail about *how* enzymes are affected by temperature. It makes the same point throughout and shows a candidate who is not focussed on the fact that this is a two mark question and they need to, therefore, make two distinct points.

# Question 1 (c)(i)

The majority of candidates found this question challenging. The weaker responses were able to gain 1 mark by describing the use of the calcium ion solution and the sucrose but lacked further development in the answer. The better responses were given as "add 2cm<sup>3</sup> of sucrose solution to 8cm<sup>3</sup> of the calcium ion solution" and were awarded the full 3 marks.

(c) A solution containing calcium ions has to be added to the sucrose solutions.

These solutions were made using:

- a 2.0 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> sucrose solution
- a solution containing calcium ions and water
- (i) Describe how you would make 10 cm<sup>3</sup> of a 0.4 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> sucrose solution using these two solutions.

Tn a	testtube	add al	out 1	cm <sup>3</sup>	of U	he 1	2.0 md	dun <sup>-3</sup>
SUCTURE	solution	Adding	a sol	etion	Contain	ing	caleius	и
		would						
reducing	the	concentration	from	2,	moldm <sup>-)</sup>	ħ	0.4 m	oldm-3
5		lle						
combrined	5		******		******			



This response was awarded 1 mark. The candidate starts off with the right idea but gives no useful details of the volumes involved in the case of both solutions.

(3)

(c) A solution containing calcium ions has to be added to the sucrose solutions.

These solutions were made using:

- a 2.0 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> sucrose solution
- a solution containing calcium ions and water
- (i) Describe how you would make 10 cm<sup>3</sup> of a 0.4 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> sucrose solution using these two solutions.

Dilue the sucrose solution 2.0 molders (the bigger solution) with
vate. And the ratio (1XVI = GXV2 - one idente
2XUL = 0.4X10 2X-4 X-2 1:2, 2 i) mate. 5
calcium is important for the middle lamella to how cell logentle
a) well as important for ATP energy and growth. Place in survey
solution be in one with or not one ware no compactically

(3)



This response was awarded zero marks. The candidate has misunderstood the question. There is an interesting illustration of the focus but the points about the role of calcium in plants, although having an element of truth, are not relevant to this question.

# Question 1 (c)(ii)

The majority of candidates performed well on this question. However, the most common error related to the notion of something that can be controlled by measuring it.

(ii) The calcium ion solution is alkaline.

State how the <u>pH</u> of the sucrose solutions used in this investigation could be adjusted to a required value.

(1)





This response was awarded zero marks. It is not possible to control or adjust pH by measuring pH.

# Question 1 (d)

This was a two-part question with both parts being linked to the final answer. Therefore, it was not possible to comment on the statistics on each.

Candidates found both parts of this question challenging. In part (i) the weaker responses included units in the body of the table, an extra column, incorrect transfer of data and inconsistent use of decimal places.

In part (ii), many candidates were able to gain one mark by recognising that in both the effect of sucrose peaked at 0.4 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> but they were unable to develop their responses further to gain additional marks.

This question uses the command word, 'comment'. From the specification, comment "requires the synthesis of a number of factors from data/information to form a judgement". Quoting the optimum was a start, but the judgment needed here was about the security of this conclusion. Few responses discussed the limitations of the data obtained.

(i) Draw a suitable table to show the results for percentage germination.

(3)

Sucrose solution/ moldon=3	Percentage Greminhay (%)
0.0	6
0.2	46
0.4	70
0.8	23
1.6	0

(ii) Comment on the conclusion that both percentage germination and mean pollen tube growth have the same optimum sucrose concentration.

(3)Hat both of Kere have Resource graph Ollar hub optimum sucrose condentation, os both near Jall 4 increase ration aroph hos sucrose solution reac ophin decreased. I anon lives 0.4 sose colu 10 highest value TS bighest vol aso ot 6 and rea

(Total for Question 1 = 19 marks)



This is an example of a satisfactory response for part (i) and it was awarded the full 3 marks.

In part (ii) the response was awarded 1 mark for the first marking point.

Overall this response for Q1d was awarded 4 marks.

## Question 2 (a)

This question tested candidates' knowledge and understanding of a core practical that they had either undertaken, seen a video of, or read about.

(a) Describe a safe method to observe the stages of mitosis in these roots.

(5) Wearing gloves and the cost our a sharp blade to carefully out asmall piece of the tip of the cost for all concentrations. Uninbles with an temperature and pth should star the same for all for the whole experiment and enior species of type. Pip of place the out cost in Hell to softer it, wear gloves as its corrective. Then stalm the sample with methy lene blue of acetic office. Soche chiences are visible. Then place it between two aleres slides and squash it getty so and cell can be observed. Use a high power microspe to view the chromosome's and count the number of cells in mitosis and the involve of cells in mitosis by the total number of cells.



This response was awarded the full 5 marks. The elements of the mark scheme that were identified in this response included: They wore *gloves*, then cut root *tips*, they placed the tips in *acid*, they stained with an *appropriate* stain (in fact naming two, either of which would do), they *squashed* and then viewed under *high power*.

However, this response refers to elements not required of the question, eg, controlling variable. This was not relevant to the answer as the question did not ask for a method for the study to be described, just how mitosis can be observed.

In this response the last three lines are irrelevant as there is no need to refer to counting cells or how to calculate the mitotic index. The question required candidates to provide a description of how to view the stages. Therefore, although the candidate gained full marks, the question was not been read correctly and valuable time was given to including unnecessary information. (a) Describe a safe method to observe the stages of mitosis in these roots.

lab coat. Then safely Re First, wear gloves and then vice all an place cut the roots Jew on the Slider with SIL stain or and COVER clearly extrans place alls Slipunder the 11 1. BLt that " microscope converted moosu-ed been has 0 Stages mitosis. observe the Then Ø

(5)



This response was awarded 1 mark. There are some correct elements in this response but the candidate has failed to develop these ideas with detail. The response is awarded a mark for safety, but not for the vague statement of 'safely cut'. (a) Describe a safe method to observe the stages of mitosis in these roots.

cut off a peice of the root and place in dish stain noot in order for cells to be visable place root cell under microscope. this proceess should be repeated with the root multiple times at differnt stages of the root/onion growth during the 24. placing under microscope observe cells thraghout each stage with with each sample taken record results and repeat to acuracy ensure



This response was awarded zero marks. The reference to a "*piece of root*" is inadequate detail, as is "*stain root*". In addition, "*place root cell under a microscope*" was not worthy of a mark.

However, all these steps are correct features of the method, but the response lacks detail, for example, which part of the root, which stain and exactly how would the microscope be deployed?

This response develops into suggesting repeating and measuring over time, neither of which addresses the question. Furthermore, there is no mention of safety in the response, which was asked for in the question.

(5)

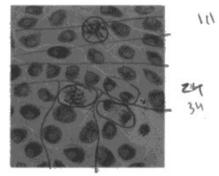
# Question 2 (b)

This question was answered well by most candidates. However, there were a number of areas where candidates made mistakes.

Firstly, by counting the cells and then recognising those which are dividing. In order to account for the fact that it was quite hard to count the cells, the mark scheme allowed for a range of possibilities, eg, 35 to 46. There was less latitude for the dividing cells, either 3 or 4.

Secondly, the errors made were in not knowing how to make the calculation of the index and then the mathematics of doing it. This involved making a correct division and then correct rounding, to 2 significant figures, as requested.

(b) The photograph shows part of a root tip from this investigation.



(Source: © Rattiya Thongdumhyu/shutterstock)

Calculate the mitotic index of this root tip.

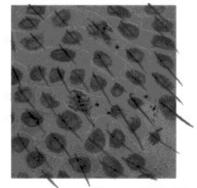


This response was awarded 1 mark. Both counts are within the range allowed in both cases. However, the rounding has been incorrectly executed.



Make sure you are clear about the use of significant figures (A1.1, page 64 in the specification).

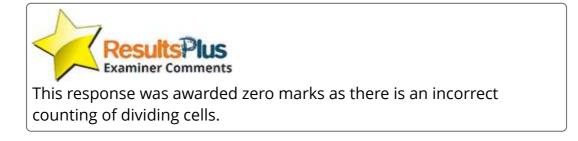
(b) The photograph shows part of a root tip from this investigation.



(Source: © Rattiya Thongdumhyu/shutterstock)

Calculate the mitotic index of this root tip.

Give your answer to 2 significant figures.

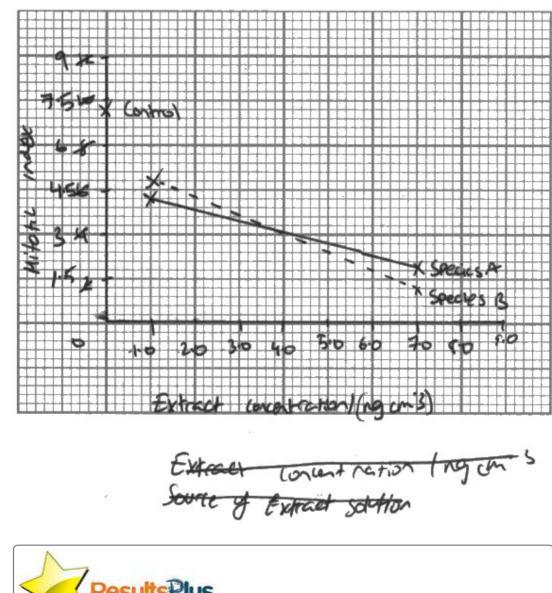


# Question 2 (c)(i)

Witchie Irales

This was a demanding graph to plot and it was well done by most candidates.

(i) Plot a suitable graph to show the data in the table.

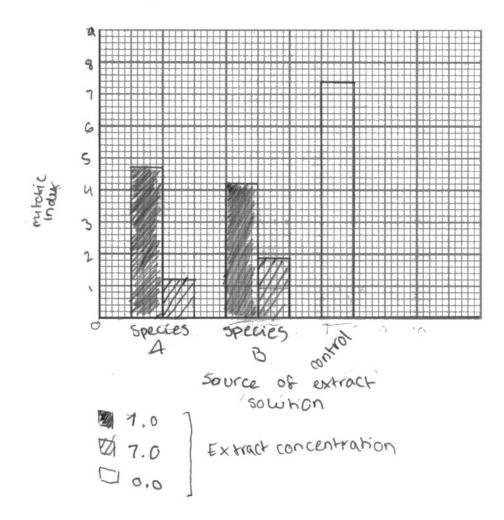




This response was awarded 2 marks. Candidates who chose to plot a line graph lost 1 mark. However 3 marks were still available for correctly orientated axes which were properly labelled and with properly plotted points.

(4)

(i) Plot a suitable graph to show the data in the table.





This response was awarded 3 marks. The axes are correctly orientated and the bars correctly plotted. However, it fails to achieve full marks due to inattention to detail. The graph tells us nowhere the units for the extract concentration.



At this level, detail matters. In the case of a graph, make sure that anyone reading your graph will fully understand what it is a graph of.

# Question 2 (c)(ii)

This question was testing a procedure which has been tested before on a number of occasions and is fundamental to the development of an understanding of the meaning of data through inferential statistics. It was reasonably well tackled by candidates on this occasion.

(ii) Describe how this investigation could be modified to determine if the differences between the mitotic indices are significant.

(4)work at Man deviation. Use Standard Wider lange a Species ions extort Mde land other With dat species Concentration Some Nal



This response was awarded 1 mark. The answers given in this response lack detail. The candidate has suggested *"work out the mean and standard deviation"* but without stating where the data for the mean might come from. The remaining answers provide no relevance to the question. (ii) Describe how this investigation could be modified to determine if the differences between the mitotic indices are significant.

(4) de the 60 SI elles orce

Ma ahit



This response was awarded 3 marks for its reference to "*repeating*" under the "*same conditions*" and calculating the "*standard deviation*". Unfortunately, the response does not go on to say what these standard deviations might tell us.

(ii) Describe how this investigation could be modified to determine if the differences between the mitotic indices are significant.

(4) experiment should be repeated The hin concentrations of the extract for each species B experiment The shar and 2 times to ensure accurate repeated an mitonic Prdex is calculated. for val experiment could be repeated different onion root tipsi F Me lengths to regults can be 100 Lon pared index of miken ( another Vegetable hpr root such as carrot a



This response was awarded 1 mark. When asked to comment on modifying an experiment, candidates often resort to suggesting that various things should be 'repeated' and then go on to suggest incorrect reasons as to how this might help. In this response, the suggestion is valid for one mark, but the circumstances in which the repeats should be done, the reason for doing them and the consequences of the results are not given or correct.

# Question 3 (a)

Overall, candidates found this question very challenging. The better responses gave a very detailed account of how to carry out a serial dilution. Of course, this is relevant to the question but more is needed to answer the question fully.

(a) Describe how the data in the table could have been obtained using a 1% starch solution.

(4) between Starch 1950 50 luton Using and volume chuch water Shou of For measured. 0.1% concentration 0 Should be used water auch solution. The Solu 0.0 tion Could ined adding 0. Concentration 64 OF 06 ml pre viously water 94 Cou 60 0.001 made 48149 previous JOL 0.0 valloh Conle Water

This response was awarded 1 mark for the first marking point.

(a) Describe how the data in the table could have been obtained using a 1% starch solution.

different concentrations were obtained by Milution of 1.1. starch Solution with distilled water to form Starch solutions with lower concentrations the lower the concentration the lighter the robur of solution after addition of iddine solution.

arnownt of tra- statum concentration needed	Starth concentration
100 1.	1.0
10-1.	0.1
1.1.	0.01
0-1%	0.001
0.011.	0.0001



This response was awarded zero marks. The candidate has presented some basic ideas, such as dilute the stock, add iodine, and there is some reference to colour. However, none of this would allow any data, as given in the table, to be obtained. Furthermore, there is no detail in this response.

(4)

# Question 3 (b)

Overall, candidate found this question very challenging and only a few were able to gain all four marks. This question demonstrations candidates' failure to take into consideration the number of marks available and not crafting their answers to take this into account.

Potato variety	Colour		
King Edward	black		
Nicola	very pale blue		
Purple Congo	pale blue		
Russet	dark blue		

(b) The table shows the results for the four potato varieties.

Discuss the <u>extent to which these</u> results support the <u>suggestions about the use</u> of these potato varieties.

(4)

The suggestion of it being good for baking is conect. The Russet potato turns danch blue which means it has a shanch concentation of ~ 0.1% which is shill high & good for balking, but less good than Edward. Heamwhile, the Nicola potolo has a slanch conc. of real and the Purple Congo of anous 0.01% which makes from both have a low stanch concern habion, but the Nicola polabo poiling from the purple congo. The is better for mostly support he suggestions with he king Edward the best for balling & the Nicola potabo potato being For boiling.



This response was awarded the full 4 marks by making an overall conclusion that the data supports the suggestions. In addition, the response assesses the suitability of two potatoes for baking and two for boiling with reasons. The response also compares the baking and boiling qualities within each variety. (b) The table shows the results for the four potato varieties.

Potato variety	Colour
King Edward	black
Nicola	very pale blue
Purple Congo	pale blue
Russet	dark blue

Discuss the extent to which these results support the suggestions about the use of these potato varieties.

(4) True as Nicola contains 0.001 starch concentration and Purple longo contains 0.01 starch concentration so they have low starch contents while King Eduard contains 1.0 starch concentration and Russet contains 0.1 starch concentration so they have high starch content



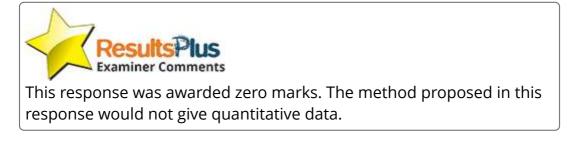
This response was awarded 1 mark for the word 'true' at the beginning. However, the candidate does not develop this idea further by stating why it is true.

The candidate makes correct conclusions about the starch concentrations but does not link this to the suggested suitability of these potato varieties for different roles.

# Question 3 (c)

Candidates found this question very challenging. Very few responses were awarded the full 2 marks.

(c) Suggest how this investigation could be adapted to produce quantitative data. (2) 1-2 M. Hw



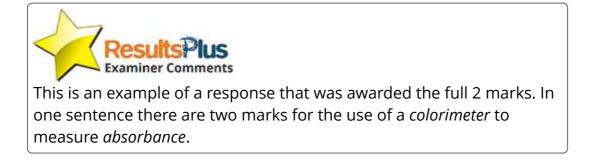
(c) Suggest how this investigation could be adapted to produce quantitative data.

(2)

use a colorimeter to record the absorbance of the

different solutions. The higher the value, the

# greater the concentration of starch.

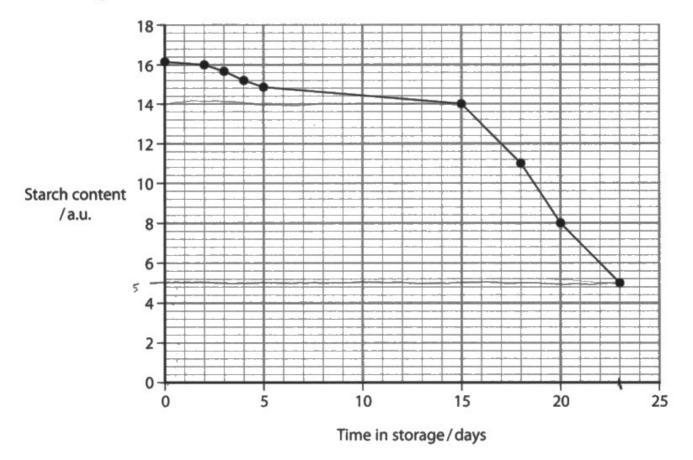


# Question 3 (d)(i)

This question was a good differentiator. Candidates were awarded marks across the whole range of available points.

(d) It is suggested that the change in the taste and consistency of stored bananas is due to changes in their starch content.

An investigation of the content of starch in stored bananas produced the following results.





Include units in your answer.

(2)

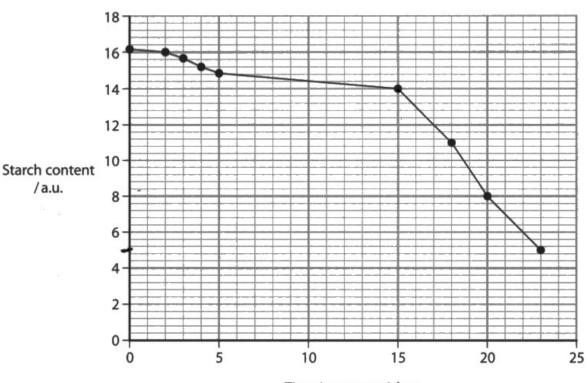
Answer 64.3%



This response was awarded 1 mark for correctly reading off the graph and then carrying out the correct workings with the numbers obtained. However, the candidate fails to understand what is meant by 'rate' and calculates the answer incorrectly.



Check through the mathematics requirements in the specification (pages 62-67) and learn how to carry out all of the required operations. About 10% of the marks are devoted to testing mathematical skills. (d) It is suggested that the change in the taste and consistency of stored bananas is due to changes in their starch content.



An investigation of the content of starch in stored bananas produced the following results.

Time in storage/days

(i) Calculate the rate of decrease in starch content from day 15 to day 23.

14 - 5 = 9

Include units in your answer.

 $\frac{9}{8} = 1.125$  (2)





This response was awarded 1 mark. The candidate carried out the calculation correctly but lost a mark for not following the instruction to "*include units in your answer*".



Always read the question carefully. It has been precisely worded to elicit a particular response.

# Question 3 (d)(ii)

This is a standard data description question and it was well answered by the majority of candidates.

(ii) Describe the changes in starch content during the 23 days of this investigation.

(2)

- non-linear



This response was awarded 1 mark. The candidate has provided a correct answer but this is a two-mark question and the candidate has only given one point.

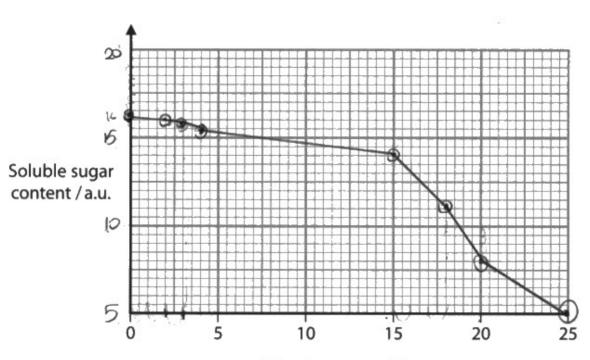


Always try to craft your answer in terms of the number of marks available.

# Question 3 (d)(iii)

This question style was a new departure and performance was rather mixed.

(iii) Sketch a graph to show the soluble sugar content of these bananas during storage.



Time in storage/days



This response was awarded zero marks as the biology has not been understood. If starch levels fall over time then sugar levels will almost certainly rise, unless all the sugar is instantly used.

Any response which showed a rise in sugar levels would gain 1 mark. Conversely, any response which showed a fall demonstrated a lack of understanding of the biology and would not be creditworthy.

## **Paper Summary**

This is the tenth series of this qualification since the new syllabus started in 2018.

With the addition of the Sample Assessment Material (SAM), there are now 11 sets of 3 questions as practice papers available on the qualification page of the Pearson website.

The key to translating 2 years of learning into examination marks is to practise past papers. The same general principles are examined every time so this practise will benefit students in their preparation for the examination.

# **Grade boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/gradeboundaries.html

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