

Markscheme

May 2026

**Mathematics: applications and
interpretation**

Higher level

Paper 3

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Instructions to Examiners

Abbreviations

- M** Marks awarded for attempting to use a correct **Method**.
- A** Marks awarded for an **Answer** or for **Accuracy**; often dependent on preceding **M** marks.
- R** Marks awarded for clear **Reasoning**.
- AG** Answer given in the question and so no marks are awarded.
- FT** Follow through. The practice of awarding marks, despite student errors in previous parts, for their correct methods/answers using incorrect results.

Using the markscheme

1 General

Award marks using the annotations as noted in the markscheme *eg M1, A2*.

2 Method and Answer/Accuracy marks

- Do **not** automatically award full marks for a correct answer; all working **must** be checked, and marks awarded according to the markscheme.
- It is generally not possible to award **M0** followed by **A1**, as **A** mark(s) depend on the preceding **M** mark(s), if any.
- Where **M** and **A** marks are noted on the same line, *e.g. M1A1*, this usually means **M1** for an **attempt** to use an appropriate method (*e.g.* substitution into a formula) and **A1** for using the **correct** values.
- Where there are two or more **A** marks on the same line, they may be awarded independently; so if the first value is incorrect, but the next two are correct, award **A0A1A1**.
- Where the markscheme specifies **A3**, **M2** *etc.*, do **not** split the marks, unless there is a note.
- The response to a “show that” question does not need to restate the **AG** line, unless a **Note** makes this explicit in the markscheme.
- Once a correct answer to a question or part question is seen, ignore further working even if this working is incorrect and/or suggests a misunderstanding of the question. This will encourage a uniform approach to marking, with less examiner discretion. Although some students may be advantaged for that specific question item, it is likely that these students will lose marks elsewhere too.
- An exception to the previous rule is when an incorrect answer from further working is used **in a subsequent part**. For example, when a correct exact value is followed by an incorrect decimal approximation in the first part and this approximation is then used in the second part. In this situation, award **FT** marks as appropriate but do not award the final **A1** in the first part.

Examples:

	Correct answer seen	Further working seen	Any FT issues?	Action
1.	$8\sqrt{2}$	5.65685... (incorrect decimal value)	No. Last part in question.	Award A1 for the final mark (condone the incorrect further working)
2.	$\frac{35}{72}$	0.468111... (incorrect decimal value)	Yes. Value is used in subsequent parts.	Award A0 for the final mark (and full FT is available in subsequent parts)

3 Implied marks

Implied marks appear in **brackets e.g. (M1)**, and can only be awarded if **correct** work is seen or implied by subsequent working/answer.

4 Follow through marks (only applied after an error is made)

Follow through (**FT**) marks are awarded where an incorrect answer from one **part** of a question is used correctly in **subsequent** part(s) (e.g. incorrect value from part (a) used in part (d) or incorrect value from part (c)(i) used in part (c)(ii)). Usually, to award **FT** marks, **there must be working present** and not just a final answer based on an incorrect answer to a previous part. However, if all the marks awarded in a subsequent part are for the answer or are implied, then **FT** marks should be awarded for *their* correct answer, even when working is not present.

For example: following an incorrect answer to part (a) that is used in subsequent parts, where the markscheme for the subsequent part is **(M1)A1**, it is possible to award full marks for *their* correct answer, **without working being seen**. For longer questions where all but the answer marks are implied this rule applies but may be overwritten by a **Note** in the Markscheme.

- Within a question part, once an **error** is made, no further **A** marks can be awarded for work which uses the error, but **M** marks may be awarded if appropriate.
- If the question becomes much simpler because of an error then use discretion to award fewer **FT** marks, by reflecting on what each mark is for and how that maps to the simplified version.
- If the error leads to an inappropriate value (e.g. probability greater than 1, $\sin \theta = 1.5$, non-integer value where integer required), do not award the mark(s) for the final answer(s).
- The markscheme may use the word “their” in a description, to indicate that students may be using an incorrect value.
- If the student’s answer to the initial question clearly contradicts information given in the question, it is not appropriate to award any **FT** marks in the subsequent parts. This includes when students fail to complete a “show that” question correctly, and then in subsequent parts use their incorrect answer rather than the given value.
- Exceptions to these **FT** rules will be explicitly noted on the markscheme.
- If a student makes an error in one part but gets the correct answer(s) to subsequent part(s), award marks as appropriate, unless the command term was “Hence”.

5 Mis-read

If a student incorrectly copies values or information from the question, this is a mis-read (**MR**). A student should be penalized only once for a particular misread. Use the **MR** stamp to indicate that this has been a misread and do not award the first mark, even if this is an **M** mark, but award all others as appropriate.

- If the question becomes much simpler because of the **MR**, then use discretion to award fewer marks.
- If the **MR** leads to an inappropriate value (e.g. probability greater than 1, $\sin \theta = 1.5$, non-integer value where integer required), do not award the mark(s) for the final answer(s).
- Miscopying of students' own work does **not** constitute a misread, it is an error.
- If a student uses a correct answer, to a "show that" question, to a higher degree of accuracy than given in the question, this is NOT a misread and full marks may be scored in the subsequent part.
- **MR** can only be applied when work is seen. For calculator questions with no working and incorrect answers, examiners should **not** infer that values were read incorrectly.

6 Alternative methods

Students will sometimes use methods other than those in the markscheme. Unless the question specifies a method, other correct methods should be marked in line with the markscheme. If the command term is 'Hence' and not 'Hence or otherwise' then alternative methods are not permitted unless covered by a note in the mark scheme.

- Alternative methods for complete questions are indicated by **METHOD 1**, **METHOD 2**, etc.
- Alternative solutions for parts of questions are indicated by **EITHER . . . OR**.

7 Alternative forms

Unless the question specifies otherwise, **accept** equivalent forms.

- As this is an international examination, accept all alternative forms of **notation** for example 1.9 and 1,9 or 1000 and 1,000 and 1.000.
- Do not accept final answers written using calculator notation. However, **M** marks and intermediate **A** marks can be scored, when presented using calculator notation, provided the evidence clearly reflects the demand of the mark.
- In the markscheme, equivalent **numerical** and **algebraic** forms will generally be written in brackets immediately following the answer.
- In the markscheme, some **equivalent** answers will generally appear in brackets. Not all equivalent notations/answers/methods will be presented in the markscheme and examiners are asked to apply appropriate discretion to judge if the student work is equivalent.

8 Format and accuracy of answers

If the level of accuracy is specified in the question, a mark will be linked to giving the answer to the required accuracy. If the level of accuracy is not stated in the question, the general rule applies to final answers: *unless otherwise stated in the question all numerical answers must be given exactly or correct to three significant figures*.

Where values are used in subsequent parts, the markscheme will generally use the exact value, however students may also use the correct answer to 3 sf in subsequent parts. The markscheme will often explicitly include the subsequent values that come “*from the use of 3 sf values*”.

Simplification of final answers: Students are advised to give final answers using good mathematical form. In general, for an **A** mark to be awarded, arithmetic should be completed, and any values that lead to integers should be simplified; for example, $\sqrt{\frac{25}{4}}$ should be written as $\frac{5}{2}$. An exception to this is simplifying fractions, where lowest form is not required (although the numerator and the denominator must be integers); for example, $\frac{10}{4}$ may be left in this form or written as $\frac{5}{2}$.

However, $\frac{10}{5}$ should be written as 2, as it simplifies to an integer.

Algebraic expressions should be simplified by completing any operations such as addition and multiplication, e.g. $4e^{2x} \times e^{3x}$ should be simplified to $4e^{5x}$, and $4e^{2x} \times e^{3x} - e^{4x} \times e^x$ should be simplified to $3e^{5x}$. Unless specified in the question, expressions do not need to be factorized, nor do factorized expressions need to be expanded, so $x(x+1)$ and $x^2 + x$ are both acceptable.

Please note: intermediate **A** marks do NOT need to be simplified.

9 Calculators

A GDC is required for this paper, but if you see work that suggests a student has used any calculator not approved for IB DP examinations (eg CAS enabled devices), please follow the procedures for malpractice.

10 Presentation of student work

Crossed out work: If a student has drawn a line through work on their examination script, or in some other way crossed out their work, do not award any marks for that work unless an explicit note from the student indicates that they would like the work to be marked.

More than one solution: Where a student offers two or more different answers to the same question, an examiner should only mark the first response unless the student indicates otherwise. If the layout of the responses makes it difficult to judge, examiners should apply appropriate discretion to judge which is “first”.

1. (a) (i)
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A2

Note: Award **A1A0** for a 5x5 matrix with correct lead diagonal.

[2 Marks]

(ii)
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^4$$

(M1)

correct first row or correct first column

(A1)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 25 & 26 & 18 & 26 & 24 \\ 26 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 18 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 26 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 24 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

26 (ways)

A1

[3 Marks]

continued...

Question 1 continued

- (b) (i) Kruskal's algorithm OR Prim's Algorithm

A1

[1 Mark]

- (ii) **EITHER**

Kruskal: BD[2]; AD[4]; CD[5]; (reject AB[5]); ED[6]

A1A1 A1

Note: Award **A1** for BD seen first, **A1** for AD and CD in order, **A1** for ED. Each **A1** is contingent on the previous **A1** being awarded.

The weights of the edges are not required.

OR

for Prim, any one of the following:

A1A1 A1

from A : AD[4]; BD[2]; CD[5]; DE[6]

from B or D : BD[2]; AD[4]; CD[5]; DE[6]

from C : CD[5]; BD[2]; AD[4]; DE[6]

from E : DE[6]; BD[2]; AD[4]; CD[5]

Note: Award **A1** for first two edges then **A1** for third edge, **A1** for fourth edge. Each **A1** is contingent on the previous **A1** being awarded.

The weights of the edges are not required.

[3 Marks]

- (iii) total weight of minimum spanning tree:

$$2 + 4 + 5 + 6 = 17 \text{ (minutes)}$$

(M1)

$$17 \times 30$$

$$= 510 \text{ kg}$$

A1

Note: Allow **FT** marks only if their MST consists of four weights

[2 Marks]

continued...

Question 1 continued

- (c) (i) recognition that Eulerian circuit is required (M1)
 assess odd/even degree vertices (M1)
 identify the need to repeat AE when calculating a minimum circuit or
 “double weight 9” (A1)
 the minimum circuit is therefore the total weight of the network plus AE .
 $(5 + 7 + 5 + 2 + 8 + 6 + 4 + 9) + 9 = 55$ minutes A1

Note: Award **M0M1A0** for finding the minimum Eulerian path ABCDBEDAE (or equivalent) and **A1** for weight 46 minutes.

Note: Allow full marks if they mention Hamilton/Chinese Postman/Nearest Neighbour but go on to use the ‘correct’ method to find 55.

[4 Marks]

- (ii) any valid circuit e.g. valid circuit is ABCDBEDAEA A1

Note: No **FT** for providing a minimum Eulerian path, even if points awarded in (i).

[1 Mark]

- (d) (i) AE A1
 [1 Mark]
 (ii) the additional time is 9 for AE increasing from 9 to 18 **AND** 1 for traveling
 ADE[10] instead of AE . R1
 10 minutes A1

Note: No **FT** for using an incorrect answer from part (c).

Note: Allow **R1** for using additional time of 9 + any alternative to AE.

[2 Marks]

continued...

Question 1 continued

(e) (i) $(1 - 0.25)^2$ **A1**

Note: Allow **A1** for identifying $P(X = 0)$ for $B(2, 0, 25)$.

$= 0.5625$ **AG**
[1 Mark]

(ii) $p = 0.375$ **A1**

$q = 0.0625$ **A1**

Note: Award **A0A1** if correct values are seen but not identified correctly to p and q .

Note: Award **A0A1** if p , q both incorrect but positive with values correctly totaling 0.4375

[2 Marks]

(iii) $P(X > 4) = 0.105649...$ **(A1)**

$0.375(0.105649...) (= 0.0396187...)$ **(A1)**

attempt to sum two normal distributions **(M1)**

$N(6, 1.28)$ **(A1)**

$P(X_1 + X_2 > 4) = 0.9614501...$ **(A1)**

attempt to weight the second probability **AND** summing the two products **(M1)**

$P(\text{Wait} > 4) = 0.375(0.105649...) + 0.0625(0.9614501...)$

$= 0.0997 \quad (0.0997093...)$ **A1**

[7 Marks]

Total [29 marks]

2. (a) $\alpha = 0.510$, $\beta = 2.53$ (2.525) **A2**

Note: Award **A1A0** for coefficients reversed or unspecified.

Award **A1A0** for $\alpha = 1.77$, $\beta = -4.23$

[2 Marks]

- (b) 10 mols is outside the domain of values given by the data OR “extrapolation” **R1**
 not appropriate **A1**

[2 Marks]

- (c) (i) evaluation of **their** linear function **A1**
 4.06 mm (4.055)

[1 Mark]

(ii) **METHOD 1**

investigating derivative of $bC + aD$ **M1**

$$\frac{d}{dt}(bC + aD)$$

substituting differential equations

$$= b \frac{dC}{dt} + a \frac{dD}{dt} \quad \text{A1}$$

$$= -abCD + abCD = 0$$

either integration OR stating that zero derivative demonstrates a constant expression **R1**

therefore $bC + aD$ is constant **AG**

METHOD 2

dividing the differential equations **M1**

$$\frac{-aCD}{bCD} = \frac{-a}{b} = \frac{dC}{dD}$$

integration of their differential equation **M1**

$$C = -\frac{a}{b}D + k \quad \text{A1}$$

$$bC + aD = K$$

Note: Their differential equation may be inverted with appropriate integration.

Condone the use of the same arbitrary constant used in both equations.

therefore $bC + aD$ is constant **AG**

continued...

Question 2 continued

METHOD 3

Setting CD s equal

M1

$$-\frac{1}{a} \frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{1}{b} \frac{dD}{dt}$$

Integrating with respect to t

M1

$$-\frac{1}{a} C = \frac{1}{b} D + k$$

A1

$$bC + aD = K$$

therefore $bC + aD$ is constant

AG

[3 Marks]

(iii) substitute initial values or their c(i)

(M1)

$$4.06a + 0.1b = 3b + 0.1a$$

$$3.96a = 2.9b$$

$$a = 0.733b \quad (a = 0.733429...b)$$

A1

Note: Accept $a = 0.732b$ from use of 4.06

[2 Marks]

(iv) $bC + 0.733bD = 0.1b + 2.97b = 3.07b$

$$C = 3.07 - 0.733D$$

A1

[1 Mark]

(v) restating differential equation using **their** answer to part c(iv)

A1

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = bD(3.07 - 0.733D)$$

[1 Mark]

continued...

Question 2 continued

- (d) substituting h and $D(t)$ into formula for $D(t+5)$ (M1)

$$D(t+5) \approx D(t) + 5 \times 0.025D(t)(3.08 - 0.8D(t))$$

Note: Any sensible notation is acceptable, such as D_{n+1} and D_n or y_{n+1} and y_n .

evidence of correct use of Euler's method

(A1)

t	D	D'
0	0.1	0.0075
5	0.1375	0.010209
10	0.188547	0.013807
15	0.257582	0.018507
20	0.350117	0.024507
25	0.472654	0.031926
30	0.632285	0.040690
35	0.835736	0.050383
40	1.087649	0.060089
45	1.388096	0.068347
50	1.729832	0.073351
55	2.096586	0.073524
60	2.464204	0.068298
65	2.805692	0.058600
70	3.098693	0.046561
75	3.3315	0.034548
80	3.504238	0.024233

Note: Award **A1** for any correct intermediate value of D seen from the table for $t = 5, 10, \dots$

$$D(80) \approx 3.50$$

A1

[3 Marks]

continued...

Question 2 continued

- (e) attempting to correct from sample to population using a factor of $\frac{n}{n-1}$ **M1**

$$\frac{n}{n-1} \times s_n^2$$

0.0784 (0.0784285...) and 0.0440 (0.0440357...) **A1**

Note: Award **M1A0** for use of $n = 30$, (0.0757 and 0.0425).

[2 Marks]

- (f) (i) (pooled) two-sample **A1**
 t -test **A1**

Note: The **A** marks may be awarded independently.

[2 Marks]

- (ii) $H_0 : \mu_A = \mu_B$ **A1**

$$H_A : \mu_A \neq \mu_B$$
 A1

Note: Allow hypotheses expressed in words, as long as reference to population means is clearly present.

[2 Marks]

- (iii) $p = 0.0276$ (0.0275972...) **A2**

Note: Award **A1** for unpooled p -value of 0.0282148...

Note: Do not **FT** from part (e).

$$p < 0.05$$
 A1

reject H_0 at 5% significance level **A1**

Note: Allow max **A0A1ftA1ft** from an incorrect p -value.

[4 Marks]

- (iv) suitable assertion: **R1**

colony diameter / underlying distribution is normally distributed

sample A and sample B are independent, OR the populations are independent.

[1 Mark]

Total [26 marks]