

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE In Biology A Salters Nuffield (9BN0) Paper 03: General and Practical Applications in Biology

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## **General Marking Guidance**

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
1(a)	An explanation that makes reference to two of the following:		(2)
	to pump blood around blood vessels (1)	IGNORE to move blood IGNORE to move blood around the body	
	enabling mass transport (1)	ALLOW a description e.g. 'needed to carry oxygen to where it is used'	
	therefore overcoming the limitations of diffusion (1)	e.g. 'organism is too large for {substances/gases/glucose} to diffuse directly to organs' / distance for diffusion is too great ALLOW surface area to volume ratio too small for diffusion	

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
1(b)(i)	An answer that makes reference to the following:		(1)
	• (heart / cardiac muscle) is myogenic (1)	IGNORE references to impulses / electrical signals	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
1(b)(ii)	An explanation that makes reference of the following:		(2)
	<ul> <li>the {pacemaker / SAN / sinoatrial node} is in the right atrium (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW depolarisation is initiated in the right atrium ALLOW no longer attached to the SAN	
	<ul> <li>(left atrium) cannot contract without impulses from the SAN (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW left atrium does not receive impulses needed to stimulate {contraction / beating}	

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
1(b)(iii)	An explanation that makes reference to two of the following:		(2)
	(heart / muscle cells) run out of oxygen (1)	ALLOW heart (muscle) does not have a blood supply (from the lungs)	
	• (aerobic) respiration stops (1)	ALLOW anaerobic respiration takes place	
	• (heart / muscle cells) stop making ATP (1)	ALLOW resulting in accumulation of lactic acid	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
2(a)		Example of calculation	(0)
	• finding r³ (1)	$125 / 5 \times 5 \times 5 / 5^3 / (^{10}/_2)^3$	(2)
	correct volume of neutrophil (1)	523 / 524 / 523.8 / 523.6 / 523.3	
		ALLOW 39 / 39.3 for both marks (from 1/8 <sup>th</sup> volume given for monocyte)	
	NB Check table and clip below table	Correct answer with no working gains full marks	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
2(b)(i)	An answer that makes reference to the following:  • {engulfing / ingesting / endocytosis} of {pathogen / cell debris / bacteria / virus / fungi / microbes}	IGNORE foreign bodies / cell unqualified	(1)

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
2(b)(ii)	An explanation that makes reference to the following:		
	<ul> <li>(monocytes / macrophages) { phagocytose / digest / break down} { virus / pathogen} (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW both can phagocytose {virus / pathogen}	(3)
	<ul> <li>(monocytes / macrophages) present { virus / antigens} to T cells (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW converse for neutrophils	
	<ul> <li>(produce) cytokines involved in the immune response (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW examples of role of cytokines e.g. activate B cells	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
3(a)		Example of calculation	
	• correct length (1)	$108 \div 1.8 = 60 \text{ (mm)}$	(1)
	NB watch out for incorrect 6.0		

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
3(b)(i)	• correct change calculated (1)	Example of calculation  9.6 - 2 = 7.6  ALLOW 7.4 / 7.5	(2)
	correct percentage decrease (1)	79	
		ALLOW 77.9 to 79.2	
		Correct answer with no working gains full marks	

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
3(b)(ii)	An explanation that makes reference to three of the following:		(3)
	as time increased number of bites decreased (1)	ALLOW up to 6 minutes the number of bites (per minute) decreases IGNORE over time fish stopped biting at the brine shrimp	
	<ul> <li>because the stickleback are unable to get to the brine shrimps (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW because stimulus was not rewarded ALLOW fish realises it cannot {eat / get to} the shrimp	
	therefore they have become habituated (1)	IGNORE description of mechanism of habituation	
	• to avoid wasting energy (1)	IGNORE reference to brine shrimp no longer being a threat	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
	<ul> <li>An answer that makes reference to four of the following:</li> <li>place a breeding { pair of / male} (sticklebacks) in a tank (1)</li> <li>allow fish to acclimatise (1)</li> <li>introduce another male (1)</li> <li>method of keeping (males) apart (1)</li> <li>record number of attacks { at the sticklebacks / each minute} (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW red throat male for breeding male  ALLOW control of sensible appropriate variable e.g. same age of fish / temperature /pH  ALLOW use of {pictures / models} of fish  e.g. use a glass tube / sheet of glass / adjacent tank  ALLOW bites for attacks  ALLOW observe duration of {biting / attack} IGNORE observe behaviour	(4)
	compare results using male with a red throat and without a red throat (1)	ALLOW compare results for breeding male and non-breeding male ALLOW compare results during breeding season and non-breeding season ALLOW compare competing male with a female	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
4(a)	An explanation that makes reference to two of the following:		(2)
	<ul> <li>dipole allows water molecules to {form hydrogen bonds / bond with each other} (1)</li> </ul>	IGNORE strength of bonds	
	<ul> <li>{heat / energy} is used to break bonds (between water molecules) (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW high latent heat of evaporation / high latent heat of vaporisation	
	<ul> <li>evaporation of water causes {cooling / removal of heat} (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW evaporative cooling ALLOW sweat for water	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
4(b)	An answer that makes reference to the following:  • (rate of) sweating increases with increasing (environmental) temperature (1)	ALLOW converse MP1 and MP2 ALLOW positive correlation described	(4)
	(at any temperature) sweating is greater with exercise (than at rest) (1)	ALLOW description e.g. lowest rate of sweating when resting, higher rate of sweating during exercise	
	{ no / little} difference between exercise and exercising (twice as) vigorously (on rate of sweating) (1)		
	<ul> <li>increase in sweating begins at a lower (environmental) temperature during exercise (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW description e.g. { little/no} increase in sweating rate when resting until external temperature is above 34°C but starts to increase at 33°C during exercise	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
4(c)	A description that makes reference to four of the following:  • by {homeostasis / a negative feedback response} (1)	IGNORE description of feedback response	(4)
	<ul> <li>thermoreceptors { in the skin / hypothalamus} detect a rise in temperature (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW liver / skeletal muscle IGNORE body	
	<ul> <li>send impulses to the {heat loss centre / thermoregulatory centre / hypothalamus} (1)</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>{heat loss centre / thermoregulatory centre / hypothalamus} sends impulses to the sweat glands (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW {heat loss centre / hypothalamus} coordinates motor response to sweat glands	
	to increase sweat production (1)	ALLOW to release of sweat	

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
5(a)(i)		ALLOW oligodendrocyte ALLOW phonetic spelling e.g. schwon / swan /shwann	(1)

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
5(a)(ii)	A description that makes reference to the following:		(2)
	<ul> <li>provides (electrical) insulation (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW prevents { diffusion / movement} of ions IGNORE reference to membranes	
	<ul> <li>enables saltatory conduction (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW description of saltatory conduction ALLOW longer local circuits	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
5(a)(iii)	A description that makes reference to five of the following:		(5)
	• sodium (ion) channels open (1)		(3)
	• (then) sodium ions diffuse in (1)	ALLOW into neurone / axon DO NOT ALLOW diffuse into membrane	
	• (causing) depolarisation of the membrane (1)		
	<ul> <li>sodium (ion) channels close and potassium (ion) channels open (1)</li> </ul>		
	• (then) potassium ions diffuse out (1)	ALLOW out of neurone / axon DO NOT ALLOW diffuse out of membrane	
	• (causing) repolarisation of the membrane (1)		

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
5(b)(i)	• 1.3 : 1 / 1.30 : 1 / 1 : 0.77 / 1 : 0.768	if answer refers to B: A allow 1: 1.3 e.g.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
5(b)(ii)	An explanation that makes reference to the following:		
	relevant damage to cardiovascular system (1)	ALLOW reasonable examples e.g. development of atherosclerosis / atheroma / oedema / reduced gas exchange in lungs	(3)
	<ul> <li>reduced { blood flow / oxygen supply / glucose supply} to (peripheral) nerves (1)</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>insufficient (aerobic) respiration takes place (so neurones die) (1)</li> </ul>	e.g. nerve cells do not receive enough oxygen for respiration gets MP2 and 3	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
6(a)	An explanation that makes reference to three of the following:		(3)
	• due to {chemical stimulus / transcription factors} (1)		
	activating specific genes (1)	ALLOW (causing) differential gene expression ALLOW some genes are {activated /switched on} and some are {deactivated / switched off}	
	<ul><li>resulting in synthesis of {proteins / enzymes} (1)</li><li>involved in the synthesis of melanin (1)</li></ul>	ALLOW translation of mRNA to produce protein	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
6(b)(i)	change in the base sequence in the { DNA / gene}		(1)

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
6(b)(ii)	An answer that makes reference to the following:  • long fin is dominant (trait / allele) (1)	DO NOT ACCEPT answers referring to dominant recessive genes	(2)
	spots is a recessive (trait / allele) (1)	IGNORE reference to stripes and short fin phenotype	

Question number	Answer	Additional guid	Additional guidance			Mark
6(c)(i)	An answer that makes reference to the following:	DdNn	Ddnn	ddNn	ddnn	(2)
	<ul><li>correct genotypes (1)</li><li>correct phenotypes (1)</li></ul>	stripes and long fins	stripes and short fins	spots and long fins	spots and short fins	
		ALLOW any or	der of letters in	ı genotype		

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
6(c)(ii)	An answer that makes reference to the following:	Example of calculation	
	• correct O-E values (1)	ALLLOW evidence of finding difference e.g. 270-288 =-18	(3)
	• correct (O-E) <sup>2</sup> ÷ E values (1)	ALLOW evidence of finding (O-E) <sup>2</sup> ÷ E values e.g. (270-288) <sup>2</sup> ÷288 for 2 marks	
	<ul> <li>correct value for χ<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	7.73	
		ALLOW any correctly rounded value between 7.7 and 7.729167	
		Correct answer with no working gains full marks	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
6(c)(iii)	<ul> <li>An answer that makes reference to two of the following:</li> <li>the calculated value is less than { the critical value at 3 degrees of freedom / 7.82} (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW less than the p=0.05 value at 3 degrees of freedom ALLOW consequential error if a different calculated value to 7.73 is quoted	(2)
	<ul> <li>the (observed) results are not (significantly) different from the expected results (1)</li> <li>the two traits are inherited independently (1)</li> </ul>	IGNORE reference to null hypothesis / Ho	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
7(a)	A description that makes reference to two of the following:		(2)
	• ( <i>M tuberculosis</i> ) survive inside macrophages (1)	ALLOW description of how { <i>M tuberculosis</i> / bacteria} survive e.g. have thick waxy (coat / cell wall) / (macrophage) lysosomes cannot fuse with the (phagocytic) vacuole	
	<ul> <li>(M tuberculosis) {survive / remain dormant} in tubercles (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW antigen presentation { is disrupted /	
	( <i>M tuberculosis</i> ) { inhibit T helper cells / supress the (acquired) immune response} (1)	does not occur}	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Question number
7(b)(i)	a protein that controls { the activation / transcription} of genes	ALLOW protein that binds with RNA polymerase to start transcription ALLOW protein that forms a transcription initiation complex to start transcription ALLOW binds to {operator / repressor / promoter} region  IGNORE factor / molecule / chemical  IGNORE reference to DNA methylation / histone acetylation	(1)

Question number	Indicative content
7(b)(ii)	Answers will be credited according to candidate's deployment of knowledge and understanding of the material in relation to the qualities and skills outlined in the generic mark scheme.  The indicative content below is not prescriptive, and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Additional content included in the response must be scientific and relevant.  Indicative content
	Bullet points STAT3 is involved in gene regulation of macrophages and T helper cells The SNP1 and SNP2 {polymorphisms / mutations} are in non-coding part of gene  Table SNP1 AA and (SNP2) TT genotype are more common in people with TB AB allow people with AA and TT genotype more likely to {have / be infected with} TB AB and TT genotypes are more common in people with severe TB than mild TB AB and TT genotypes are more common in people with severe TB than mild TB AB and TT genotypes are more common in people with severe TB than mild TB AB arror bars for TT do not overlap / error bars for AA do overlap  Graph 2 White blood cells from people with AA genotype are less effective at killing mycobacteria no results for SNP2 (polymorphism)  Comments on the results Some results do not have error bars / some error bars overlap effects are relatively small data is incomplete / examples of missing data no information about combination of SNP1 and SNP2 polymorphisms  Conclusions The SNP1 and SNP2 affects effectiveness of immune response to mycobacteria genotype at SNP1 and SNP2 affects effectiveness of immune response to mycobacteria
	macrophage (and I cell) activity affected     genotype at SNP1 and SNP2 affects susceptibility to infection/severity of infection

Level	Mark	Descriptor	Additional Guidance
0	0	No awardable content	Nothing credit worthy
1	1 - 3	Limited scientific judgement made with a focus on mainly just one method, with a few strengths/weaknesses identified.  A conclusion may be attempted, demonstrating isolated elements of biological knowledge and understanding but with limited evidence to support the judgement being made.	<ul> <li>One source of information</li> <li>Two different sources of information or one source and one interpretation</li> <li>Three different sources of information</li> </ul>
2	4 - 6	A scientific judgement is made through the application of relevant evidence, with strengths and weaknesses of each method identified.  A conclusion is made, demonstrating linkages to elements of biological knowledge and understanding, with occasional evidence to support the judgement being made.	<ul> <li>Two different sources of information + one interpretation</li> <li>Three different sources of information + one interpretation- some irrelevant / incorrect information</li> <li>Three different sources of information + one interpretation</li> </ul>
3	7 - 9	A scientific judgement is made which is supported throughout by sustained application of relevant evidence from the analysis and interpretation of the scientific information.  A conclusion is made, demonstrating sustained linkages to biological knowledge and understanding with evidence to support the judgement being made.	<ul> <li>Three different sources of information + two interpretation</li> <li>Three different sources of information + three interpretation- some irrelevant / incorrect information</li> <li>Three different sources of information + three interpretation</li> </ul>

Sources of information:		Interpretation:	
<ul> <li>location of SNP sites</li> <li>genotype prevalence table</li> <li>genotype / severity graph</li> <li>bacteria culture graph</li> </ul>	(L) (T) (S) (B)	<ul> <li>comment on validity of the results</li> <li>overall conclusion about AA / TT based on more than one source of information</li> <li>consider role of STAT3 in immune response / macrophage activity in TB</li> </ul>	(V) (C) (R)

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
8(a)	• GPP = NPP + R  NPP = GPP - R  NPP + R = GPP  GPP - R = NPP	ALLOW correct rearrangement of equation  ALLOW net primary productivity for NPP  gross primary productivity for GPP  respiration for R	(1)

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
8(b)	reduced NADP	ALLOW NADPH / NADPH <sub>2</sub> / NADPH+H <sup>+</sup> IGNORE reference to electrons / e-	(1)

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
8(c)	An explanation that makes reference to three of the following:		(3)
	• contains { phosphate / P-O-P} bonds (1)	ALLOW contain high energy bonds	
	that when hydrolysed {releases / provides supplies} energy (1)	ALLOW hydration of released phosphates releases energy ALLOW (hydrolysis) is exothermic IGNORE ATP -> ADP + Pi IGNORE energy is produced	
	<ul> <li>description of how energy is used (1)</li> </ul>	e.g. to {form / break} bonds / form {carbohydrates / sugars} / used in light independent reactions / for metabolic reactions	
	<ul> <li>ATP {immediate source of energy /releases energy rapidly} (1)</li> </ul>	e.g. quickly hydrolysed	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
8(d)	A description that makes reference to four of the following:  • CO <sub>2</sub> combined with RuBP (1)	ALLOW with ribulose bisphosphate	(4)
	by RUBISCO (1)	ALLOW With Houlose bispilospilate	
	forming molecules of GP (1)	ALLOW glycerate 3-phosphate	
	<ul> <li>each GP is converted to GALP using ATP and reduced NADP (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate ALLOW NADPH / NADPH <sub>2</sub> for reduced NADP	
	GALP used to form { glucose / hexose sugars} (1)	IGNORE other molecules	

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
8(e)	An answer that makes reference to four of the following:		(4)
	isolate chloroplasts (1)	ALLOW use Hill reaction / experiment	
	<ul> <li>incubate (chloroplasts) in solution of iron ferricyanide (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW add iron ferricyanide	
	identification of one abiotic factor to control (1)	e.g. temperature / light intensity / volume or concentration of reagent	
	place chloroplasts in the light (1)	asinosim anon or roagoni	
	collect (and test) gas produced / observe decolourisation of DCPIP (1)	ALLOW record time for DCPIP to decolourise ALLOW measure volume of oxygen produced	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
8(f)	An explanation that makes reference to four of the following:		(4)
	large surface area of thylakoid (membrane) (1)	ALLOW grana / granum with large surface area ALLOW increases for large	
	<ul> <li>thylakoid (membrane) contain photosynthetic pigments to absorb light (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW contains {chlorophyll / photosystems} to absorb light	
	<ul> <li>thylakoid (membrane) enables photophosphorylation</li> <li>(1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW example e.g. contain electron transport chain molecules / enable generation of a proton gradient / contain ATP synthase	
	stroma contains enzymes for light independent reaction (1)	ALLOW example of enzyme	
	<ul> <li>stroma contains { DNA / ribosomes} to produce { enzymes / proteins} involved in photosynthesis (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW to produce a named protein e.g chlorophyll / electron transfer chain protein	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
8(g)	<ul><li>An explanation that makes reference to three of the following:</li><li>by photophosphorylation (1)</li></ul>	IGNORE reference to mitochondria	(3)
	• (transfer of) electrons releases energy (1)		
	<ul> <li>that is used to {pump / move} protons into the thylakoid (space / lumen) (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW H <sup>+</sup> for proton DO NOT ALLOW diffuse	
	<ul> <li>protons { diffuse / move back down concentration gradient} through ATP synthase (1)</li> </ul>	DO NOT ALLOW pumped	
	which forms ATP from ADP and inorganic phosphate (1)	ALLOW which phosphorylates ADP	

Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number	An avalenation that makes reference to the following.		
8(h)	<ul> <li>An explanation that makes reference to the following:</li> <li>change in the {3D structure / tertiary structure / bonds formed} (1)</li> <li>changes shape of (chlorophyll) light absorbing region (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW change in amino acid sequence / primary structure	(3)
	changing the quantity of energy needed to {release / excite} an electron (1)	ALLOW so wavelength of light absorbed {decreases / correct stated change in wavelength} e.g. 870 to 716 / 716 to 680 / 870 to 680 IGNORE unqualified change in wavelength of light absorbed	

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
8(i)	<ul> <li>An explanation that makes reference to the following:</li> <li>compare the amino acid sequences (in catalase and the oxygen evolving complex) (1)</li> <li>compare the base sequences of the {DNA / genes} (for catalase and the oxygen evolving complex) (1)</li> <li>in organisms from different stages in {evolution / phylogenetic tree} (1)</li> </ul>	ALLOW primary structure	(4)
	the further back in {evolution / the phylogenetic tree} the more similar the sequences will be (1)	ALLOW converse ALLOW similar sequences in catalase and oxygen-evolving complex support the suggestion	

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Question	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
number			
8(j)	two lines one for catalase and one for peroxidase with slope for catalase steeper than that for peroxidase (1)		(3)
	axes correct and labelled (1)	e.g. x- axis {substrate / peroxide / H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> } concentration	
		e.g. y-axis rate of oxygen production / rate of reaction	
	• suitable axis units (1)	e.g x-axis {g cm <sup>-3</sup> / mol dm <sup>-3</sup> / vol / %}	
		e.g. y-axis {g s <sup>-1</sup> / mol s <sup>-1</sup> / mol dm <sup>-3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> / s <sup>-1</sup> }	
		ALLOW any units of mass, moles and time	
		IGNORE a.u.	
		e.g. gains all three marks	
		rate of reaction / s <sup>-1</sup> peroxidase	
		substrate concentration / mmol dm <sup>-3</sup>	