

### Cambridge International AS & A Level

PHYSICS
Paper 3 Advanced Practical Skills 1
February/March 2025
MARK SCHEME
Maximum Mark: 40

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

**Published** 

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

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| Question | Answer  | Marks |
|----------|---|-------|
| 1(a)     | Value of <i>x</i> in range 0.440 to 0.460 m.  | 1     |
|          | Value of <i>I</i> in range 0.0300 to 0.0600 A   | 1     |
| 1(b)     | Six sets of readings of x and I (different x) with correct trend and without help scores 4 marks, five sets scores 3 marks etc.   | 4     |
|          | Correct trend is <i>I</i> increases as <i>x</i> increases.  |       |
|          | Range: $x_{\min} \leq 0.200 \text{ m} \text{ and } x_{\max} \geqslant 0.800 \text{ m}$  | 1     |
|          | Column headings: Each column heading must contain a quantity and a unit where appropriate. The presentation of quantity and unit must conform to accepted scientific convention e.g. $1/I/A^{-1}$ . | 1     |
|          | Consistency: All values of x must be given to the nearest mm.   | 1     |
|          | Significant figures: All values of 1 $\!\!\!/ I$ given to the same s.f. as (or one more than) the s.f. in raw $I$   | 1     |
|          | Calculation: Correct calculation of 1 / I   | 1     |

| Question | Answer   | Marks |
|----------|--|-------|
| 1(c)(i)  | Axes:  | 1     |
|          | Axes must be labelled <b>with the correct quantities.</b> Scales must be chosen so that the plotted points occupy at least half the graph grid in both the <i>x</i> and <i>y</i> directions. Scale markings are no more than 2 cm (one large square) apart. Sensible scales must be used, no awkward scales (e.g. 3:10 or fractions).  |       |
|          | Plotting of points:  | 1     |
|          | All observations <b>in the table</b> must be plotted on the grid. Diameter of plotted points must be $\leq$ half a small square. Points must be plotted to an accuracy of half a small square in both $x$ and $y$ directions.  |       |
|          | Quality: Trend of points must be negative. All points in the table (at least 5) must be plotted on the grid for this mark to be awarded.   | 1     |
|          | It must be possible to draw a straight line that is within $\pm 2.0$ cm (to scale) on the $x$ axis (normally x-axis) of <u>all</u> plotted points.   |       |
| 1(c)(ii) | Line of best fit:  'Best fit' is judged by the balance of all points on the grid (at least 5 points) about the candidate's line.  There must be an even distribution of points either side of the line along the full length.  Lines must not be kinked or thicker than half a square.  Some candidates may choose to identify an anomalous point. If they identify <b>one</b> point as anomalous (e.g. by circling or labelling) then this point is to be disregarded when judging the line of best fit. There must be at least 5 points left after the | 1     |

| Question  | Answer   | Marks |
|-----------|--|-------|
| 1(c)(iii) | Gradient: gradient sign on answer line consistent with graph drawn.  | 1     |
|           | The hypotenuse of the triangle used should be greater than half the length of the drawn line. Both read-offs must be accurate to half a small square in both the $x$ and $y$ directions. Method of calculation must be correct, not $\Delta x/\Delta y$ .  |       |
|           | <i>y</i> -intercept: <b>Either</b> Intercept read directly from the graph, with read-off at $x = 0$ , accurate to half a small square in $y$ direction.  Or  Correct read-off from a point on the line is substituted into $y = mx + c$ or an equivalent expression.  Read-off accurate to half a small square in both $x$ and $y$ directions. | 1     |
| 1(d)      | a equal to candidate's gradient value <b>and</b> $b$ equal to candidate's intercept value. Values must not be written as fractions or to only one significant figure.  | 1     |
|           | Units for <i>a</i> <b>and</b> <i>b</i> correct and consistent with readings (e.g. m <sup>-1</sup> A <sup>-1</sup> for <i>a</i> and A <sup>-1</sup> for <i>b</i> )  | 1     |
| 1(e)      | Correct calculation of P   | 1     |

| Question  | Answer  | Marks |
|-----------|---|-------|
| 2(a)      | Raw L to nearest mm and final value for L in range 11.0 to 13.0 cm, with unit.  | 1     |
|           | Value for raw $T_0$ to the nearest degree   | 1     |
| 2(b)(i)   | Values for raw s and raw d to the nearest mm, with units.   | 1     |
| 2(b)(ii)  | Value of raw $H_2$ to the nearest mm and less than $H_1$ , with units   | 1     |
| 2(b)(ii)  | Value of $T$ greater than $T_0$   | 1     |
| 2(b)(iii) | Absolute uncertainty in $H_1$ – $H_2$ in range 2 to 4 mm Correct method of calculation to find percentage uncertainty e.g. absolute uncertainty/value from <b>(b)(iii))</b> × 100. If repeated readings have been taken, then the uncertainty can be half the range if the working is clearly shown, but <b>not</b> zero if values are equal. | 1     |
| 2(b)(iv)  | Correct calculation of $\Delta L$ , with unit   | 1     |
| 2(c)(i)   | Second value of L   | 1     |
| 2(c)(ii)  | Second values of $H_1$ , $H_2$ and $T$  | 1     |
|           | Quality: Second L greater than first $L$ ,<br>And both $H_1$ – $H_2$ values positive and second $H_1$ - $H_2$ greater than first $H_1$ – $H_2$  | 1     |
| 2(d)      | Two values of $k$ calculated correctly. Values not written as fractions or given to only one significant figure.  | 1     |
| 2(e)      | Calculation of percentage difference between candidate's two $k$ values. Comparison of percentage difference with 30% leading to a consistent conclusion.   | 1     |

| Question | Answer  | Marks |
|----------|---|-------|
| 2(f)(i)  | A Two readings are not enough to draw a (valid) conclusion, e.g. reference to a relationship  | 4     |
|          | B Difficult to measure <u>s</u> and / or <u>d</u> with reason, e.g. parallax error / difficult to judge centre of nail / bolt   |       |
|          | C Difficult to see mark inside measuring cylinder when adding water, with reason.   |       |
|          | D Problem with measurement of temperature explained: E.g. Water temperature may vary with position / room temperature changes affect T−T₀ in 2nd set of values / temperature varies with time, so measurement of H₂ at known temperature is difficult |       |
|          | Pipe above mark heats up:     E.g. Conduction or steam may heat parts of pipe above mark  |       |
|          | F (H₁ − H₂) has large percentage uncertainty  |       |
|          | G Difficult to measure <i>L</i> with reason: E.g. because end of pipe is uneven / not square / pipe is curved   |       |
|          | H Difficult to measure <i>H</i> with reason: e.g. <u>rule</u> / knocks/moves/displaces wooden strip   |       |
|          | 1 mark for each point up to a maximum of 4.   |       |

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|-------------|-----|---|-------|
| Question    |     | Answer  | Marks |
| 2(f)(ii)    | Α   | Take more readings and plot a graph / calculate more k values and compare.  | 4     |
|             | В   | Measure s and / or d before setting up apparatus  |       |
|             | С   | Use mark on outside of measuring cylinder   |       |
|             | D   | Use a stirrer / (thermostatically controlled) water bath  |       |
|             | Е   | Record / film / video with thermometer, metre rule and wooden strip in view.  |       |
|             | F   | Use shorter measuring cylinder  |       |
|             | G   | Use longer L value / shorter s and/or longer d / travelling microscope for (H <sub>1</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> ) directly |       |
|             | Н   | Sand end of pipe  |       |
|             | I   | Use pipe-cutter (to ensure square cut)  |       |
|             | J   | Clamp rule  |       |
|             | 1 n | nark for each point up to a maximum of 4.   |       |