



ASSESSMENT and  
QUALIFICATIONS  
ALLIANCE

# Mark scheme January 2003

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## GCE

### Archaeology

### Unit ACH1

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## Unit 1: Survey & Excavation (Sources and Methods)

### Magor Pill

#### Question 1

Study **Figure 1**.

On the first inspection in 1994, only a few timbers of the wreck were visible. The following summer a field evaluation was undertaken.

Explain what you understand by ‘field evaluation’. (5 marks)

- |     |  |            |
|-----|--|------------|
| L1: | Very generalised answers or the recycling of the caption in Fig. 1 or the restatement of the phrase in a different order | <b>1</b>   |
| L2: | Accurate definition (with generic example)   | <b>2-3</b> |
| L3: | Accurate definition with specific example from this site   | <b>4-5</b> |

Expect candidates to consider: exploratory nature; nature of threat; health and safety; preservation; potential; small finds; etc.

Place in level determined by amount of detail given.

#### Question 2

Study **Figures 2 and 3**.

What practical difficulties would archaeologists expect to encounter in surveying, excavating and recording this wreck prior to removal and how might they overcome them? (12 marks)

- |     |  |              |
|-----|--|--------------|
| L1: | Lists or very short responses of generic underwater problems   | <b>1-3</b>   |
| L2: | Lists or very short responses of specific problems on this site or one explained with suggestions of how could be tackled  | <b>3-5</b>   |
| L3: | Short responses about specific problems covering at least two aspects. Suggestions of how they could be tackled at top end. Also a highly developed explanation of a range of problems encountered | <b>6-9</b>   |
| L4: | Several relevant problems discussed covering all three aspects with some suggestions of strategy. Expect clear linkage to sources at top end   | <b>10-12</b> |

Expect to see dangerous tides/mud, erosion, limited time to excavate, keeping the site dry/clear of new mud, loss of organic deposits, physical discomfort, benchmarks etc.

#### Question 3

Study **Figures 2 and 3**.

Identify A, B and C as marked on **Figure 2**. (5 marks)

One mark each for: Stempost; Floor Timber; F3; Port Timber; either of P7/P8/P9.

One mark if candidate simply says “timbers”

**5**

**Question 4**

Study **Figures 2, 3, 4(a), 4(b) and 4(c)**.

Describe the process of recovery used here and explain why the archaeologists chose these methods.

(8 marks)

L1:	Near verbatim recycling of captions or very generalised answers	<b>1</b>
L2:	Describes using the sources at face value (top end for explanation)	<b>2-4</b>
L3:	L2 plus filling in some of the gaps between them with valid explanation of rationale	<b>5-6</b>
L4:	Plausible account of full process with convincing explanations	<b>7-8</b>

Credit use of introductory material to discuss recovery of particular elements e.g. iron ore or organic samples and consideration of pre-cradle elements of excavation at L3.

**Question 5**

Study **Figures 5(a), 5(b) and 5(c)**.

Discuss how these and other sources could help an archaeologist conducting a desktop study of the Magor Pill. (10 marks)

L1:	Generalised responses or lists including some broadly relevant sources	<b>1-2</b>
L2:	The utility of one type of relevant record outlined clearly or more than one superficially	<b>3-5</b>
L3:	The utility of several types of relevant records clearly developed	<b>6-8</b>
L4:	The utility of a range of relevant records drawn from the sources and the candidates' own knowledge	<b>9-10</b>

Above Level 1 would expect more than the prompts. Credit any types of medieval documents or artistic sources which could potentially exist and have details of ownership, trade, chronicles, shipbuilding, tax, local laws, inventories etc. Also credit mention of geological maps and existing reports on local harbours or similar finds.

**Question 6**

After excavation it was decided to investigate the nature of the medieval landscape in the inter-tidal area around the wreck. A number of medieval fish traps had also been identified nearby.

What reconnaissance techniques might be effective in surveying such an area which is partially or wholly underwater? (10 marks)

L1:	Lists or very short responses including some relevant methods	<b>1-3</b>
L2:	The appropriateness of one technique explained. Answers accompanied by a wide range of relevant but poorly developed methods awarded top of level	<b>4-7</b>
L3:	As L2 but more than one technique fully explained	<b>8-10</b>

Credit ideas from underwater survey or land-based survey where they could conceivably be relevant but beware of generic survey responses which are not made relevant. Discussion of use of GPS is relevant.

Expect: geophysics such as sonar, magnetometer (but beware of resistivity)

Diving, GPS, digital mapping, photogrammetry, core probing.

Allow for standard land-based methodology if justified in this case.