



General Certificate of Education

Physics 6451 *Specification A*

PHA5/W Astrophysics

Mark Scheme

2006 examination – June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Instructions to Examiners

- 1 Give due credit to alternative treatments which are correct. Give marks for what is correct; do not deduct marks because the attempt falls short of some ideal answer. Where marks are to be deducted for particular errors specific instructions are given in the marking scheme.
- 2 Do not deduct marks for poor written communication. Refer the script to the Awards meeting if poor presentation forbids a proper assessment. In each paper candidates may be awarded up to two marks for the Quality of Written Communication in cases of required explanation or description. Use the following criteria to award marks:
 - 2 marks: Candidates write legibly with accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation; the answer containing information that bears some relevance to the question and being organised clearly and coherently. The vocabulary should be appropriate to the topic being examined.
 - 1 mark: Candidates write with reasonably accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation; the answer containing some information that bears some relevance to the question and being reasonably well organised. Some of the vocabulary should be appropriate to the topic being examined.
 - 0 marks: Candidates who fail to reach the threshold for the award of one mark.
- 3 An arithmetical error in an answer should be marked AE thus causing the candidate to lose one mark. The candidate's incorrect value should be carried through all subsequent calculations for the question and, if there are no subsequent errors, the candidate can score all remaining marks (indicated by ticks). These subsequent ticks should be marked CE (consequential error).
- 4 With regard to incorrect use of significant figures, normally two, three or four significant figures will be acceptable. Exceptions to this rule occur if the data in the question is given to, for example, five significant figures as in values of wavelength or frequency in questions dealing with the Doppler effect, or in atomic data. In these cases up to two further significant figures will be acceptable. The maximum penalty for an error in significant figures is **one mark per paper**. When the penalty is imposed, indicate the error in the script by SF and, in addition, write SF opposite the mark for that question on the front cover of the paper to obviate imposing the penalty more than once per paper.
- 5 No penalties should be imposed for incorrect or omitted units at intermediate stages in a calculation or which are contained in brackets in the marking scheme. Penalties for unit errors (incorrect or omitted units) are imposed only at the stage when the final answer to a calculation is considered. The maximum penalty is **one mark per question**.
- 6 All other procedures, including the entering of marks, transferring marks to the front cover and referrals of scripts (other than those mentioned above) will be clarified at the standardising meeting of examiners.

PHA5/W: Astrophysics

Question 1		
(a)	$R (= r_0 A^{1/3}) = 1.3 \times 10^{-5} \times (238)^{1/3} \checkmark$ $= 8.0(6) \times 10^{-15} \text{ m } \checkmark$	2
(b)	<p>(use of inverse square law e.g. $\frac{I_1}{I_2} = \left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right)^2$ gives)</p> $10 = \left(\frac{x_2}{0.03}\right)^2 \checkmark$ $x = 0.095 \text{ m } \checkmark (0.0949 \text{ m})$	2
(c)	<p>(use of $A = A_0 \exp(-\lambda t)$ gives) $0.85 = 1.0 \exp(-\lambda 52) \checkmark$</p> $\lambda = \frac{\ln(100/0.85)}{52} \checkmark$ $= 3.1(3) \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \checkmark$	3
(d)	<p>it only emits γ rays (\checkmark) relevant properties of γ radiation e.g. may be detected outside the body/weak ioniser and causes little damage (\checkmark) it has a short enough half-life and will not remain active in the body after use (\checkmark) it has a long enough half-life to remain active during diagnosis (\checkmark) the substance has a toxicity that can be tolerated by the body (\checkmark) it may be prepared on site (\checkmark)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">any three $\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$</p>	3
	Total	10

Question 2		
(a)	(i) (use of $\theta = \frac{\lambda}{d}$ gives) $\frac{\theta_{\text{reflector}}}{\theta_{\text{refractor}}} = \frac{d_{\text{refractor}}}{d_{\text{reflector}}} \checkmark$ $= \left(\frac{0.9}{1.52}\right) = 0.59(2) \checkmark$ (ii) use of, energy collected per sec \propto area $\propto d^2 \checkmark$ $\frac{P_{\text{refl}}}{P_{\text{refr}}} = \left(\frac{d_{\text{refl}}}{d_{\text{refr}}}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{1.52}{0.9}\right)^2 = 2.85 \checkmark$	max 3
(b)	(i) correct diagram showing four parallel co-axial rays, with outer rays brought to focus at a point closer to mirror than inner rays \checkmark (ii) (use of) parabolic mirror \checkmark	2
(c)	(i) correct diagram showing two mirrors, one concave, one convex \checkmark (ii) mirror blocks light so less light hits objective mirror \checkmark light diffracted passing secondary mirror affects image \checkmark	3
Total		8

Question 3		
(a)	silicon chip divided into picture elements (pixels) \checkmark incident photons release electrons \checkmark number liberated proportional to intensity \checkmark image identical to electron pattern \checkmark when exposure complete, charge processed to give image \checkmark	max 4
(b)	ratio of the number of photons falling on a device that produce a signal to the total number of photons falling on the device \checkmark $\geq 70\%$ (for CCD) \checkmark	2
Total		6

Question 4		
(a)	brightness (or apparent magnitude) of star from a distance of 10 pc ✓	1
(b) (i)	temperature from 50000 K to 2500 K ✓ absolute magnitude from +15 to -10 ✓	7
(ii)	S at 6000 K, and abs mag 5 ✓	
(iii)	<p>W above and to left of S ✓ X above and to right of S ✓ Y below and to right of S ✓ Z below and to right of S ✓</p>	
Total		8

Question 5		
(a)	(use of $m - M = 5 \log(d/10)$ gives) $3.54 - (-20.62) = 5 \log(d/10)$ ✓ $d = 6.7(9) \times 10^5 \text{ pc}$ ✓	2
(b)	use of $\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = -\frac{v}{c}$ ✓ $\Delta\lambda = -\frac{0.21121 \times 105 \times 10^3}{3.0 \times 10^8} = -7(4) \times 10^{-5}$ $\lambda' = 0.21121 - 7(4) \times 10^{-5} = 0.21114 \text{ m}$ ✓ (allow C.E. for incorrect value of $\Delta\lambda$)	2
(c)	$t\left(\frac{d}{v}\right) = \frac{6.79 \times 10^5 \times 3.08 \times 10^{16}}{105 \times 10^3}$ ✓ $= 2.0 \times 10^{17} \text{ s}$ ✓ ($1.99 \times 10^{17} \text{ s}$) (allow C.E. for value of d from (a))	2
Total		6

Quality of Written Communication: Q1 (d) and Q3 (a)	2
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