Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2026

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Biology
1SC0/ 1BF

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

Summer 2026
Question Paper Log Number P79192A
Publication Code 1SC0_1BF_2606_MS
All the material in this publication is copyright
© Pearson

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.

Subject specific marking guidance

Symbols,termsused in the markscheme

- Round brackets ( ): words inside round brackets are to aid understanding of the marking point but are not required to award the point
- Curly brackets { }: indicate the beginning and end of a list of alternatives (separated by obliques) where necessary to avoid confusion
- Oblique /: words or phrases separated by an oblique are alternatives to each other and either answer should receive full credit.
- ecf: indicates error carried forward which means that a wrong answer given in an early part of a question is used correctly to a later part of a question.

You will not see owtte (or words to that effect). Alternative correct wording should be credited in every answer unless the ms has specified specific.

The Additional Guidance column is used for extra guidance to clarify any points in the mark scheme. It may be used to indicate:

- what will not be accepted for that marking point in which case the phrase 'do not accept' will be alongside the relevant marking point
- it might have examples of possible acceptable answers which will be adjacent to that marking point

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
1(a)(i)	**Theonly correct answer is D location D** ***A****isnot correct because the oldest tools are not found at location A* ***B****isnot correct because the oldest tools are not found at location B* ***C****isnot correct because the oldest tools are not found at location C*	**(1)**	**AO2 1** **4.5**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
1(a)(ii)	(tool X is) **more** refined / has sharper edges		**(1)**	**AO2 1** **4.5**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
1(a)(iii)	Any two from: • fighting (1) • hunting (1) • for cutting / preparing food (1) • digging / making shelters / building / farming (1) • making other tools (1) • lighting fires (1)	accept as a weapon accept skinning animals accept chopping wood	**(2)**	**AO2 1** **4.5**

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
1(b)	• million (1) • Leakey (1) must be in correct order	**(2)**	**AO1 1** **4.4**

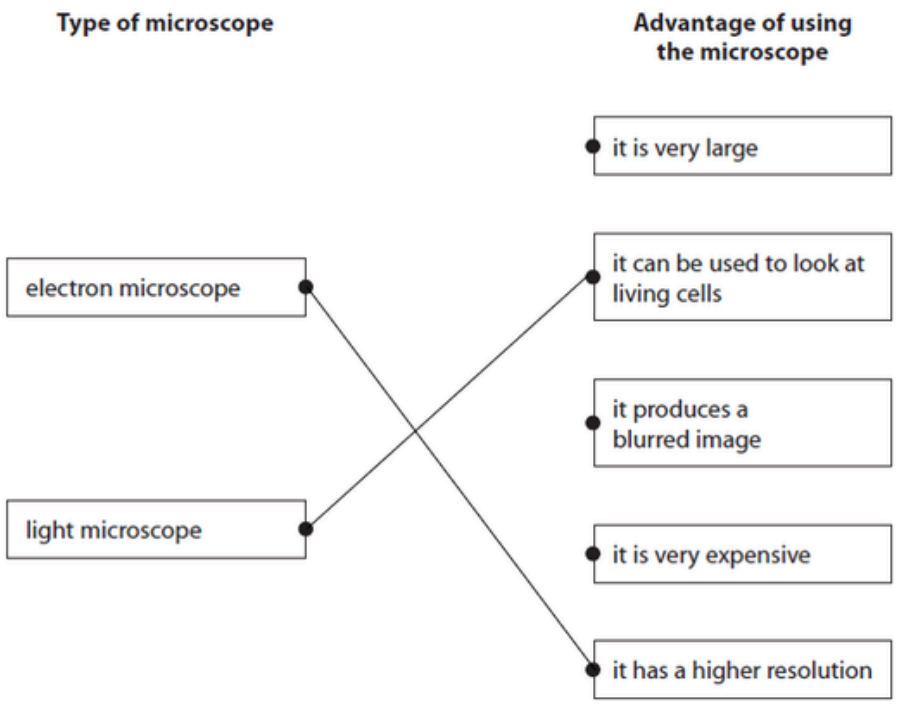
Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
1(c)	One from: • bred for desired characteristics (1) • asource of food (1) • working animals (1) • keep as pets (1)	accept more docile / less dangerous / more named resources accept farming / protection	**(1)**	**AO21** **4.8**

(Total for Question 1 = 7 marks)

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
2(a)(i)	**Theonly correct answer is B part W** ***A****isnot correct because part V is the objective lens* ***C****isnot correct because X is the focus control* ***D****isnot correct because Y is the lamp*	**(1)**	**AO1 2** **1.6**

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
2(a)(ii)	**Theonly correct answer is C part X** ***A****isnot correct because part V is the objective lens* ***B****isnot correct because part W is the eyepiece lens* ***D****isnot correct because part Y is the lamp*	**(1)**	**AO1 2** **1.6**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
2(b)	Adescription including three from: add• (a drop of) water to the **slide** (1) • place {cells / tissue} on a microscope **slide** (1) • add a drop of stain / dye (1) • place a coverslip on top of the cells (1)	accept liquid / solution accept sample / specimen accept iodine / named stain accept any correct use of tweezers (1) accept **thin** layer of cells (1)	**(3)**	**AO3 3a** **1.6**

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
2(c)	 do not award mark if two lines are drawn from electron microscope box donot award mark if two lines are drawn from light microscope box	**(2)**	**AO1 1** **1.3**

(Total for Question 2 = 7 marks)

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
3(a)(i)	**Theonly correct answer is D anaphase** ***A*** *isnot correct because the stage shown is not interphase* ***B*** *isnot correct because the stage shown is not metaphase* ***C*** *isnot correct because the stage shown is not prophase*	**(1)**	**AO3 1a** **2.1**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
3(a)(ii)	chromosomes	accept chromatids / DNA	**(1)**	**AO1 1** **2.1**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
3(a)(iii)	Adescription including two from: • the spindle disappears / fibres breakdown (1) • chromosomes uncoil (1) • a (cell / nuclear) membrane forms (around each group of chromosomes) (1) • (two) nuclei are formed (1)		**(2)**	**AO2 1** **2.1**

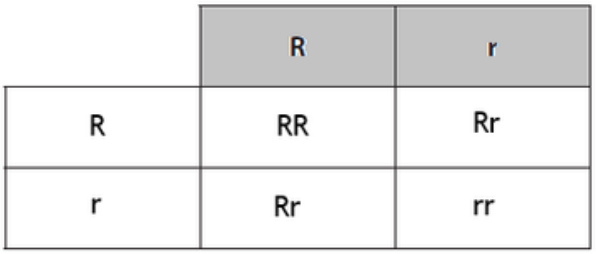
Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
3(a)(iv)	An explanation including two from: • (root tip cells are) meristems (1) • (root tip cells) can divide (1) • to produce new cells / to allow growth (1)	accept cell division	**(2)**	**AO2 1** **2.1 2.8**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
3(b)(i)	substitution 14 ÷ 50 (1) evaluation (14÷50) = 0.28 (1) 0.3	award full marks for the correct answer with no working ecf for incorrect calculation from the data given to one d.p. accept 3.6 for 1 mark	**(3)**	**AO2 1** **2.1**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
3(b)(ii)	cancer / tumour	accept cancerous	**(1)**	**AO1 1** **2.4**

(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
4(a)(i)	**The only correct answer is C the characteristic is dominant** ***A****isnot correct because the characteristic is not environmental* ***B****isnot correct because the characteristic is not recessive* ***D****isnot correct because the characteristic is not a mutation*	**(1)**	**AO3 1a** **3.13**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
4(a)(ii)	 correct gametes for plant producing red tomatoes (1) correct offspring from their parental gametes (1) percentage of tomato plants that produce yellow tomatoes = 25% (1)	accept rR for Rr do not accept other letters for gametes / genotypes ecf for incorrect gametes for red tomatoes ecf from incorrect Punnett square	**(3)**	**AO3 2a** **AO3 2b** **3.14**

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
4(a)(iii)	**The only correct answer is C heterozygous** ***A*** *is not correct because the genotype Rr is not described as monohybrid* ***B*** *is not correct because the genotype Rr is not described as homozygous recessive* ***D*** *is not correct because the genotype Rr is not described as homozygous dominant*	**(1)**	**AO1 1** **3.13**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
4(b)	Ananswer including: • (an allele is) a **different** / **alternative** {form / version} (1) • of {a / the same} gene (1)	accept alleles can be dominant or recessive	**(2)**	**AO1 1** **3.13**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
4(c)(i)	A description including four from: • (two strands in a) **double** helix (1) • sugar-phosphate **backbone** (1) • nucleotides (1) • four bases (1) • (held together by) **complementary** bases (1) • (bases) linked by weak (1) • **hydrogen** bonds (1)	accept deoxyribose for sugar accept a sugar, phosphate and base A, T, C, G accept names of bases accept A pairs with T **and** C pairs with G accept **H** bonds	**(4)**	**AO1 1** **3.4**

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
4(c)(ii)	genome	**(1)**	**AO1 1** **3.5**

(Total for Question 4 = 12 marks)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
5(a)(i)	mucus / cilia / skin	accept nasal hairs / ear wax / eyelashes	**(1)**	**AO1 1** **5.12**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
5(a)(ii)	lysozymes / **hydrochloric** acid	accept **stomach** acid /	**(1)**	**AO1 1** **5.12**

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
5(b)	**The only correct answer is B malaria** ***A*** *is not correct because tuberculosis is caused by bacteria* ***C*** *is not correct because cholera is caused by bacteria* ***D*** *is not correct because AIDS is caused by a virus*	**(1)**	**AO1 1** **5.5**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
5(c)(i)	• suitable heading for each column, with age group in left column (1) • all data entered accurately in order (1)	accept age high to low or low to high accept columns either way round accept age ranges shown with symbols ≤ for a value [illegible] (years) | Cases for measles 1 ≤ n ≤ 4 | 140 5 ≤ n ≤ 10 | 103 11 ≤ n ≤ 14 | 44 15 ≤ n ≤ 19 | 31 20 ≤ n ≤ 24 | 15	**(2)**	**AO2 2** **5.5**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
5(c)(ii)	there are more cases (of measles) in {lower age groups /younger people} / as age increases the number of cases of measles decreases	accept reverse argument	**(1)**	**AO3 1a** **5.5**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
5(d)(i)	A description including: • (pathogen) has **antigens** (1) • lymphocytes / memory lymphocytes (1) • (lymphocytes produce) antibodies (1)	accept memory cells accept antitoxins accept phagocytosis / body temperature **rises** / WBCs kill pathogens / inflammation / **more** mucus produced / **more** WBC are produced / WBC **move** to site of infection (1)	**(3)**	**AO1 1** **5.13**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
5(d)(ii)	Anexplanation linking: • cover {mouth / nose} / isolation (1) • **to prevent** {droplets / pathogens} being {inhaled / entering the body} (1) OR • hand washing / clean surfaces (1) • to prevent the {droplets / pathogens} being transferred {to / from} surfaces (1)	accept face mask / blow nose into a tissue / dispose of used tissues appropriately accept **to prevent** {droplets / pathogens} getting into the air accept vaccination (1) to provide immunity (1)	**(2)**	**AO2 1** **5.6**

(Total for Question 5 = 11 marks)

Question Number	Answer	Mark	AO Spec
6(a)	**The only correct answer is A cell membrane** ***B*** *is not correct because the ribosome does not control the movement of substances into and out of cells* ***C*** *is not correct because the nucleus does not control the movement of substances into and out of cells* ***D*** *is not correct because the chloroplast does not control the movement of substances into and out of cells*	**(1)**	**AO1 2** **1.1**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
6(b)(i)	Substitution (5.4 - 5.0) = **0.4** (1) Evaluation 8(%)	award full marks for the correct answer with no working no error carried forward award 1 mark for –8 (%)	**(2)**	**AO2 2** **1.17**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
6(b)(ii)	An explanation linking three from: • the potato gains mass (1) • because water enters (the potato) (1) • by **osmosis** (1) • from a high water concentration to a low water concentration (1)	accept weight for mass accept references to water potential maximum two marks if the potato loses mass / water	**(3)**	**AO1 2** **1.15** **1.1**

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark	AO Spec
6(b)(iii)	cover the potato in distilled water / dry the potato / repeat the investigation	accept leave the potato for longer	**(1)**	**AO3 3b** **1.16**

Question Number	Indicative Content	Mark	AO Spec
***6(c)**	**AO2** **Producing the modern variety of carrots** • selective breeding • crossbreed wild carrots which have combinations of the desired features • grow the new plants • select the offspring with the desired characteristics • repeat the process over many generations • repeat until all offspring show the desired characteristics • reference to genetic engineering **Desired feature of wild carrots** • select wild carrots with largest roots • select wild carrots with fewer/no side roots • select wild carrots that are darker yellow / orange • select wild carrots that have a sweeter taste • variation is caused by mutations	**(6)**	**AO2 1** **4.8**

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	• No rewardable material
Level 1	1-2	• The answer attempts to link and apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, flawed or simplistic connections made between elements in the context of the question • Lines of reasoning are unsupported or unclear
Level 2	3-4	• The answer is mostly supported through linkage and application of knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, some logical connections made between elements in the context of the question • Lines of reasoning mostly supported through the application of relevant evidence
Level 3	5-6	• The answer is supported throughout by linkage and application of knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, logical connections made between elements in the context of the question • Lines of reasoning are supported by sustained application of relevant evidence

Additional guidance

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-2	• Refers to selecting wild carrots • The response includes reference to a named feature
Level 2	3-4	• A brief description of selecting wild carrots **AND** breeding them • The response includes reference to at least one named feature
Level 3	5-6	• Anaccuratedetaileddescriptionofselecting wild carrots **AND** breedingthemovermanygenerations • Theresponseincludesreferencetomore than one named feature

(Total for Question 6 = 13 marks)

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
withits registered office at 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL, United Kingdom