

# Markscheme

**May 2025**

**Mathematics: applications and  
interpretation**

**Higher level**

**Paper 3**

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## Instructions to Examiners

### Abbreviations

- M** Marks awarded for attempting to use a correct **Method**.
- A** Marks awarded for an **Answer** or for **Accuracy**; often dependent on preceding **M** marks.
- R** Marks awarded for clear **Reasoning**.
- AG** Answer given in the question and so no marks are awarded.
- FT** Follow through. The practice of awarding marks, despite candidate errors in previous parts, for their correct methods/answers using incorrect results.

### Using the markscheme

#### 1 General

Award marks using the annotations as noted in the markscheme *eg M1, A2*.

#### 2 Method and Answer/Accuracy marks

- Do **not** automatically award full marks for a correct answer; all working **must** be checked, and marks awarded according to the markscheme.
- It is generally not possible to award **M0** followed by **A1**, as **A** mark(s) depend on the preceding **M** mark(s), if any.
- Where **M** and **A** marks are noted on the same line, *e.g. M1A1*, this usually means **M1** for an **attempt** to use an appropriate method (*e.g.* substitution into a formula) and **A1** for using the **correct** values.
- Where there are two or more **A** marks on the same line, they may be awarded independently; so if the first value is incorrect, but the next two are correct, award **A0A1A1**.
- Where the markscheme specifies **A3, M2 etc.**, do **not** split the marks, unless there is a note.
- The response to a “show that” question does not need to restate the **AG** line, unless a **Note** makes this explicit in the markscheme.
- Once a correct answer to a question or part question is seen, ignore further working even if this working is incorrect and/or suggests a misunderstanding of the question. This will encourage a uniform approach to marking, with less examiner discretion. Although some candidates may be advantaged for that specific question item, it is likely that these candidates will lose marks elsewhere too.
- An exception to the previous rule is when an incorrect answer from further working is used **in a subsequent part**. For example, when a correct exact value is followed by an incorrect decimal approximation in the first part and this approximation is then used in the second part. In this situation, award **FT** marks as appropriate but do not award the final **A1** in the first part.

Examples:

	Correct answer seen	Further working seen	Any FT issues?	Action
1.	$8\sqrt{2}$	5.65685... <i>(incorrect decimal value)</i>	No. Last part in question.	Award <b>A1</b> for the final mark <i>(condone the incorrect further working)</i>
2.	$\frac{35}{72}$	0.468111... <i>(incorrect decimal value)</i>	Yes. Value is used in subsequent parts.	Award <b>A0</b> for the final mark <i>(and full FT is available in subsequent parts)</i>

### 3 Implied marks

Implied marks appear in **brackets e.g. (M1)**, and can only be awarded if **correct** work is seen or implied by subsequent working/answer.

### 4 Follow through marks (only applied after an error is made)

Follow through (**FT**) marks are awarded where an incorrect answer from one **part** of a question is used correctly in **subsequent** part(s) (e.g. incorrect value from part (a) used in part (d) or incorrect value from part (c)(i) used in part (c)(ii)). Usually, to award **FT** marks, **there must be working present** and not just a final answer based on an incorrect answer to a previous part. However, if all the marks awarded in a subsequent part are for the answer or are implied, then **FT** marks should be awarded for *their* correct answer, even when working is not present.

**For example:** following an incorrect answer to part (a) that is used in subsequent parts, where the markscheme for the subsequent part is **(M1)A1**, it is possible to award full marks for *their* correct answer, **without working being seen**. For longer questions where all but the answer marks are implied this rule applies but may be overwritten by a **Note** in the Markscheme.

- Within a question part, once an **error** is made, no further **A** marks can be awarded for work which uses the error, but **M** marks may be awarded if appropriate.
- If the question becomes much simpler because of an error then use discretion to award fewer **FT** marks, by reflecting on what each mark is for and how that maps to the simplified version.
- If the error leads to an inappropriate value (e.g. probability greater than 1,  $\sin \theta = 1.5$ , non-integer value where integer required), do not award the mark(s) for the final answer(s).
- The markscheme may use the word “their” in a description, to indicate that candidates may be using an incorrect value.
- If the candidate’s answer to the initial question clearly contradicts information given in the question, it is not appropriate to award any **FT** marks in the subsequent parts. This includes when candidates fail to complete a “show that” question correctly, and then in subsequent parts use their incorrect answer rather than the given value.

- Exceptions to these **FT** rules will be explicitly noted on the markscheme.
- If a candidate makes an error in one part but gets the correct answer(s) to subsequent part(s), award marks as appropriate, unless the command term was “Hence”.

## 5 Mis-read

If a candidate incorrectly copies values or information from the question, this is a mis-read (**MR**). A candidate should be penalized only once for a particular misread. Use the **MR** stamp to indicate that this has been a misread and do not award the first mark, even if this is an **M** mark, but award all others as appropriate.

- If the question becomes much simpler because of the **MR**, then use discretion to award fewer marks.
- If the **MR** leads to an inappropriate value (e.g. probability greater than 1,  $\sin \theta = 1.5$ , non-integer value where integer required), do not award the mark(s) for the final answer(s).
- Miscopying of candidates’ own work does **not** constitute a misread, it is an error.
- If a candidate uses a correct answer, to a “show that” question, to a higher degree of accuracy than given in the question, this is NOT a misread and full marks may be scored in the subsequent part.
- **MR** can only be applied when work is seen. For calculator questions with no working and incorrect answers, examiners should **not** infer that values were read incorrectly.

## 6 Alternative methods

Candidates will sometimes use methods other than those in the markscheme. Unless the question specifies a method, other correct methods should be marked in line with the markscheme. If the command term is ‘Hence’ and not ‘Hence or otherwise’ then alternative methods are not permitted unless covered by a note in the mark scheme.

- Alternative methods for complete questions are indicated by **METHOD 1**, **METHOD 2**, etc.
- Alternative solutions for parts of questions are indicated by **EITHER . . . OR**.

## 7 Alternative forms

Unless the question specifies otherwise, **accept** equivalent forms.

- As this is an international examination, accept all alternative forms of **notation** for example 1.9 and 1,9 or 1000 and 1,000 and 1.000.
- Do not accept final answers written using calculator notation. However, **M** marks and intermediate **A** marks can be scored, when presented using calculator notation, provided the evidence clearly reflects the demand of the mark.

- In the markscheme, equivalent **numerical** and **algebraic** forms will generally be written in brackets immediately following the answer.
- In the markscheme, some **equivalent** answers will generally appear in brackets. Not all equivalent notations/answers/methods will be presented in the markscheme and examiners are asked to apply appropriate discretion to judge if the candidate work is equivalent.

## 8 Format and accuracy of answers

If the level of accuracy is specified in the question, a mark will be linked to giving the answer to the required accuracy. If the level of accuracy is not stated in the question, the general rule applies to final answers: *unless otherwise stated in the question all numerical answers must be given exactly or correct to three significant figures*.

Where values are used in subsequent parts, the markscheme will generally use the exact value, however candidates may also use the correct answer to 3 sf in subsequent parts. The markscheme will often explicitly include the subsequent values that come “*from the use of 3 sf values*”.

**Simplification of final answers:** Candidates are advised to give final answers using good mathematical form. In general, for an **A** mark to be awarded, arithmetic should be completed, and any values that lead to integers should be simplified; for example,  $\sqrt{\frac{25}{4}}$  should be written as  $\frac{5}{2}$ . An exception to this is simplifying fractions, where lowest form is not required (although the numerator and the denominator must be integers); for example,  $\frac{10}{4}$  may be left in this form or written as  $\frac{5}{2}$ . However,  $\frac{10}{5}$  should be written as 2, as it simplifies to an integer.

Algebraic expressions should be simplified by completing any operations such as addition and multiplication, e.g.  $4e^{2x} \times e^{3x}$  should be simplified to  $4e^{5x}$ , and  $4e^{2x} \times e^{3x} - e^{4x} \times e^x$  should be simplified to  $3e^{5x}$ . Unless specified in the question, expressions do not need to be factorized, nor do factorized expressions need to be expanded, so  $x(x+1)$  and  $x^2 + x$  are both acceptable.

**Please note:** intermediate **A** marks do NOT need to be simplified.

## 9 Calculators

A GDC is required for this paper, but if you see work that suggests a candidate has used any calculator not approved for IB DP examinations (eg CAS enabled devices), please follow the procedures for malpractice.

## 10. Presentation of candidate work

**Crossed out work:** If a candidate has drawn a line through work on their examination script, or in some other way crossed out their work, do not award any marks for that work unless an explicit note from the candidate indicates that they would like the work to be marked.

**More than one solution:** Where a candidate offers two or more different answers to the same question, an examiner should only mark the first response unless the candidate indicates otherwise. If the layout of the responses makes it difficult to judge, examiners should apply appropriate discretion to judge which is “first”.

1. (a) (i) any sensible comment, eg:  
 the sample will be more reliable / (likely to be) more representative / valid **R1**  
 the sample mean is likely to be closer to the population mean **[1 mark]**

**Note:** Do not accept “The sample will be (more) accurate, precise or exact”, or anything referring to outliers or SD only.

- (ii) more time consuming / expensive / more open to human error **R1**  
**[1 mark]**

**Note:** Do not accept anything referring to outliers or SD only

- (b) 7.60 (7.597537...) **(M1)A1**

**Note:** M1 for 7.60 seen anywhere, **A1** for correct final answer.

**[2 marks]**

- (c) any sensible comment, eg: **R1**

the population standard deviation may be different from the sample  
 these  $s_{n-1}$  values are only estimates / approximations and the values are too  
 close together.  
 standard deviation is not the only measure of spread

**Note:** Award **R0** if part (b) is not in range 7-7.65

**[1 mark]**

- (d) (i) (the population variances) are the same. **A1**

**Note:** Must say ‘the same/equal’. ‘Similar’ or ‘close to each other’ is not correct.

**[1 mark]**

- (ii) any attempt to compare sample standard deviations or sample variances **M1**  
 the sample variances/sample standard deviation/ $s_{n-1}$  are similar, so  
 assumption is plausible. (Therefore Augustin should use a pooled t-test.) **R1**

**Note:** Award **R0** if part (b) is not in range 7-8

**[2 marks]**

continued...

Question 1 continued.

(e) (i)  $H_0 : \mu_A = \mu_B$

A1

$H_1 : \mu_A < \mu_B$

A1

**Note:** Award **A1** for a correct null hypothesis and **A1** for choosing the correct tail for *their* alternative hypothesis. Accept correct hypotheses in words, but only if “population” is clear.

Award at most **A1A0** if  $\mu_1$  or  $\mu_2$  used without definition.

[2 marks]

(ii) 0.0445 (0.0444586...)

A2

**Note:** Accept anything in the range 0.044-0.045 due to rounding issues.

[2 marks]

(iii)  $0.0445 < 0.05$

R1

there is (significant) evidence that the (population) mean of school B is higher than the (population) mean of school A **OR** Augustin’s belief is supported

A1

**Note:** Do not award **R0A1**. Do not award the final **A1** if the null hypothesis is incorrect or the conclusion is not in context.

[2 marks]

(f) (i)  $H_0 : \rho = 0; H_1 : \rho \neq 0$

A1A1

**Note:** Hypotheses must involve  $\rho$ . Hypotheses in terms of r are not correct. In words ‘population correlation’ is equally valid.

$r > 0.576$  **OR**  $0.876 > 0.576$

R1

**Note:** Accept  $|r| > 0.576$

therefore reject  $H_0$ , there is significant evidence of correlation between entry exam and final exam results.

A1

**Note:** Do not award **R0A1**. Do not award final **A1** for just ‘reject  $H_0$ ’, there must be some interpretation.

Condone ‘there is evidence of correlation’. Of course, the final two marks can still be given if hypotheses were in terms of r.

[4 marks]

(ii) could use Spearman Rank.

A1

[1 mark]

continued...

Question 1 continued.

(g) as entry exam results goes up by one, final exam result goes up by 0.37 A1

**Note:** Statement should clearly be in context. Anything vague about the gradient of the regression line is not acceptable.

[1 mark]

(h) (i) **METHOD 1**  
 the exam board model predicts  $\hat{y} = 0.37 \times 38.7 + 37.6 = 51.919$  M1  
 therefore the improvement is  $52.5 - 51.919 = 0.581$  A1  
 so the answer is 0.6 to 1 decimal place. AG

[2 marks]

(ii)  $H_0 : \mu_A = \mu_B; H_1 : \mu_A > \mu_B$  A1  
 so the p value is 0.0213 (0.0212715...) A1

**Note:** First two A1 marks are independent. Hypotheses must clearly be in terms of population means. Expressions involving  $\mu_{(y-\bar{y})A}$  or  $\mu_1$  are acceptable.

since  $p < 0.05$  R1

therefore reject  $H_0$ , evidence of higher school value added in School A A1

**Note:** 'Reject  $H_0$ ' alone is not enough. Answer must be in context.

[4 marks]

(i) school A outperforms school B is supported by the test in part (g)/better added value A1  
 school B outperforms school A is supported by the test in part (e)/higher mean A1

[2 marks]

**Total [28 marks]**

2. (a) (i) attempt to use Pythagoras' theorem (M1)

$$\sqrt{12500^2 + 6000^2}$$

$$= 13900 \text{ (km)}$$

A1

**Note:** Answers to more than 3sf are not appropriate and should be penalised. **A1** will be given only for 13900km (3sf) or 14000km (nearest 500km).

[2 marks]

(ii) attempt to use an appropriate inverse trig ratio (M1)

e.g.  $\arctan\left(\frac{12500}{6000}\right)$  or  $\arctan\left(\frac{6000}{12500}\right)$

identifying the correct angle (M1)

$$= (0)64.4^\circ \text{ OR } 064^\circ(64.3589\dots)$$

A1

**Note:** The two method marks can be awarded independently. The first can come from any geometry leading to an inverse trigonometric ratio. The second requires recognizing which angle is the bearing, possibly on a diagram. 64.4 appearing in intermediate working is not sufficient.

[3 marks]

(b) (i)  $p \cdot n = 0$  M1

so the angle is  $90^\circ$  OR  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  rads

A1

**Note:** Award **MOAO** for an answer of 90 degrees without any mention that the scalar product is zero.

[2 marks]

(ii) attempt to use arc length formula  $s = r\theta$  OR  $\frac{90^\circ}{360}$  of circumference (M1)

$$= 6000\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) \text{ OR } \frac{1}{4} \times 2\pi \times 6000$$

A1

$$= 3\pi \text{ thousand km OR } 3000\pi \text{ km}$$

AG

[2 marks]

continued...

Question 2 continued

(c) (i) attempt to find cross product (e.g. correct except for sign error) (M1)

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -36 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{A1}$$

[2 marks]

(ii) **METHOD 1**

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 36 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{A1}$$

choosing to use scalar product for their  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{p}$  and  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n}$  M1

$$(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{p}) \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n}) = 0 \quad \text{A1}$$

**Note:** The final **A1** can be awarded for seeing the dot product equals zero without incorrect working. Follow through from (i) is permitted and if they explicitly state that they are using  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n}$  then allow internal follow through.

so angle is  $90^\circ$  AG

[3 marks]

**METHOD 2**

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 36 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{A1}$$

attempt to use cross product for their  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{p}$  and  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n}$ . This must include both an attempt

to find the cross product and knowledge that  $\sin \theta = \frac{|x \times y|}{|x||y|}$  M1

$$(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n}) \times (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1296 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{OR} \quad (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{p}) \times (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{n}) = \begin{pmatrix} -1296 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{1296}{36 \times 36} = 1 \quad \text{A1}$$

so angle is  $90^\circ$  AG

continued...

Question 2 continued

(d) attempt to use  $\frac{\theta}{360} \times 2\pi r = 6$  OR  $s = r\theta$  (M1)

$$\frac{\theta}{360} \times 2\pi \times 6 = 6 \quad \text{OR} \quad 6 = 6\theta \Rightarrow \theta = 1 \text{ radian}$$

$$\theta = 57.2957\dots^\circ \quad \text{A1}$$

**Note:** The fourth significant figure must be seen somewhere to award the **A1**.

$$\theta = 57.3^\circ \text{ to 3 significant figures}$$

**AG**  
**[2 marks]**

(e) **METHOD 1**

**EITHER** (Scalar product)

attempt to use scalar product to find  $\text{B}\hat{\text{O}}\text{M} = \arccos\left(\frac{b \cdot m}{|b||m|}\right)$  (M1)

**Note:** This may be written as  $\cos(\text{BOM}) = \frac{b \cdot m}{|b||m|}$ .

$$= \arccos\left(\frac{(6 \cos 120^\circ)(6 \cos 57.3^\circ)}{6^2}\right) \quad \text{(A1)}$$

**Note:** This **A1** can be awarded for  $\cos \theta = \frac{6 \cos 120^\circ \times 6 \cos 57.3^\circ}{6^2}$ .

$$= 106^\circ (= 105.673\dots^\circ) \text{ OR } 1.84 \text{ radians } (1.84434\dots) \quad \text{(A1)}$$

**OR** (Cosine Rule)

$$|\text{BM}| = \sqrt{(6 \sin 120 - 0)^2 + (6 \cos 120 - 6 \sin 57.3)^2 + (0 - 6 \sin 57.3)^2}$$

$$= 9.56(9.56299\dots) \text{ OR } 9560\text{km} \quad \text{(A1)}$$

attempt to use the cosine rule to find angle BOM (M1)

$$|\text{BM}|^2 = 6^2 + 6^2 - 2 \times 6 \times 6 \times \cos \text{BOM}$$

$$\text{BOM} = 106^\circ (= 105.673\dots^\circ) \text{ OR } 1.84 \text{ radians } (1.84434\dots) \quad \text{(A1)}$$

*continued...*

Question 2 continued

**THEN**

attempt to use  $\frac{\theta}{360} \times 2\pi r$  OR  $s = r\theta$  (M1)

$$= \frac{105.671^\circ}{360} \times 2\pi \times 6$$

= 11.1 (11.0660... thousand km) A1

**Note:** Accept an answer of 11100 OR 11066.0... without units (i.e. “km” is implicit).

[5 marks]

**METHOD 2** (Cross product)

attempt to use cross product to find  $\hat{BOM} = \arcsin \frac{|b \times m|}{|b||m|}$  (M1)

**Note:** This may be written as  $\sin \hat{BOM} = \frac{|b \times m|}{|b||m|}$ .

$$= \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 36 \cos 120 \sin \theta \\ -36 \sin 120 \sin \theta \\ 36 \sin 120 \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}}{6 \times 6}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{\sin^2 \theta + 3}}{2} = 0.962818... \quad (A1)$$

$\hat{BOM} = 180 - \arcsin 0.962818...$

= 106° (105.673..., 1.844346 rads) (A1)

attempt to use  $\frac{\theta}{360} \times 2\pi r$  OR  $s = r\theta$  (M1)

$$= \frac{105.671}{360} \times 2\pi \times 6$$

= 11.1 (11.0660 thousand km) A1

**Note:** Award at most (M1)(A1)(A0)(M1)A0 for an answer of 7.78 thousand km from finding the principal root of the arcsin.

[5 marks]  
continued...

Question 2 continued

(f) attempt to calculate  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{m}$  (M1)

$$\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 36 \cos 120^\circ \sin 57.3^\circ \\ -36 \sin 120^\circ \sin 57.3^\circ \\ 36 \sin 120^\circ \cos 57.3^\circ \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -15.1464\dots \\ -26.2344\dots \\ 16.8449\dots \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{(A1)}$$

attempt to use scalar product to find angle between vectors (M1)

$$(\cos \theta =) \left( \frac{(\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{m}) \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{p})}{|\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{m}| |\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{p}|} \right)$$

$$(\cos \theta =) \left( \frac{1090.54\dots}{34.6614\dots \times 36} \right) \quad \text{(A1)(A1)}$$

**Note:** Award (A1) for numerator, (A1) for denominator.

bearing is  $(0)29.1^\circ (29.0770\dots^\circ)$  A1

**Note:** Do not penalise absence of degree symbol.

Award full marks for answer in radians = 0.507 .

Award full marks for  $029^\circ$  .

**Special Case:** If a candidate calculates  $\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{b}$  instead of  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{m}$  then you can award at most **M1A0M1A1A1A0**.

[6 marks]

Total [27 marks]