

Markscheme

November 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... (incorrect decimal value)	No. Last part in question.	Award A1 for the final mark (condone the incorrect further working)
2.	$\frac{35}{72}$	0.468111... (incorrect decimal value)	Yes. Value is used in subsequent parts.	Award A0 for the final mark (and full FT is available in subsequent parts)

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) ABCDEFA (A1)

Note: Accept any starting point and either direction.
Accept a sum of weights rather than the letters as evidence of finding a Hamiltonian cycle $8+7+9+6+12+5$
Condone ABCDEF seen for (A1).

47 (minutes) A1
[2 marks]

(b) (i) ($a =$)12 A1

(ii) ($b =$)17 [1 mark] A1

(c) ADEFBCA (M1)(A1)

Note: Award (M1) for ADEF seen (or 4, 6, 11).

weight = $(4 + 6 + 11 + 13 + 7 + 12 =)$ 53 (minutes) A1
[3 marks]

(d) (i) attempt to use Prim's to find minimum spanning tree (M1)

Note: Award M1 if first two edges seen.

BC, CD, DE, DF A1

weight of MST ($= 7 + 9 + 6 + 9$) = 31 A1

Note: If using the original graph instead of the table then edges are BC, CD, DE, EF. Award (M1)A1A0 for total weight 34 seen.

[3 marks]

Note: If vertices BCDEF or weights 7, 9, 6, 9 are given, rather than edges, award (M1)A0A1 if a total of 31 is given, and (M0)A0A0 if a different total (eg 33) is given.

(ii) reconnect A with the two shortest edges $4 + 5 = 9$ (M1)
40 (minutes) A1

Note: Follow through from errors in part (b).

[2 marks]

continued...

Question 1 continued

(e) (i) 40

A1

Note: Follow through from (d) (ii). Correct **FT** answer is their (d)(ii) if greater than 40, 39 if less than 40.

(ii) 47

[1 mark]
A1

Note: Follow through: the smallest of their answers to (a) and (c).

[1 mark]

(f) (i) $(6+6+9+7+13+5=)46$ (minutes)

A1

(ii) AF

[1 mark]

A1

[1 mark]

(g) (i) let Q be the total time in queues
 $Q \sim N(80,47)$

A1A1A1

Note: Award **A1** for 'N', **A1** for 80 and **A1** for 47.

[3 marks]

(ii) attempt to find the total time available for queuing

(M1)

time on rides = 10 (minutes), (walking 46 minutes)

(A1)

EITHER

(so time in queues needs be less than) $(150 - 46 - 10 =)$

94 (minutes)

(A1)

$(P(Q < 94) =) 0.979(0.979429\dots)$

A1

OR

total time has distribution $T \sim N(136,47)$

(A1)

$(P(T < 150) =) 0.979(0.979429\dots)$

A1

[4 marks]

continued...

Question 1 continued

- (h) total time walking = 46 (minutes), time on rides is $(10 + 2 =)12$ (minutes), expected times waiting for the rides is $(80 + 10 =)90$ (minutes) **(M1)**

Note: Award **(M1)** for any two of the three correct values seen.

total time = 148 minutes **(A1)**

so 11:28 am **A1**

Note: Condone use of $E(2E_t)$ if correct answer seen.

[3 marks]
Total [26 marks]

2. (a) (i) that the stable/long term population will be the same as before the reduction. **A1**

Note: Condone ‘the maximum value / carrying capacity of the population will be 200’.

[1 mark]

- (ii) attempt to substitute into logistic function

(M1)

$$40 = \frac{200}{1 + Ce^0}$$

$$40 + 40C = 200$$

$$C = 4$$

A1
[2 marks]

- (iii) correct substitution into their logistic function

(A1)

$$70 = \frac{200}{1 + 4e^{-5k}}$$

$$k = 0.153 \left(0.153451\dots, -\frac{1}{5} \ln \left(\frac{130}{280} \right) \right)$$

A1
[2 marks]

- (iv) correct substitution into their logistic function

(A1)

$$x = \frac{200}{1 + 4e^{-10 \times 0.153451\dots}} (= 107.397\dots)$$

$$x = 107$$

A1
[2 marks]

continued...

Question 2 continued

(b) (i) $\frac{dx}{dt} = 0$

A1

[1 mark]

(ii) the population is steady/stable (at 200) OR this (200) is the equilibrium population

A1

Note: Accept phrases such as ‘the rate of change of wolf population is zero’. Do not accept 200 is the maximum. Do not follow through from an incorrect (b)(i).

[1 mark]

(iii) EITHER

$\frac{1}{\ln 200 - \ln x}$ × an attempt to differentiate $\ln 200 - \ln x$

M1

$f'(x) = \frac{1}{\ln 200 - \ln x} \times \left(-\frac{1}{x}\right)$

A1

OR

$\frac{1}{\ln\left(\frac{200}{x}\right)} \times \frac{x}{200} \times -\frac{200}{x^2}$

M1A1

Note: Award **M1** if there is a product of three expressions and two are correct.

$= \frac{-1}{x \ln\left(\frac{200}{x}\right)}$

AG

[2 marks]

continued...

Question 2 continued

(iv) attempt to separate variables

M1

$$\int \frac{-1}{x \ln\left(\frac{200}{x}\right)} dx = \int -adt$$

A1

Note: Award **A1** also for $\int \frac{1}{x \left(\ln\left(\frac{200}{x}\right) \right)} dx = \int adt$.

$$\ln(\ln 200 - \ln x) = -at (+c)$$

A1A1

Note: Award **A1** for LHS and **A1** for RHS.

$$\ln 200 - \ln x = e^{-at+c} \text{ or } \ln 200 - \ln x = Ae^{-at}, (A = e^c)$$

A1

$$\ln x = \ln 200 - Ae^{-at}$$

AG
[5 marks]

(v) correct substitution $\ln 40 = \ln 200 - Ae^{-0}$

(A1)

$$A = \ln(5)$$

A1

$$(p = 5)$$

Note: Award **A1A0** for an unsupported 1.61 (1.60943...).

[2 marks]

continued...

Question 2 continued

(vi) correct substitution $\ln 70 = \ln 200 - \ln 5 \times e^{-5a}$ **A1**

$a = 0.0854528\dots$ **A1**

Note: Award **A1** if their unrounded answer has at least four significant figures and rounds

to 0.0855 OR if an exact value equivalent to $0.2 \ln \left(\frac{\ln 5}{\ln \left(\frac{200}{70} \right)} \right)$ is seen.

$a = 0.0855$ to 3 significant figures **AG**
[2 marks]

(vii) correct substitution $\ln x = \ln 200 - \ln 5 \times e^{-10 \times 0.0854528\dots}$ **(A1)**

100.839... **(A1)**

Note: Accept 100.871... from use of 3sf 0.0855.

101 to the nearest whole number **A1**
[3 marks]

(c) both are overestimates OR the Gompertz is closer to the true value **A1**

[1 mark]

Note: Follow through on their answers for 2(a)(iv) and 2 (b)(vii) if both positive values and these values are compared with 85.

continued...

Question 2 continued

- (d) (i) attempt to use Euler **(M1)**

Note: Condone maximum of one error from missing x_n + at start, or incorrect/missing subscripts, absence of 0.5.

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + 0.5 \left(0.0855x_n \ln \left(\frac{200}{x_n} \right) - 0.03x_n \right) \quad \textbf{(A1)}$$

evidence of correct use of Euler's method **(A1)**

Note: Award **(A1)** for any correct value of x_{n+1} for $n = 2, 3, \dots$ seen (including this intermediate value presented as a final answer).

after 10 years the population will be 89 wolves (89.42803...) **A1**

[4 marks]

- (ii) correctly compare their result to the actual number of wolves or to the other models or both. Allow even if this is implicit, for example, it is more accurate / realistic than the other models **A1**
[1 mark]

Total [29 marks]
