

Activity 8

Marking in Mathematics 9709

M Mark

- Awarded for a correct method for a step in the solution.
- Is not affected by poor algebra or arithmetic.
- Will usually have an accuracy mark attached to it.
- Is often the most difficult mark to judge. A lot of time at coordination meetings is spent on deciding exactly how the mark is awarded.
- Is not usually awarded just for correct formula – some attempt is needed.

DM Mark

- Requires a specific previous method mark to have been awarded
- Used where the second process is only valid if the first process had been attempted, or where in isolation the level of challenge would be significantly less, e.g.
 - Substituting limits without integrating
 - Solving a linear rather than a quadratic equation

A Mark

- Accuracy mark dependent upon an M mark.
- Can never be given on its own.
- If a piece of work has M1 A1 and can be done mentally or on a calculator, then both marks will often be given for a correct answer.

Obviously, if only an incorrect answer is given, no credit can be given. Hence the need to show all working.

A√ or Aft Mark

- The A1√ follow through mark is awarded for an answer that is correct following an incorrect earlier error. This prevents the candidate losing 2 marks for one error.
- It can only be awarded when the mark scheme states that a mark is √.

B Mark

- An accuracy mark not dependent upon a method mark.
- Could be used for an approach.
- Could be used for each term in a binomial expansion, where it is very difficult to assess method.
- Could be used for terms in differentiation.

MR (Misread)

If a candidate misreads the data of the question consistently, a penalty of MR-1 is applied and all A and B marks then become follow through (√) marks.

The penalty is not applied if the candidate makes a further mistake and would have scored no accuracy marks anyway. An easy way to remember the differences is that M marks are for process, A marks for accuracy and B marks for process with accuracy.

Abbreviations within the mark scheme

B2,1,0	If no errors 2 marks, 1 error 1 mark, 2 or more errors 0 marks
ISW	ignore subsequent working
FAO	final answer only – so do not ignore any further working
SC	special case, see separate marking for specific situation
CAO	correct answer only, emphasising that there is no follow through
AG	answer given, so check not from incorrect work
WWW	without wrong working, indicating that all the working must be correct
NFWW	not from wrong working – similar to WWW, often seen when an incorrect process may lead to the correct answer
Fort	fortuitous answer identified
BOD	benefit of doubt, where judgement is called for
Seen	mark awarded when seen, does not need to be used
SOI	seen or implied – indicates that a late answer may be used to justify the interim stage
OE	or equivalent, e.g. $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5 = 50\%$ for a probability
Rounding to	anything which rounds to the value given will gain the credit