**AQA GCSE Science Combined Higher** 

### **Practice** answers

**B1** 



| Question | Answers   | Extra information                              | Mark | AO /<br>Specification<br>reference |
|----------|---|--|------|------------------------------------|
| 01.1     | A – chloroplast   |  | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | B – nucleus   |  | 1    | 1.1.2                              |
|          | C – cell membrane   |  | 1    |                                    |
| 01.2     | when filled with cell sap   |  | 1    | A01                                |
|          | it puts pressure on cell wall   |  | 1    | 1.1.2                              |
|          | keeping the cell rigid / supporting plant   |  | 1    |                                    |
| 01.3     | nucleus   |  | 1    | AO2                                |
|          |   |  |      | 1.1.1                              |
| 01.4     | leaf / stem   |  | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | contains chloroplasts   |  | 1    | 1.1.2                              |
| 02.1     | wear gloves / wash hands – methylene blue / stain is an                                   | allow 1 mark for safety measure and 1 mark for | 2    | A01                                |
|          | irritant  | linked explanation                             |      | 1.1.5                              |
|          | or  |  |      |                                    |
|          | disinfect work surfaces / dispose of used swabs – to prevent spread of possible infection |  |      |                                    |
| 02.2     | makes nucleus / subcellular structures more visible                                       |  | 1    | AO1                                |
|          |   |  |      | 1.1.5                              |
| 02.3     | use a higher-power objective lens   | allow use an electron microscope               | 1    | AO1                                |
|          |   |  |      | 1.1.5                              |

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|----------|--|---|------|------------------------------------|
| 02.4     | length of the cell = 4.8 cm  | award full marks for correct answer with no     | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | <u>4.8</u> = 0.0036 cm   | working shown                                   | 1    | 1.1.5                              |
|          | 1350   | accept 35 μm for 3 marks                        |      | Ms1c                               |
|          | = 36 μm  | allow 0.0036 cm for 2 marks                     | 1    |                                    |
| 03.1     | group of cells with similar structure working together to  |   | 1    | A01                                |
|          | perform a function   |   |      | 1.1.3                              |
| 03.2     | lignin builds up in cell walls   |   | 1    | A01                                |
|          | cells die  |   | 1    | 1.1.3                              |
|          | form (long hollow) tubes   |   | 1    |                                    |
| 03.3     | long hollow tubes  |   | 1    | A01                                |
|          | allow water/ mineral ions to move easily around plant  |   | 1    | 1.1.3                              |
|          | lignin makes cells very strong   |   | 1    |                                    |
|          | can withstand pressure of water moving / help support the plant stem                                   |   | 1    |                                    |
| 03.4     | phloem   |   | 1    | A01                                |
|          |  |   |      | 1.1.3                              |
| 04.1     | chloroplast  |   | 1    | AO2                                |
|          |  |   |      | 1.1.2                              |
| 05.1     | Level 3: Two advantages and two disadvantages are detailed   | and accurate. Evaluation is clear and coherent. | 5–6  | AO2 × 4                            |
|          | Level 2: Some advantages and disadvantages are correct. Evaluation is attempted but may not be clearly |   | 3–4  | AO3 × 2                            |
|          | explained.   |   | -    | 1.1.5                              |

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|----------|---|---|------|------------------------------------|
|          | Level 1: One or two advantages / disadvantages given, but ev  | aluation is missing or lacks clarity and coherence.   | 1–2  |                                    |
|          | No relevant content.  |   | 0    |                                    |
|          | Indicative content<br>Advantages of electron microscope:  | award 2 marks for 2 advantages, 2 marks for 2 disadvantages, 2 marks for explanations of points |      |                                    |
|          | <ul><li>higher magnification</li><li>higher resolution</li></ul>  | (accept reverse answer as a disadvantage of other   |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>scanning electron microscopes can be used to examine<br/>the surface structure of cells/structures</li> </ul>  | technique)  |      |                                    |
|          | Advantages of light microscope:   |   |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>do not damage living cells / can be used to observe living<br/>things</li> </ul>   |   |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>light microscopes are cheaper</li> </ul>   |   |      |                                    |
|          | more readily available  |   |      |                                    |
|          | can be used by less-skilled operator  |   |      |                                    |
|          | Evaluation:   |   |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>light microscopes are appropriate to use when the whole<br/>organism / behaviour of the organism is to be studied /<br/>without damaging the organism</li> </ul> |   |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>electron microscopes are appropriate to use when detail<br/>of (sub-cellular) structures is required</li> </ul>  |   |      |                                    |

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|----------|--|----------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 05.2     | diameter of amoeba: $10 \mu\text{m} = 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{m}$ |                      | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | diameter of egg cell: 0.1 mm = $1 \times 10^{-4}$ m              |                      | 1    | Ms 1c, 2h                          |
|          | difference in order of magnitude: $5 - 4 = 1 / a$ factor of 10   |                      | 1    |                                    |
| 06.1     | Α  |                      | 1    | AO2                                |
|          |  |                      |      | 1.1.5                              |
|          |  |                      |      | 1.1.2                              |
| 06.2     | where protein synthesis takes place / proteins are made          |                      | 1    | AO1                                |
|          |  |                      |      | 1.1.2                              |
| 06.3     | mitochondria   |                      | 1    | AO2                                |
|          |  |                      |      | 1.1.2                              |
| 06.4     | Level 3: All key steps are identified and logically sequenced.   |                      | 5–6  | A01                                |
|          | Level 2: Most steps are identified, but the method is not fully  | logically sequenced. | 3–4  | 1.1.2                              |
|          | Level 1: Some relevant steps are identified, but links are not r | nade clear.          | 1–2  | 1.1.5                              |
|          | No Relevant content  |                      | 0    |                                    |

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|----------|---|-----------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
|          | Indicative content  |                             |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>cut slice of plant (using a knife of scalpel)</li> </ul>                 |                             |      |                                    |
|          | place on microscope slide   |                             |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>add a drop of stain (such as iodine)</li> </ul>                          |                             |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>carefully lower a coverslip onto the slide</li> </ul>                    |                             |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>use a piece of filter paper to soak up any liquid from aroun</li> </ul>  | d the edge of the coverslip |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>put the slide on the microscope stage at its highest setting</li> </ul>  |                             |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>choose the lowest powered objective lens</li> </ul>                      |                             |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>lower slide using focusing knob until the cells come into for</li> </ul> | cus                         |      |                                    |
|          | repeat with higher objective lens to  | get a more detailed image   |      |                                    |
| 07.1     | 1 μm  |                             | 1    | A01                                |
|          |   |                             |      | 1.1.1                              |
| 07.2     | plant cell walls contain cellulose / bacterial cell walls                         |                             | 1    | A01                                |
|          | contain peptidoglycan   |                             |      | 4.1.1.3                            |
| 07.3     | in eukaryotic cells DNA is contained in nucleus                                   |                             | 1    | A01                                |
|          | long strands called chromosomes   |                             | 1    | 1.1.1                              |
|          | in bacteria cells DNA is found in cytoplasm / not in a nucleus in a single loop   |                             | 1    |                                    |
|          | also have extra small rings of DNA / plasmids                                     |                             | 1    |                                    |
| 07.4     | flagellum / flagella  |                             | 1    | A01                                |
|          |   |                             |      | 1.1.1                              |

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| Question | Answers   | Extra information   | Mark | AO /<br>Specification<br>reference |
|----------|---|---|------|------------------------------------|
| 08.1     | any <b>four</b> from:   |   | 4    | A01                                |
|          | the visual pigment detects / is affected by light   |   |      | 1.1.1                              |
|          | light causes a chemical change in visual pigment  |   |      |                                    |
|          | the chemical change creates an impulse  |   |      |                                    |
|          | impulse passed through synapses to the optic nerve / through optic nerve to the brain   |   |      |                                    |
|          | (lots of) mitochondria transfer (lots of) energy for the cell to reform the visual pigment / reverse change in the visual pigment |   |      |                                    |
| 08.2     | 6 000 000   | allow 2×10 <sup>6</sup> with no working shown for 3 marks | 1    | AO3                                |
|          | 3   |   |      | 1.1.3                              |
|          | = 2 000 000   |   | 1    |                                    |
|          | = 2×10 <sup>6</sup>   |   | 1    |                                    |
| 09.1     | a cell that is adapted / has special features to perform a  |   | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | particular function   |   |      | 1.1.3                              |
|          |   |   |      | Ms 1b                              |
| 09.2     | то contract (and relax)   |   | 1    | AO1                                |
|          |   |   |      | 4.1.1.3                            |

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|----------|---|---|------|------------------------------------|
| 09.3     | digestive system  | allow 1 mark for muscle location                      | 2    | A01                                |
|          | to squeeze food along the gut                                   | allow 1 mark for description of role in that location |      | 4.1.1.3                            |
|          | or  |   |      |                                    |
|          | in the heart  |   |      |                                    |
|          | so heart can contract to pump blood around the body             |   |      |                                    |
| 09.4     | to respire  |   | 1    | AO1                                |
|          | to transfer the energy needed for the cell to contract          |   | 1    | 4.1.1.3                            |
| 09.5     | contain proteins / actin and myosin                             | allow 1 mark for feature                              | 2    | A01                                |
|          | that slide over one another to cause the cell to contract       | allow 1 mark for explanation                          |      | 4.1.1.3                            |
|          | or  |   |      |                                    |
|          | store glycogen  |   |      |                                    |
|          | that can be broken down (into glucose) and used for respiration |   |      |                                    |
| 10.1     | cell wall present   |   | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | cells fit clearly together / no gaps between cells / uniform    |   | 1    | 4.1.1.2                            |
|          | appearance  |   |      | 4.1.1.5                            |
| 10.2     | 1000  | allow 77 (µm) with no working shown for 2 marks       | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | 3   |   |      | 4.1.1.5                            |
|          | = 77 (μm)   |   | 1    |                                    |
| 10.3     | vacuole   |   | 1    | A01                                |
|          |   |   |      | 4.1.1.2                            |

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**B1** 



| Question | Answers  | Extra information  | Mark             | AO /<br>Specification<br>reference |
|----------|--|--|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11.1     | A  |  | 1                | AO2<br>4.1.1.2                     |
| 11.2     | control what comes in and out of the cell  |  | 1                | AO1<br>4.1.1.2                     |
| 11.3     | axon would be present<br>to transmit impulses around the body<br>dendrites / dendrons present<br>to connect to other nerve cells | allow reference to myelin sheath and its function  | 1<br>1<br>1<br>1 | AO1<br>4.1.1.3                     |
| 11.4     | length = π × d = 3.14 × 20×10 <sup>-6</sup><br>= 6.28×10 <sup>-5</sup> m / 62.8 μm   | unit must be given to award mark<br>allow 6.28×10 <sup>-5</sup> m / 62.8 μm with no working<br>shown for 2 marks | 1<br>1           | AO2<br>4.1.1.1                     |
| 11.5     | $62.8 \mu\text{m} = 62800 \text{nm}$ $\frac{62800}{4}$ $= 15700$   | allow 15 700 with no working shown for 3 marks   | 1<br>1<br>1      | AO2<br>4.1.1.1                     |
| 12.1     | 10 μm  |  | 1                | AO2<br>4.1.1.5                     |

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| Question | Answers   | Extra information  | Mark        | AO /<br>Specification<br>reference |
|----------|---|--|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 12.2     | <ul> <li>similarities:</li> <li>presence of cytoplasm</li> <li>presence of cell membrane</li> <li>both contain genetic material</li> <li>cell wall found in prokaryotes and some (plant)<br/>eukaryotes</li> <li>differences:</li> <li>prokaryotes have plasmids</li> <li>prokaryotes have no nucleus</li> <li>prokaryotes have single loop of genetic material</li> <li>plant cell walls are made of cellulose, prokaryote cell<br/>walls are made of peptidoglycan / not made of cellulose</li> </ul> | award 1 mark per similarity or difference<br>award a maximum of 4 marks for similarities <b>or</b><br>4 marks for differences<br>allow converse statements | 6           | AO1<br>4.1.1.1                     |
| 12.3     | 1 μm<br>cyanobacteria are prokaryotes, which are one order of<br>magnitude smaller than typical eukaryotes  | accept answer given in <b>12.1</b>   | 1<br>1      | AO2<br>4.1.1.5                     |
| 12.4     | algal cells contain features / cell components / organelles<br>also seen in plant cells:<br>cell wall<br>chloroplasts   | ignore reference to nucleus and cell membrane  | 1<br>1<br>1 | AO2<br>4.1.1.2                     |

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|----------|---|---|------|------------------------------------|
| 13.1     | any <b>two</b> from:  | award 1 mark for adaptation                           | 4    | A01                                |
|          | <ul> <li>long tail – move</li> </ul>  | award 1 mark for explanation of adaptation            |      | 4.1.1.3                            |
|          | <ul> <li>lots of mitochondria – transfer energy needed to move<br/>the cell</li> </ul>              |   |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>acrosome contains digestive enzymes – to break down<br/>outer layers of the egg</li> </ul> |   |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>nucleus – contains genetic material (to pass on)</li> </ul>                                |   |      |                                    |
| 13.2     | sperm cells need to be alive / not damaged to observe   |   | 1    | AO3                                |
|          | movement  |   |      | 4.1.1.3                            |
|          | light microscope are cheap / readily available / do not require high level of training to use       |   | 1    | 4.1.1.5                            |
| 13.3     | 7.5 cm = 75 000 μm  | allow 50 ( $\mu$ m) with no working shown for 3 marks | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | <u>75 000</u><br>1500   |   | 1    | 4.1.1.5                            |
|          | = 50 (μm)   |   | 1    |                                    |
| 14.1     | Level 3: All key steps are identified and logically sequenced.                                      |   | 5–6  | AO2                                |
|          | Level 2: Most steps are identified, but the method is not fully logically sequenced.                |   | 3–4  | 4.1.1.5                            |
|          | Level 1: Some relevant steps are identified, but links are not r                                    | made clear.   | 1–2  |                                    |
|          | No Relevant content   |   | 0    |                                    |

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|----------|---|--|------|------------------------------------|
|          | Indicative content  |  |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>wipe inside of the cheek with a cotton swab</li> </ul>                   |  |      |                                    |
|          | • smear cotton swab on the centre of the microscope slide                         |  |      |                                    |
|          | add a drop of stain   |  |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>carefully lower a coverslip onto the slide.</li> </ul>                   |  |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>use filter paper to soak up any liquid from around the edge</li> </ul>   | e of the coverslip.                    |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>put the slide on the microscope stage at its highest setting</li> </ul>  |  |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>choose the lowest powered objective lens</li> </ul>                      |  |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>carefully lower slide using focusing knob until the cells con</li> </ul> | ne into focus                          |      |                                    |
|          | <ul> <li>for more detail repeat with higher power objective lens</li> </ul>       |  |      |                                    |
| 14.2     | cell membrane   |  |      | 4.02                               |
| 14.2     |   | allow additional label to mitochondria | 1    | AO2                                |
|          | nucleus   |  | 1    | 4.1.1.5                            |
|          | cytoplasm   |  | 1    | 4.1.1.2                            |
| 14.3     | magnification used  |  | 1    | AO2                                |
|          |   |  |      | 4.1.1.5                            |
| 14.4     | the smallest object that can be viewed under a microscope                         |  | 1    | A01                                |
|          |   |  |      | 4.1.1.5                            |
| 14.5     | by using an electron microscope   |  | 1    | A01                                |
|          |   |  |      | 4.1.1.5                            |

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