

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate 2018

Marking Scheme

Agricultural Science

Higher Level

Note to teachers and students on the use of published marking schemes

Marking schemes published by the State Examinations Commission are not intended to be standalone documents. They are an essential resource for examiners who receive training in the correct interpretation and application of the scheme. This training involves, among other things, marking samples of student work and discussing the marks awarded, so as to clarify the correct application of the scheme. The work of examiners is subsequently monitored by Advising Examiners to ensure consistent and accurate application of the marking scheme. This process is overseen by the Chief Examiner, usually assisted by a Chief Advising Examiner. The Chief Examiner is the final authority regarding whether or not the marking scheme has been correctly applied to any piece of candidate work.

Marking schemes are working documents. While a draft marking scheme is prepared in advance of the examination, the scheme is not finalised until examiners have applied it to candidates' work and the feedback from all examiners has been collated and considered in light of the full range of responses of candidates, the overall level of difficulty of the examination and the need to maintain consistency in standards from year to year. This published document contains the finalised scheme, as it was applied to all candidates' work.

In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with their Advising Examiners when in doubt.

Future Marking Schemes

Assumptions about future marking schemes on the basis of past schemes should be avoided. While the underlying assessment principles remain the same, the details of the marking of a particular type of question may change in the context of the contribution of that question to the overall examination in a given year. The Chief Examiner in any given year has the responsibility to determine how best to ensure the fair and accurate assessment of candidates' work and to ensure consistency in the standard of the assessment from year to year. Accordingly, aspects of the structure, detail and application of the marking scheme for a particular examination are subject to change from one year to the next without notice.

Introduction

General points

- The marking scheme is a guide to awarding marks.
- Examiners must conform to this scheme, and may not allow marks for answers outside the scheme.
- In many cases only key phrases are given in the marking scheme. These points contain the information and ideas that must appear in the candidate's answer in order to merit the assigned marks.
- The descriptions, methods and definitions given in the marking scheme are not exhaustive and alternative valid answers are acceptable.
- If an examiner determines that a candidate has presented a valid answer but there is no provision in the scheme for accepting that answer, then the examiner must first consult with his/ her advising examiner before awarding marks. In general, if an examiner is in any doubt whether a particular answer is correct they should consult their advising examiner before awarding marks.
- The detail required in any answer is determined by the context, the phrasing of the question, and by the number of marks assigned to the answer in the examination paper. This may vary from year to year.
- Words, expressions or statements separated by a solidus (/) are alternatives that are
 equally acceptable for a particular point. A word or phrase given in brackets is an
 acceptable alternative to the preceding word or phrase. Note, however, that words,
 expressions or phrases must be correctly used in context and not contradicted and
 where there is evidence of incorrect use or contradiction, the marks may not be
 awarded.
- In general, names and formulas of elements are equally acceptable. However, in some cases where the name is specifically asked for, the formula may be accepted as an alternative. This will be clarified within the scheme.

Cancelled answers

- If the only answer offered is cancelled ignore the cancelling and mark as usual.
- If an answer is cancelled and a second version of the answer is given, you should accept the cancellation and award marks, where merited, for the un-cancelled version only.

• If two un-cancelled versions of an answer are given to the same question or part of a question, mark both and accept the answer that yields the greater number of marks. You may not, however, combine points from both versions to arrive at a manufactured total.

Conventions

- The mark awarded for an answer appears in the marking scheme next to the answer on the right hand side.
- Where there are several parts in the answer to a question, the mark awarded for each part appears as e.g. **3(4)**. This means there are three parts to the answer, each part allocated 4 marks.
- Award unit marks separately e.g. if an answer merits three 3-mark units, write three separate '3's, under each other, in the first column in the right-hand margin of the answer book.
- The answers to subsections of a question may not necessarily be tied to a specific mark e.g.
 there may be three parts to a question (i), (ii), (iii), and a total of 12 marks allocated to the question. The marking scheme might be as follows: 6 + 3 + 3. This means that the first correct answer encountered is awarded 6 marks and each subsequent correct answer is awarded 3 marks.
- Square brackets and/ or *italics* are used where the examiner's attention is being drawn to an instruction relating to the answer or to some qualification of the answer.
- Examiners should write the total mark for each question at the beginning of the question, beside the question number, and circled.
- The cumulative total should be written in the bottom right-hand corner of each page on which a question total appears.
- All blank pages should be marked to indicate they have been inspected.

Any six parts to be answered 6(10)

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	1	

Q 1	Any six parts to be answered 6(10)
(a)	(i) Livestock unit: Amount of feed eaten by a (550 kg) mature cow (or correct number of other farm animals) or equivalent to 12 tonnes of dry matter per annum (ii) For mature dairy cow: 1 LU For mature sheep: 0.14-0.2 LU	4+3+3
(b)	Diagram of wind pollinated flower Drawing to show: feathery stigma and stamens outside flower and no petals (or reduced petals) Labels: carpel/ stigma/ style/ ovary/ stamen/ anther/ filament/ bracts (or	6, 3, 0
	small petals) Any four	4(1)
(c)	 (i) 1. Thyroid location: Near larynx (or trachea) or in neck 2. Adrenal location: On top of kidney (ii) 1. Thyroid hormone: Thyroxine or calcitonin 2. Adrenal hormone: Adrenaline or cortisone or cortisol 	2(3) + 2(2)
(d)	(i) FCR: Number of kg of feed required to produce 1 kg LWG or ratio of food consumed to liveweight gained (ii) Factors affecting FCR in pigs: Diet/ breed/ health/ housing or temperature/ management/ age/ sex Any two	4+3+3
(e)	Function of plant cell types (i) Xylem: Transport of water (or minerals) or strength or support (ii) Phloem: Transport of (named) food or translocation (iii) Epidermis: Protection against water loss or against infection or prevent damage or regulates gas exchange or boundary or secretes metabolic compounds or root hairs in the epidermis absorb water and minerals	S 4+3+3
(f)	Functions in avian digestive system (i) Gizzard: Uses grit/ for physical (or mechanical) digestion or muscular (ii) Crop: Storage of food/ temporarily or for later release for digestion Any three	4+3+3
(g)	Gestation period in days Pig: 113 – 117 days Sheep: 145 – 150 days Cow: 280 – 288 days	4+ 3+3
(h)	Diagram of cow's reproductive system: Drawing to show: Vagina and uterus and oviduct and ovary Labels: Vagina/ uterus/ oviduct/ ovary/ cervix Any three	4, 2, 0 3(2)
(i)	Qualities of wool as a material: Hard-wearing/ lightweight/ dirt resistant/ ignition resistant/ absorbs moisture/ mordant (or holds dye well)/ (temperature) insulation/ flexible Any three	4+3+3
(j)	Why hedgerow conservation encouraged: Shelter or protect buildings/ habitat or wildlife corridor/ biodiversity/ biosecurity/ land division/ increase soil (or air) temperature/ aesthetic Any three	4+3+3

(a)	(i) Soil type: Name of soil typ Diagram of named soil profile	е				3
	Drawing to show:					
	At least three horizons whi Labels: (ii) Factors responsible for creat.	Any thi	ree valid la		ype ned soil type	4, 2, 0 3(1)
	Correct factors for two hori O horizon: waterlogging or organic material	izons (pai	rticular rath	_	•	2(3)
	A horizon: activity of soil ar organic matter)	nimals (or	plant root	s) or presen	ce of humus (or	
	B horizon: leaching of nutri		ouild-up of n	utrients from	the A (horizon)	
	or less organic matter (or hand) <i>C horizon:</i> weathering of p	-	k			
(b)	(i) Soil texture: Relative proposand, silt and clay by %	ortions of	f different p	particles in a	soil or	4
	(ii) Comparing soil texture types	:				
		Clay	Sandy	Loam		
	Fertility	High	Low	High		
	Temperature	Low	High	High		4(2+2)
	Drainage	Poor	Good	Good		
	Ease of tilling	Poor	Good	Good		
(c)	Experiment to show earthworm of Wormery/ layers (or sand, worms/ cover/ leave in a co	chalk, cla	y)/ organic			
	control/ correct result		· 		Any six	6(2)

Q 3 Option one

(a)	(i) BCS:	
()	Assessment of level of fat reserves in an animal's body or lean-to-fat ratio (ii) Optimum BCS of a dairy cow	4
	At calving: BCS 3.0 – 3.5	3
	At mating: BCS 2.5 – 3.0	3
	(iii) Consequences of not being at optimum BCS At calving:	
	BCS low: small calf or reduced milk yield or metabolic diseases	
	or	3
	BCS high: calving difficulty	
	At mating:	
	BCS low: irregular heat pattern or poor conception rate or metabolic diseases	3
(b)	(i) Bacterial diseases of dairy cows: TB/ brucellosis/ mastitis/ leptospirosis/ blackleg/ Johne's disease/ anthrax/ bacterial pneumonia/ foot rot/ (bovine) conjunctivitis (or pink eye) (ii) Deficiency disorders of dairy cows: e.g. Milk fever/ grass tetany Any two (iii) Preventative measures: TB or Brucellosis: Closed herd or biosecurity or fencing or culling or testing Mastitis: Hygiene or fly control or dry cow treatment or culling Blackleg or bacterial pneumonia or leptospirosis: Vaccination or hygiene Foot rot: Foot bath or paring Johne's disease: Culling or do not mix colostrum Anthrax: Culling Pink eye: Vaccination or fly control Milk fever: (Dairy) ration or minerals or licks or bolus or adding minerals to water or pasture dressing or correct BCS at calving Grass tetany: Bolus or licks or (dairy) ration or adding Mg soln. to water or avoid fresh grass and clover	2(2) 2(2) 4(2)
(c)	(i) Changes in beef calf diet, from birth to weaning: *Colostrum [compulsory]/ milk/ milk replacer/ concentrates/ hay/ grass *Colostrum plus any other three, all in correct order (ii) How changes affect ruminant stomach development:	4(3)

Q 3 **Option two**

(a)	Life cycle of fungus that affects potato Name of fungus: Phytophthora infestans or potato blight (fungus) Drawing of life cycle to feature: A leaf TS with a sporangiophore emerging from a stoma, and at least one labelled hypha or haustorium or sporangium or zoospore Description: Haustoria absorb food (from cells)/ sporangiophores grow out of stomata/ sporangia break off/ (sporangia become) airborne/ onto soil/ (sporangia) germinate in humid conditions (or develop into conidium if dry)/ produce zoospores/ infect tubers or growing plants Any five					2 4, 0 5(2)
(b)	Cultivation of a name	ed cereal				
		Barley	Wheat	Oats	Maize	Name 2
	(i) Soil requirements	pH 6 – 6.5/ fertile/ sandy loam or free draining/ brown earth or grey-brown podzolic	pH 5 – 7/ soil as for barley	pH 5.5 soil as for barley	pH 6.6 – 7/ soil as for barley	2(2)
	(ii) Climate	Warm/ moist/ dry or sunshine	As for barley	As for barley	As for barley	2(2)
	(iii) Harvest date	July - September	July - Sept.	July - Sept.	July - Sept.	3
	(iv) Yield	6 – 8 t/ ha for spring or 8 – 9 t/ ha for winter	7 – 8 t/ ha for spring or 9 – 11 t/ ha for winter	6 – 7 t/ ha for spring or 7 – 8 t/ ha for winter	15 – 20 t/ ha of dry matter	3
(c)	species (accept a (ii) Examples of indir Crop rotation/ gr	ontrol that is effectiv method that does n	ot use chemica at/ stubble clea	ls) ning/ aggressiv	ve crop	4(3)

Q 4 Laboratory or field methods

Any two parts to be answered 2(24)

	aboratory of field methods Any two parts to be answered 2(24)	1
(a)	Percentage sugar in grass: Dry grass sample/ chop/ freezer bag/ roll or remove air/ freeze/ squeeze or collect sap/ refractometer/ read % from scale/ repeat (to establish statistical significance) Any six	6(4)
(b)	Effect of shading on crop growth: 1 m² (plots or other measured areas) or transect(s)/ one shaded and one unshaded/ sow crop seeds or established crop/ similar (or named) conditions/ leave for a time appropriate for crop/ harvest or measure/ compare yields (or growth differences)/ correct result/ repeat (to establish statistical significance) Any six	6(4)
(c)	*Amylase [compulsory]/ two test tubes/ add equal amounts of starch solution (to each)/ add amylase to one/ other is control/ waterbath at 37 °C/ at least 5 min./ add iodine/ negative for starch/ Benedict's or Fehling's/ positive (or brick red) for reducing sugar/ repeat (to establish statistical significance) OR	
	*Catalase [compulsory] / fresh liver sample (or celery or potato or other suitable source)/ one cubed, one chopped, one boiled/ add a few drops of washing-up liquid to each/ use buffer solution/ add equal amounts of hydrogen peroxide/ compare number of bubbles produced (or height of foam)/ catalase breaks down hydrogen peroxide/ high temperature denatures catalase/ repeat (to establish statistical significance) *Catalase [compulsory] / fresh liver sample (or celery or potato or other suitable source) / hydrogen peroxide/ add a few drops of washing-up liquid to each/ use buffer solution/ add equal amounts of hydrogen peroxide/ compare number of bubbles produced (or height of foam)/ catalase breaks down hydrogen peroxide/ high temperature denatures catalase/ repeat (to establish statistical significance)	6(4)
(d)	Botanical composition comparison: Quadrat/ random/ record plants/ repeat (x 10)/ repeat for other pasture/ identification key/ frequency/ compare/ sample results Any six	6(4)

(a)	Hill v. lowland sheep production:			
(α)	Mountain/ Hill	Lowland		
	Extensive (or low) stocking rate	Intensive (or high) stock	ing rate	
	Low production	Higher production		
	Rough grazing	Better grazing		
	High mortality	Lower mortality		
	Single lambs	More than one lamb		
	Breed example	Breed example		
	Low labour	High labour	Any four	4(2+2)
(c)	colostrum/ fostering/ infra-red lam disease control (or hygiene) Sheep Welfare Scheme features	o/ iodine on navel cord or of	ther point of Any four	4(4)
(c)	(i) Methods Lameness control: Regular checking or			

(a)	(i) Reseeding grassland: Direct sowing: total herbicide applied/ ploughed/ fine seed bed/ seeds sown by drill or broadcast/ chain harrow/ fertilise Stitching in: old grassland not killed (or not checked back)/ slit made in land/ grass seeds sown by drill/ fertilise Undersowing: land is ploughed (or tilled)/ grass seeds sown with tillage crop (or nurse crop)/ nurse crop harvested/ grassland establishes Direct drilling: grass killed off/ fertiliser and slug pellets drilled in with grass seed/ used in soil subject to poaching (or shallow or stony soils) Slurry seeding: seeds drilled into ground/ slurry is applied during or after sowing/ successful with adequate rainfall (ii) Establishment of newly-sown grass: Progression from emerged seedlings to thick grass sward (iii) Practices for successful establishment: Tillering/ grazing with light stock or topping or rolling/ manure (or fertiliser) application/ weed control/ use certified seed/ use productive (or named) grass species Any two	Any two method names 2(2) + Matching descriptions 2(2+2) 4
(b)	(i) Productivity features of PRG v. IRG: PRG IRG Tillers vigorously Tillers less vigorously Aggressive Less aggressive Persistent Less persistent Fast-growing Faster than PRG Long growing season Longer growing season Any three (ii) Hybrid grasses and why they are used What are they: Result of crossing of different species e.g. PRG and IRG Why use them: Hybrid vigour or best qualities of crossed species combined	3(2+2) 2 2
(c)	(i) How better grassland management prevents more cattle parasite infestation: Rotational grazing (or mixed grazing or leader-follower grazing) disturbs parasite life cycle/ reseeding disturbs parasite lifecycle/ scrub removal (or topping) removes parasite habitat/ draining (or fencing off) wet land disturbs the life cycle of the liver fluke/ liming disturbs life cycle of liver fluke Any two (ii) Examples of cattle parasites: Stomach worms/ lung worms/ ticks/ liver fluke Any two	2(3) 2(3)

(a)	(i) Polyploidy Explain: (Cells with) more than two sets of chromosomes (or 3n or higher) Example: Wheat or strawberry plants or grasses (or named grasses) or beet or endosperm (tissue) or 3n (or higher) (ii) Freemartin condition Explain: Infertility in some female animals with a male twin Example: Calves (iii) Micropropagation Explain: Plant tissue grown to produce clone(s) (or to produce plants					3+2
	identical to the p Example: Seed pot	•	on			3+2
(b)	Dihybrid cross: Parental genotyp	e· GσNn				
		<u> </u>	C	_NI		2
	(Gametes↓→) GN	GN	Gn	gN	gn	
	Gn	GGNN GGNn	GGNn GGnn	GgNN GgNn	GgNn	
	gN	GgNN	GgNn	ggNN	Ggnn ggNn	
	gn	GgNn	Ggnn	ggNn	ggnn	
	Gamete genotypes, across: Gamete genotypes, down: Offspring genotypes grid: Grey colour, normal antennae 9 Grey colour, twisted antennae 3 Ebony colour, normal antennae 3 Ebony colour, twisted antennae 1 [Allow correct fractions or decimals or percentages in place of 9, 3, 3, 1]					2, 0 2, 0 4, 0
	Offspring phenot Matching ratio [2		o not matched	l to phenotype	es]	4(1) 4, 2, 0
(c)	(i) Embryo transfer: Embryos from one (or donor) animal/ implanted into surrogate (or other animal) (ii) Benefits of embryo transfer: More offspring from superior (stock)/ genetic improvement/ produces replacement stock/ reduces pregnancy stress on superior animal/ allows import and export of embryos/ (allows) beef (production) in dairy				2(3)	
	enterprise/ decre	eases time for	genetic improv	vement	Any three	3(3)

<u>u</u> o	Ally two parts to be allswered 2(24)	1
(a)	(i) Grass to silage – what's happening: Anaerobic conditions/ Lactobacillus species/ fermentation/ carbohydrates in grass/ converted to (weak) acids/ lowers pH/ kills bacteria/ grass preserved Any four (ii) Practical steps related to what's happening: Cut grass when dry to have increased carbohydrate in grass/ cut at correct heading-out stage to encourage lactic acid (or weak acid) production/ cut in the afternoon to take advantage of maximum photosynthesis (or to increase carbohydrate)/ double (or precision) chopping (of grass) to increase surface area (or for greater bacterial access (or activity) or to release more sugars)/ roll well to expel air (or to provide anaerobic conditions)/ seal tightly to exclude air (or to provide anaerobic conditions)/ additives to increase carbohydrate/ wilting to increase carbohydrate concentration Any three	4(3) 3(4)
(b)	(i) N: Function: Chlorophyll or protein or leafy growth Deficiency symptom: Slow growth or low yield or pale green colour or yellowing of leaves P: Function: Root growth or reproduction or flower or seed formation Deficiency symptom: Stunted growth or low yield or blue colour on leaves or lack of flowers K: Function: Protein or translocation or disease resistance or seed (or fruit) formation Deficiency symptom: Reduced yield or poor growth or scorching of leaves or lodging or poor root development (ii) Experiment to show effect of a deficiency: Sterilise test tubes or containers/ seedlings in two tubes/ tablet minus nutrient/ tablet complete/ aeration/ similar conditions/ cover to prevent algae/ leave for a minimum of two weeks/ measure or compare/ correct result Any six	2 2 2 2 2 2
(c)	Any three parts of (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) to be answered (i) Zero grazing: animals are indoors or enclosed/ grass is cut to be brought in for feed Strip grazing: Allowing animals access a fresh strip of grass or forage crop daily/ moveable fence (ii) Contact fungicides: Kill fungi they touch/ fast acting/ more coverage needed Any two Systemic fungicides: Absorbed into plant/ translocated to all parts/ slow acting/ less coverage needed Any two (iii) First early potatoes: Harvested immature in June/ sown in early spring/ low yield/ sprouted/ grown in coastal regions (or under plastic) Any two Maincrop potatoes: Sown in late spring/ harvested fully mature in autumn/ high yield Any two (iv) Abiotic factors: Non- living factors/ in a habitat Edaphic factors: Soil factors/ in a habitat	2(2) 2(2) 2(2) 2(2) 2(2) 2(2) 2(2) 2(2)

Q 9 Scientific explanations

Any four parts to be answered 4(12)

(a)	Trailing shoe to spread slurry:	
	Slurry in narrow bands on surface/ reduces N loss to atmosphere/ less	
	smell/ environmentally friendly (or complies with farm schemes)/ reduces	
	volatilisation/ early return to grazing Any three	3(4)
(b)	Thinning forestry trees:	
	Poorest (or diseased or damaged) trees removed/ reduces competition/	
	remaining trees grow faster/ improves tree quality/ improves size of trees/	
	income from thinnings Any three	3(4)
(c)	Algal bloom:	
	Eutrophication (or nutrient enrichment)/ run-off (or leaching)/ slurry (or	
	silage effluent or fertiliser)/ rivers low/ warm water Any three	3(4)
(d)	Farrowing crate:	
	Restricts sow movement/ prevents crushing of bonhams/ ease of suckling/	
	bonhams can access creep area or higher temperature/ better survival	
	rates Any three	3(4)
(e)	Rushes in gley soils:	
	Impeded drainage/ high water table/ rushes grow well in poorly-drained	
	land/ temporary inaccessibility of land for spraying (or for topping)/ cold	
	soil means less competition from other plants Any three	3(4)

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