Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

BIOLOGY **9700/33**

Paper 3 Advanced Practical Skills 1 **February/March 2025**

CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS

6022665790

This document gives details of how to prepare for and administer the practical exam.

The information in this document and the identity of any materials supplied by Cambridge International are confidential and must NOT reach candidates either directly or indirectly.

The supervisor must complete the report at the end of this document and return it with the scripts.

INSTRUCTIONS

- If you have any queries regarding these confidential instructions, contact Cambridge International stating the centre number, the syllabus and component number and the nature of the query.
  email info@cambridgeinternational.org
  phone +44 1223 553554

This document has **8** pages.

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General information about practical exams

Centres must follow the guidance on science practical exams given in the *Cambridge Handbook*.

Safety

Supervisors must follow national and local regulations relating to safety and first aid.

Only those procedures described in the question paper should be attempted.

Supervisors must inform candidates that materials and apparatus used in the exam should be treated with caution. Suitable eye protection should be used where necessary.

The following hazard codes are used in these confidential instructions, where relevant:

C	corrosive	**MH**	moderate hazard
HH	health hazard	**T**	acutely toxic
F	flammable	**O**	oxidising
N	hazardous to the aquatic environment		

Hazard data sheets relating to substances used in this exam should be available from your chemical supplier.

Before the exam

- The packets containing the question papers must **not** be opened before the exam.
- It is assumed that standard school laboratory facilities, as indicated in the *Guide to Planning Practical Science*, will be available.
- Spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set must be available for candidates, if required.

During the exam

- It must be made clear to candidates at the start of the exam that they may request spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set.
- Where specified, the supervisor **must** perform the experiments and record the results as instructed. This must be done **out of sight** of the candidates, using the same materials and apparatus as the candidates.
- Any assistance provided to candidates must be recorded in the supervisor's report.
- If any materials or apparatus need to be replaced, for example, in the event of breakage or loss, this must be recorded in the supervisor's report.

After the exam

- The supervisor must complete a report for each practical session held and each laboratory used.
- Each packet of scripts returned to Cambridge International must contain the following items:
  - the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
  - the supervisor's results relevant to these candidates
  - the supervisor's reports relevant to these candidates
  - seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
  - the attendance register.

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Specific information for this practical exam

During the exam, the supervisor or other competent biologist (**not** the invigilator) should obtain the results needed for the supervisor's report by following the relevant steps in the question paper. The results should be recorded in the supervisor's report.

Organisation of the exam

- All candidates must have access to the materials required for Question 1 throughout the whole period of the exam.
- Half of the candidates will have access to the microscope and slide for a maximum time of one hour from the start of the exam. These candidates should start with Question 2. After one hour, or sooner if candidates have finished Question 2, they should move on to Question 1.
- For Question 2, two candidates are **not** permitted to share the same microscope and slide at the same time.
- The other candidates should start with Question 1. After one hour, these candidates should be given access to the microscope and slide. They should then move on to Question 2 as soon as they are ready.
- Candidates will only have access to the microscope and slide for one hour. They should be advised that they can answer any part of the exam paper not requiring the microscope and slide throughout the whole period of the exam.
- Access arrangements to microscopes and slides, including instructions on which question to start with and timings, must be explained to candidates before the start of the exam.

Materials to be supplied by Cambridge International

- Slide **P1**

  On receipt of the slides, check that they are labelled **P1** and that no slides are broken. The slides should **not** be viewed in advance of the exam. The material on the slides is confidential and must **not** be disclosed to candidates.

  The number of slides supplied by Cambridge International will be equal to half the candidate entry.

Return of slides to Cambridge International

Immediately after the exam, the slides must be:

- returned to Cambridge International in the boxes in which they were received, using the self-adhesive label supplied. The slides must **not** be included in the packet of scripts.

or

- purchased using the order form enclosed with the slides, which should be completed and returned to Cambridge International. The order form must **not** be included in the packet of scripts. Slides and boxes will be charged at the rate of £3.25 per slide plus £1 per box.

If the slides are not returned or purchased by the deadline stated on the order form, the charge will be £3.75 per slide plus £1 per box.

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Materials and apparatus for Question 1

Each candidate will need:

materials and apparatus for each candidate	quantity	✓
10.0% ascorbic acid solution in a beaker labelled **A**, provided at room temperature (see **Preparation of materials**)	at least 100 cm^3	
A block of agar containing DCPIP in a Petri dish labelled **B** (see **Preparation of materials**)	1	
10 cm^3 syringe	1	
Test-tubes, large, capacity 40–50 cm^3	5	
Test-tube rack(s) to hold 5 large test-tubes	1 or more	
Test-tube holder to hold hot test-tubes	1	
Single-edged razor blade or scalpel	1	
White tile	1	
Blunt forceps	1	
Beaker, capacity approximately 400 cm^3, suitable for heating as a water-bath with approximately 200 cm^3 of tap water, labelled **water-bath**	1	
Bunsen burner, tripod, gauze, bench mat and lighter or matches	1	
Thermometer, –10 °C to +110 °C	1	
Container, with approximately 200 cm^3 of tap water, labelled **For washing**	1	
Container, capacity approximately 400 cm^3, labelled **For waste**	1	
Paper towels	8	
Glass marker pen (permanent)	1	
White card or white paper, approximately 10 cm × 10 cm	1	
Ruler in mm (also used in Question 2)	1	
Stop-clock or timer showing seconds	1	
Disposable gloves	1 pair	
Suitable eye protection	1	

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Preparation of materials

All the materials may be prepared the day before the exam.
The agar block **B** should be wrapped in a plastic bag or similar and kept in a refrigerator.
Solution **A** should be kept in a covered container in a refrigerator.
Solution **A** and the agar block **B** should be at room temperature before the start of the exam.

- **A**, 10.0% ascorbic acid solution
  This is prepared by putting 10 g of ascorbic acid into a beaker and making up to 100 cm^3 with distilled water. Mix well.

- **B**, agar block containing DCPIP
  This is prepared by putting 15 g technical agar (**not** nutrient agar) into 500 cm^3 of distilled water. To dissolve the agar, heat to boiling while stirring continuously.

  Put 30 cm^3 of 0.1% DCPIP solution (see below) into the hot agar and gently mix until the agar is a uniform blue colour.

  Pour the agar into shallow, flat containers to a depth of at least 1 cm. Keep the agar in cool conditions so that it sets firmly. The containers must be placed on a horizontal flat surface so that the agar sets to an even depth.

  Just before the exam, cut the agar into blocks measuring at least 4 cm × 4 cm across. For each candidate, put one block in a Petri dish labelled **B**.

- 0.1% DCPIP (2,6-dichlorophenol-indophenol) solution
  This is prepared by putting 1 g of DCPIP **[HH] [MH] [N]** into a beaker and making up to 100 cm^3 with distilled water. Mix well. This is a 1% DCPIP solution.

  Put 10 cm^3 of the 1% DCPIP solution into a beaker and make up to 100 cm^3 with distilled water. Mix well. This is a 0.1% DCPIP solution.

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Materials and apparatus for Question 2

Each candidate will need:

materials and apparatus for each candidate	quantity	✓
Microscope with: ● an eyepiece lens, ×10 magnification ● a low-power objective lens, ×10 magnification ● a high-power objective lens, ×40 magnification	1 between 2	
Slide **P1**	1 between 2	
Ruler in mm (also used in Question 1)	1	

Preparation of materials

- Microscope

  Any lenses that are **not** ×10 or ×40 should be removed or replaced.

  For each candidate:
  – the microscope must be set up on low power
  – the slide must **not** be on the stage of the microscope.

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Supervisor's report

Syllabus and component number	9	7	0	0	/	3	3
Centre number							

Centre name .....

Time of the practical session .....

Laboratory name/number .....

Give details of any difficulties experienced by the centre or by candidates (include the relevant candidate names and candidate numbers).

You must include:
- any difficulties experienced by the centre in the preparation of materials
- any difficulties experienced by candidates, e.g. due to faulty materials or apparatus
- any specific assistance given to candidates.

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Temperature of exam room ..... °C

Results for **Question 1(a)(iii)**

Declaration

1 Each packet that I am returning to Cambridge International contains all of the following items:
- the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
- the supervisor's results relevant to these candidates
- the supervisor's reports relevant to these candidates
- seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
- the attendance register.

2 Where the practical exam has taken place in more than one practical session, I have clearly labelled the supervisor's results, supervisor's reports and seating plans with the time and laboratory name/number for each practical session.

3 I have included details of difficulties relating to each practical session experienced by the centre or by candidates.

4 I have reported any other adverse circumstances affecting candidates, e.g. illness, bereavement or temporary injury, directly to Cambridge International on a *special consideration form*.

Signed ..... (supervisor)

Name (in block capitals) .....

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