



Mark Scheme (Final)

January 2026

International Advanced Level in Statistics S3

WST03/01

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

January 2026

Question Paper Log Number P78917A

Publication Code WST03_01_2601_MS

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd

General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

EDEXCEL IAL MATHEMATICS

General Instructions for Marking

1. The total number of marks for the paper is 75.
2. The Edexcel Mathematics mark schemes use the following types of marks:
 - **M** marks: Method marks are awarded for 'knowing a method and attempting to apply it', unless otherwise indicated.
 - **A** marks: Accuracy marks can only be awarded if the relevant method (M) marks have been earned.
 - **B** marks are unconditional accuracy marks (independent of M marks)

Marks should not be subdivided.

3. Abbreviations

These are some of the traditional marking abbreviations that will appear in the mark schemes and can be used if you are using the annotation facility on ePEN:

- bod – benefit of doubt
 - ft – follow through
 - the symbol \surd will be used for correct ft
 - cao – correct answer only
 - cso – correct solution only. There must be no errors in this part of the question to obtain this mark
 - isw – ignore subsequent working
 - awrt – answers which round to
 - SC – special case
 - oe – or equivalent (and appropriate)
 - d... or dep – dependent
 - indep – independent
 - dp – decimal places
 - sf – significant figures
 - * – The answer is printed on the paper or ag- answer given
 - \square or d... – The second mark is dependent on gaining the first mark
4. All A marks are 'correct answer only' (cao), unless shown, for example, as A1 ft to indicate that previous wrong working is to be followed through. After a misread however, the subsequent A marks affected are treated as A ft, but manifestly absurd answers should never be awarded A marks.

5. For misreading which does not alter the character of a question or materially simplify it, deduct two from any A or B marks gained, in that part of the question affected. If you are using the annotation facility on ePEN, indicate this action by 'MR' in the body of the script.
6. If a candidate makes more than one attempt at any question:
 - a) If all but one attempt is crossed out, mark the attempt which is NOT crossed out.
 - b) If either all attempts are crossed out or none are crossed out, mark all the attempts and score the highest single attempt.
7. Ignore wrong working or incorrect statements following a correct answer.

Question Number	Scheme				Marks
1	H_0 : The aptitude test result is independent of the test centre H_1 : The aptitude test result is not independent of the test centre				B1
	Observed	Pass	Fail	Total	
	Centre A	60	30	90	M1
	Centre B	80	30	110	
	Total	140	60	200	
	Expected	Pass	Fail		
	Centre A	$\frac{140 \times 90}{200} [= 63]$	$\frac{60 \times 90}{200} [= 27]$		M1
	Centre B	$\frac{140 \times 110}{200} [= 77]$	$\frac{60 \times 110}{200} [= 33]$		
	$\sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E} = \frac{(60-63)^2}{63} + \frac{(80-77)^2}{77} + \frac{(30-27)^2}{27} + \frac{(30-33)^2}{33}$ or $\sum \frac{O^2}{E} - 200 = \frac{60^2}{63} + \frac{80^2}{77} + \frac{30^2}{27} + \frac{30^2}{33} - 200$				dM1
	= 0.8658...				awrt 0.866
$\nu = (2-1)(2-1) = 1$					B1
$\chi^2(0.05) = 3.841$					B1ft
[Do not reject H_0 /not significant/not in the CR] There is insufficient evidence that aptitude test <u>result</u> differs by test <u>centre</u>					dA1ft
					(8)
Notes				Total 8	
B1	both hypotheses correct with result and centre (Condone aptitude test and test centre). May be written in terms of association				
M1	for a correct contingency table. May be implied by awrt 0.866				
M1	attempt at $\frac{\text{row total} \times \text{column total}}{\text{total}}$ (can be implied by at least one correct expected value)				
dM1	dependent on previous M1. For using $\sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$ or $\sum \frac{O^2}{E} - 200$ (There must be 4 values of $\sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$ or $\sum \frac{O^2}{E}$ calculated)				
A1	awrt 0.866				
B1	$\nu = 1$				
B1ft	3.841 (or better) allow ft from their stated degrees of freedom				
dA1ft	dependent on 3 rd M1 and 3 rd B1. For a correct contextual conclusion. Must include result and centre. (Condone aptitude test and test centre)				

Question Number	Scheme		Marks
2 (a)	$H_0 : \rho_s = 0$ $H_1 : \rho_s > 0$		B1
			(1)
(b)	$[r_s =]1 - \frac{6\sum d^2}{5(24)} \geq 0.9$		M1 B1
	$\sum d^2 \leq 2$ So largest possible value is 2*		A1*
			(3)
(c)	e.g. $d = 0, 0, 0, 1, -1$		M1
	So e.g. $A B C E D$		A1
			(2)
Notes			Total 6
(a)	B1	for both hypotheses correct in terms of ρ or ρ_s . Condone use of p	
(b)	M1	for use of formula for r in an equation or an inequality (condone $>$ rather than \geq)	
	B1	for 0.9	
	A1*	answer is given so at least one correct line of working is needed between the M mark and the given answer. Allow $\sum d^2 = 2$ if written as an equation throughout but do not allow $\sum d^2 \geq 2$ or $\sum d^2 > 2$ or $\sum d^2 < 2$	
(c)	M1	for a correct possibility for d or $ d $ May be implied by a correct possibility for rankings	
	A1	for a correct possibility for rankings or eg 1, 2, 3, 5, 4	

Question Number	Scheme		Marks
3 (a)	$\bar{x} = \left[\frac{509.1572 + 510.8428}{2} \right] = 510$		B1
	$2 \times 1.96 \times \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 510.8428 - 509.1572$		M1
	$\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 0.43$		A1
	'510' ± 1.6449 × '0.43'		M1 B1
	(509.292..., 510.707...)		(awrt 509.3, awrt 510.7) A1
			(6)
(b)	Let $X =$ The number of confidence intervals containing μ so $X \sim B(3, 0.9)$		
	$P(X \geq 1) = 1 - P(X = 0) = 1 - [{}^3C_0 \times 0.9^0] \times 0.1^3$		M1
	$= 0.999$		A1
			(2)
Notes			Total 8
(a)	B1	for $\bar{x} = 510$	
	M1	for use of $2 \times z$ value $\times \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 510.8428 - 509.1572$ oe	
	A1	Cao	
	M1	for use of $\bar{x} \pm z$ value $\times \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ ft their \bar{x} and their $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$	
	B1	$z = 1.96$ or better and $z = 1.6449$ or better	
	A1	(awrt 509.3, awrt 510.7)	
(b)	M1	for writing or using $P(X \geq 1) = 1 - P(X = 0)$ or $P(X = 1) + P(X = 2) + P(X = 3)$	
	A1	Cao	

Question Number	Scheme		Marks
4 (a)	$\frac{273}{150 \times 10} = 0.18$		M1 A1
			(2)
(b)	${}^{10}C_5 \times 0.18^5 \times 0.82^5 \times 150 [= 2.65] *$		B1*
			(1)
(c)	0.54		B1
			(1)
(d)	To ensure that no expected frequency < 5		B1
			(1)
(e)	H ₀ : Binomial distribution is a good fit. H ₁ : Binomial distribution is not a good fit		B1
	Combine cells 8 + 6 + 3 = 17 and 10.05 + 2.65 + '0.54' = 13.24		M1
	$\sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i} = 2.51 + \frac{(17 - 13.24)^2}{13.24}$		M1
	= 3.5777		awrt 3.58 A1
	$\nu = 5 - 1 - 1 = 3$		B1
	$\chi^2_3(0.05) = 6.251$		B1ft
	[Do not reject H ₀ /not significant] Binomial distribution is a suitable model		dA1
			(7)
Notes			Total 12
(a)	M1	for a correct method to find the value of p	
	A1	Awrt 0.18	
(b)	B1*	for a correct expression for r	
(c)	B1	for 0.54	
(d)	B1	for a correct explanation	
(e)	B1	for both hypotheses correct (any mention of B(10, p) is B0)	
	M1	for combining cells	
	M1	Dep on an attempt to combine cells. Use of $2.51 + \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$ for remaining cells	
	A1	awrt 3.58	
	B1	$\nu = 3$	
	B1ft	6.251 or better. Allow ft from their stated DoF	
	dA1	dependent on 2 nd M1. For a correct conclusion which states that the data are consistent with a binomial distribution which must be consistent with the test statistic and CV (Condone any mention of n and p or it supports the managers belief)	

Question Number	Scheme		Marks
5 (a)	$\left[m = \frac{3085}{50} \Rightarrow m = 61.7 \right]$		B1
	$v = \frac{190457.2 - 50(61.7)^2}{50-1} = 2.3$		M1 A1
			(3)
(b)	$H_0: \mu_A - \mu_B = 10$ $H_1: \mu_A - \mu_B > 10$		B1
	$z = \frac{72.2 - '61.7' - 10}{\sqrt{\frac{6.4}{50} + \frac{'2.3'}{50}}}$		M1 M1
	= 1.1986... awrt 1.20		A1
	One tailed c.v. $Z = 1.6449$ or CR: $Z \geq 1.6449$		B1
	Not in CR/Not significant/Do not reject H_0		M1
	No significant evidence to support the head of department's claim		A1
			(7)
(c)	Assume that $s^2 = \sigma^2$ for both samples		B1
	Assume sample sizes are large enough so that CLT applies or the CLT allows us to assume that the distributions of the sample means are (approximately) normal		B1
			(2)
Notes			Total 12
(a)	B1	Cao	
	M1	for a full attempt at s^2 ft their \bar{x}	
	A1	Cao	
(b)	B1	for both hypotheses correct in terms of μ_A and μ_B . Allow equivalent rearrangements. Allow other letters as long it is clear which is professor A and which is professor B. Must be attached to H_0 and H_1	
	M1	for $z = \frac{a-b-10}{\sqrt{\frac{c}{50} + \frac{d}{50}}}$ with at least 2 of a, b, c or d correct (allow \pm) ft their 61.7 and their 2.3	
	M1	for $z = \frac{72.2 - '61.7' - 10}{\sqrt{\frac{6.4}{50} + \frac{'2.3'}{50}}}$ (allow \pm) ft their 61.7 and their 2.3	
	A1	awrt 1.20	
	B1	for CV = ± 1.6449 and compatible sign with their test statistic	
	M1	for correct statement consistent with their test statistic and CV (no contradictory non-contextual comments) May be implied by correct contextual comment on its own	
	A1	for a contextual conclusion that is consistent with their test statistic and their CV. Must mention head of department's claim	
(c)	B1	for one correct assumption. Must mention both samples.	
	B1	for a second correct assumption. Must mention both samples.	

Question Number	Scheme		Marks
6 (a)	$\left[P(\bar{H} < 55.08) = 0.1151 \right] \Rightarrow \frac{55.08 - \mu}{\frac{6}{\sqrt{n}}} = -1.20$		M1
	$55.08 + \frac{7.2}{\sqrt{n}} = \mu$		A1
	$\left[P(\bar{H} > 56.976) = 0.0250 \right] \Rightarrow \frac{56.976 - \mu}{\frac{6}{\sqrt{n}}} = 1.96$		M1
	$56.976 - \frac{11.76}{\sqrt{n}} = \mu$		A1
	$55.08 + \frac{7.2}{\sqrt{n}} = 56.976 - \frac{11.76}{\sqrt{n}}$		M1
	Either $\frac{18.96}{\sqrt{n}} = 1.896$ or $\sqrt{n} = 10$ leading to $n = 100^*$		A1*
			(6)
(b)	$\mu = 55.08 + \frac{7.2}{\sqrt{10}} = 55.8$ or $\mu = 56.976 - \frac{11.76}{\sqrt{10}} = 55.8$		M1 A1
Notes			Total 8
(a)	M1	for standardising with μ and $\frac{6}{\sqrt{n}}$ and setting = to ± 1.2	
	A1	for a correct equation	
	M1	for standardising with μ and $\frac{6}{\sqrt{n}}$ and setting = to ± 1.96	
	A1	for a correct equation	
	M1	for solving simultaneously	
	A1*	for a correct equation leading to the given answer	
(b)	M1	substitution of $n = 10$ into an equation to find μ	
	A1	Cao	

Question Number	Scheme		Marks
7 (a)	$E(\bar{X}) = \frac{(a-1)+(a+5)}{2} = a+2$		M1 A1
	So $\bar{X} - 2$ is an unbiased estimator for a		A1
			(3)
(b)	$SE(\bar{X} - 2) = SE(\bar{X})$		B1ft
	$Var(X) = \frac{((a+5)-(a-1))^2}{12} = 3$		M1 A1
	$SE = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} = 0.57735\dots$	awrt 0.577	M1 A1
		(5)	
Notes			Total 8
(a)	M1	for use of $\frac{a+b}{2}$	
	A1	for $a+2$	
	A1	Cao	
(b)	B1ft	for $SE(\bar{X} - 2) = SE(\bar{X})$ ft their unbiased estimator in part (a) May be implied by awrt 0.577	
	M1	for use of $\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$	
	A1	Cao	
	M1	for use of $\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$	
	A1	awrt 0.577	

Question Number	Scheme		Marks
8 (a)	[a =]625 + 625 - 886 =]364		B1
	[b =]42 ² + 42 ² + 45 ² = 5553		M1 A1
			(3)
(b)	$X = L - 3S$		
	[E(X) = 886 - 3 × 265 =]91		M1
	[Var(X) =]45 ² + 3 ² × 78 ² = 56781		M1 A1
	[P(X > 0) =]P $\left(Z > \frac{0 - 91}{\sqrt{56781}}\right)$		M1
	[P(Z > -0.38) =]0.6480 Cal gives 0.64865... So awrt 0.648 - 0.649		A1
		(5)	
(c)	$Y = \frac{S_1 - S_2}{2}$	$R = S_1 - S_2$	M1
	$\left[E(Y) = \frac{265 - 265}{2} =\right]0$	$[E(R) = 265 - 265 =]0$	M1
	$[\text{Var}(Y) =] \frac{78^2 + 78^2}{4} = 3042$	$[\text{Var}(R) =]78^2 + 78^2 = 12168$	M1
	$[P(Y > 100) =]P\left(Z > \frac{100 - 0}{\sqrt{3042}}\right)$	$[P(R > 200) =]P\left(Z > \frac{200 - 0}{\sqrt{12168}}\right)$	M1
	[P(Z > 1.81) = 1 - 0.9649 =]0.0351 Cal gives 0.0349 So awrt 0.0349 - 0.0351		A1
			(5)
Notes			Total 13
(a)	B1	Cao	
	M1	For writing or using $2 \times \text{Var}(M) + \text{Var}(L)$	
	A1	Cao	
(b)	M1	for seeing or using $E(X) = 91$ or correct expression for mean	
	M1	for writing or using $\text{Var}(L) + 3^2 \text{Var}(S)$	
	A1	Cao	
	M1	for standardising using their mean and standard deviation (Allow \pm)	
	A1	awrt 0.648 - awrt 0.649	
(c)	M1	for use of $\frac{S_1 - S_2}{2}$ or $S_1 - S_2$	
	M1	for writing or using $E(Y) = 0$ or $E(R) = 0$	
	M1	for using $\text{Var}(Y) = 3042$ or $\text{Var}(R) = 12168$	
	M1	for standardising using their mean and standard deviation (Allow \pm)	
	A1	awrt 0.0349 - awrt 0.0351	