## Mark scheme - Plant Responses


$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|l|l|}\hline & & & & \begin{array}{l}\text { Examiner's Comments } \\ \text { Knowledge of the functions of plant hormones } \\ \text { caused problems for some candidates } \\ \text { throughout this paper. Candidates that were }\end{array} \\ \text { aware of the effects of auxin and ethene in } \\ \text { controlling leaf drop correctly gave option B as } \\ \text { their response. While not a recognised role of } \\ \text { giberellins it is reported that there is some } \\ \text { evidence of involvement in leaf senescence, it } \\ \text { was therefore decided to also credit } \\ \text { candidates who chose option A. }\end{array}\right]$


## mark within a

 level.
## Level 3 (5-6 marks)

A statement in support of the claim AND a statement against the claim AND more than one comment on the validity of the claim OR
A statement in support of the claim AND more than one statement against the claim AND a comment on the validity of the claim There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.

## Level 2 (3-4 marks)

A statement in support of the claim AND a statement against the claim AND a comment on the validity of the claim

## OR

A statement in support of the claim AND more than one statement against the claim

OR
A statement in support of the claim AND more than one comment on the validity of the claim OR
A statement against the claim AND more than one comment on the validity of the claim
There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the mostpart relevant and supported by some evidence.

- no control variables given
- concentration of hormone not specified
- temperature control not specified
- carbon dioxide concentration not specified
- location not specified (e.g. could be outside vs greenhouse)
- mineral availability / soil type, not specified
- water availability not specified
- light intensity not specified
- presence of pollinators not specified
- presence of, pests / weeds / pesticide / herbicide, not specified
- no control group (to compare results)
- no evidence of repeats
- no consideration of the interaction with other hormones or processes


## Examiner's Comments

Some candidates gave an excellent evaluation of the firm's claim, discussing bias and validity in great detail. A few candidates failed to achieve any marks despite offering an extended response. Such responses tended to discuss the merits of Diatin over Zeatin or Kinetin without criticising the rigour of the investigation. Some candidates, usually those gaining a Level 3 response, noticed that the axes were reversed in the question, with the independent variable on the $y$ axis instead of the x axis. Candidates should be reminded to look critically at data and query points such as a lack of numerical data being presented and the potential lack of objectivity by the company. Candidates were better able to discuss issues with the validity of the experiment. Many spotted that no species or type of plant had been named and that no control variables were given. Some were also able to state that the concentration of the hormones had not been given. It is recommended that centres encourage candidates to practise responding to this style of questioning which draws on extended writing in a practical context.

|  |  | Level 1 (1-2 marks) <br> A statement in support of the claim AND a statement against the claim OR <br> A statement in support of the claim and a comment on the validity of the claim OR <br> A statement against the claim and a comment on the validity of the claim OR <br> More than one statement against the claim OR <br> More than one comment on the validity of the claim There is an attempt at a logical structure with a line of reasoning. The information is in the most part relevant. <br> 0 marks <br> No response or no response worthy of credit. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | 6 |  |
| 10 | a i | Please refer to the marking instructions on page 4 of this mark scheme for guidance on how to mark this question. <br> In summary: <br> Read through the whole answer. (Be prepared to recognise and credit unexpected approaches where they show relevance.) Using a 'best-fit' approach based on the science content of the answer, first decide which of the level descriptors, Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3, best describes the overall | $\begin{gathered} 6 \\ (\mathrm{AO} 2.3) \\ (\mathrm{AO} 2.4) \\ (\mathrm{AO} 3.1) \end{gathered}$ | Indicative scientific points may include (but are not limited to): <br> AO2.3 and 2.4 Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas and techniques in a practical context when handling qualitative and quantitative data. <br> Descriptions: <br> Table 3.1: <br> - light increases length and mass of both roots and stems <br> - group A has less growth than group B <br> Table 3.2: <br> - stems grow towards the light (with a few exceptions) |



|  |  | relevant and supported by some evidence. <br> Level 1 (1-2 marks) Offers some description for both tables or describes and explains one table. <br> The information is basic and communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear. <br> 0 marks <br> No response or no response worthy of credit. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ii | (unpaired) t-test $\checkmark$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ (\mathrm{AO} 2.8) \end{gathered}$ | ALLOW unrelated t-test DO NOT ALLOW paired/related, t-test |
|  | iii | idea of comparing two means $\checkmark$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ (\mathrm{AO} 3.3) \end{gathered}$ |  |
|  | iv | 8.10 is greater than 5.99 (at 2 degrees of freedom) $\checkmark$ <br> (therefore) significant (difference) at $(p=) 0.05 \checkmark$ <br> not significant at $(p=) 0.01$ $\checkmark$ <br> (indicates greater than 95\% probability that) difference is not due to chance $\sqrt{ }$ <br> null hypothesis can be rejected (at $p=0.05$ ) $\checkmark$ | $\begin{gathered} 3 \text { max } \\ (\mathrm{AOB.2}) \end{gathered}$ | ALLOW ECF for mp2, 4 and 5 if 9.49 or 11.07 value used from table for max 2 marks <br> ALLOW 'students chi-squared value greater than critical value for 2 degrees of freedom' <br> ALLOW 'there is a significant difference between the observed and expected results' ALLOW 'less than 5\% probability that difference is due to chance' |
| b |  | auxin(s) / IAA $\checkmark$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ (\mathrm{AO} 1.1) \end{gathered}$ | ALLOW cytokinins |
|  | ii | (soil/water) $\mathrm{pH} /$ species of plant / age of plant / size of | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ (\mathrm{AO} 3.3) \end{gathered}$ | IGNORE carbon dioxide concentration / wind movement / humidity ALLOW pre-treatment of seeds |



|  |  |  |  | https:/www.ocr.org.uk/subjects/science/maths-for-biology/index.aspx?id=biology-a-h020-h420-from-2015 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | 15 |  |
| 11 |  | Please refer to the marking instruction point 10 for guidance on how to mark this question. <br> In summary: <br> Read through the whole answer. (Be prepared to recognise and credit unexpected approaches where they show relevance.) Using a 'best-fit' approach based on the science content of the answer, first decide which of the level descriptors, Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3, best describes the overall quality of the answer. Then, award the higher or lower mark within the level, according to the Communication Statement (shown in italics): <br> - award the higher mark where the Communication Statement has been met. <br> - award the lower mark where aspects of the Communication Statement have been missed. <br> - The science content |  |  |



|  |  | hormone treatment and / or including only limited biochemical detail. <br> There is a logical structure to the answer. The explanation and use of scientific language, though basic, is clear. <br> 0 marks <br> No response or no response worthy of credit. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | 6 |  |
| 12 |  | ethene (1) | 1 |  |
|  |  | Total | 1 |  |
| 13 | i | (stimulates) cell, elongation / division | 1 | IGNORE ref to action outside the cell, or to unqualified "growth" etc. |
|  | ii | three from <br> reduced / no, proton <br> 1 pumping / proton motive force / chemiosmosis (1) <br> 2 photophosphorylation stops (1) <br> ${ }_{3}$ less / no, ATP produced (1) <br> 4 less / no, reduced NADP produced (1) <br> no, Calvin cycle / carbon <br> 5 fixation / light independent stage (1) <br> plus <br> 6 no, TP / (hexose) sugars, made (1) <br> 7 no respiratory substrate / respiration ceases (1) | 5 | ALLOW cessation of vital process that 3 needs ATP IF ATP mentioned but IGNORE respiration (as credited in mp 7 ). |
|  |  | Total | 6 |  |
| 14 |  | results suggest action of plant, hormone / growth factor $\checkmark$ <br> (observations suggest) apical dominance $\sqrt{ }$ <br> (which is mediated by) IAA / auxin $\checkmark$ | 3 max | i.e. student statement refers only to effect on bonsai |



|  |  | line graph <br> AND <br> points plotted accurately to $\pm 1$ small square $\checkmark$ <br> suitable curved line of best fit drawn $\checkmark$ |  | NOTE non-linear x axis data <br> ALLOW one error in plotting ALLOW ECF if non-linear scale used <br> DO NOT ALLOW ruled lines between points <br> Examiner's Comments <br> Candidates who had acquired skills in practical techniques with regards to presenting data often achieved all four marks here. However, there is still uncertainty among some candidates of how to draw a line of best fit or which variables to assign to the $x$ and $y$ axes. <br> OCR support <br> The mathematical Skills Handbook provides support on plotting graphs: https:/www.ocr.org.uk/Images/294471-biology-mathematical-skills-handbook.pdf |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ii | Any one from seed germination flowering in long-day plants cellular , transcription / translation prevents leaf abscission aids stomatal opening promotes fruit development promotes, activity of amylase / hydrolysis of starch $\checkmark$ | 1 max (AO1.2) | Examiner's Comments <br> Many candidates gained credit here. Seed germination was the most commonly seen correct response. |
|  |  | Total | 8 |  |
| 16 |  |  | 6 max | Mark limitation, explanation and improvement as continuous prose within each numbered prompt. <br> If marks come from more than one letter within either numbered prompt, award that which gives the highest mark <br> IGNORE reference to any other variables |



|  |  | OR <br> could lead to biased results $\checkmark$ <br> B3 measure angle of bend $\checkmark$ <br> related to replicates ( $R$ ) R1 experiment / trial, was not repeated $\checkmark$ <br> R2 cannot, calculate mean / identify anomalies / carry out statistical analysis $\checkmark$ <br> R3 repeat (experiment at least) twice <br> OR <br> carry out (at least) three trials $\checkmark$ <br> related to size of dish (D) D1 size of petri dish not, controlled / specified $\checkmark$ D2 different sized dishes could affect, spacing of seeds / access to light $\sqrt{ }$ <br> D3 specify, size / volume / diameter, of petri dish $\checkmark$ |  | For R2 <br> IGNORE reference to, fair test / accuracy / reliability <br> For D3 <br> ALLOW use the same sized dish <br> Examiner's Comments <br> Q21(b) proved challenging and candidates seemed to have had little preparation in analysing and redesigning experiments. The majority of marks awarded pertained to the control of light and selection of seedlings. Very few achieved maximum marks and Examiners commented on the fact that some candidates gave responses that included aspects of the experiment that had already been taken into account in the method provided. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | 6 |  |

