



KEY SKILLS COMMUNICATION
Level 3 - Drinking water
March 2004
Mark Scheme

Part A - short-answer questions

Q1 Using information from documents 1 and 2, identify <i>four</i> ways in which our drinking water can be polluted.			
Criteria	Marking guide	Marks	Max Marks
3.2.1	Candidate has selected relevant material from documents 1 and 2.	1 mark	
3.2.2	Candidate has identified accurately ways in which drinking water can be polluted, eg a) medicine disposal by flushing (doc 1) b) waste from hospitals and labs (doc 1) c) sheep dip (doc 1) d) bodily excretions (docs 1 and 2) e) naturally occurring oestrogen (doc 2) Accept any other valid way from the documents.	1 mark for each way identified (max 4 marks)	
Total for Question			5 marks

Q2 Using information from documents 1 and 2, identify **two** potentially harmful effects that tap water can have on humans and consider some of the different ways in which scientists have responded to these potential effects.

Criteria	Marking guide	Marks	Max Marks
3.2.1	Candidate has selected relevant material from documents 1 and 2.	1 mark	
3.2.2	<p>Candidate has identified accurately two harmful effects, eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) allergic reaction (doc 1) b) antibiotic resistance (doc 1) c) reduction in male fertility (doc 2) <p>Accept any other valid effect from the documents.</p>	1 mark per effect (max 2 marks)	
3.2.3	<p>Candidate has considered some of the responses made by scientists, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr David McCalley claims that although levels of the hormone are minute, they have proved to be the cause of sex changes in male fish. However, Rupert Kruger believes that all traces of the hormone are removed and that tap water is completely safe. ▪ Despite being surprised at the number of pharmaceutical drugs found in water scientists aren't prepared to commit themselves before more research is done. <p>Accept any other valid consideration of the scientific response.</p>	Up to 3 marks	
Total for Question			6 Marks

Q3 Briefly explain the meaning of images 1, 2 and 3 in document 3, assessing the extent to which each supports the ideas and arguments put forward in the text.

Criteria	Marking guide	Marks	Max Marks
3.2.2	<p>Candidate has explained the meaning of the images, eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Image 1 - a simplified diagram of the cycle of water production/treatment. b) Image 2 - an image of a lake or reservoir storing water c) Image 3 - a test-tube and microscope representing the testing of water. <p>Accept any other valid description of each image</p>	1 mark for each meaning identified per image (max 3 marks)	
3.2.3	Candidate has assessed the extent to which the images support the written text by, for example, offering an opinion on the relative success of each of the images in communicating the positive side of the drinking water industry.	Up to 3 marks	
Total for Question			6 Marks

Q4 Assess the extent to which each of the three documents is biased towards a particular viewpoint on the safety of drinking water, explaining how this bias is achieved. Consider the quality of the arguments presented in each document, explaining which of the three documents you find most convincing, and why

Criteria	Marking guide	Marks	Max Marks
3.2.1	Candidate has selected relevant material from documents 1, 2 and 3.	1 mark	
3.2.3	<p>Candidate has assessed the extent to which the documents are biased towards a particular viewpoint on the safety of drinking water, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document 1 shows a negative bias towards water safety through the use of emotive language and highlighting harmful effects and research findings. ▪ Document 2 adopts a more balanced approach by highlighting dangers but also outlining the safety measures in place. ▪ Document 3 is produced by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (the 'guardians of drinking water quality') and the style and content of the language and images used shows a positive bias towards water safety. <p>Accept other interpretations of the documents if fully explained by the candidate.</p> <p>Candidate has effectively considered the quality of the arguments presented in each of the documents, eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the ways in which the arguments are supported by 'facts' and/or by quotations ▪ the comparative validity of the arguments ▪ the ways in which the evidence to support the arguments are presented <p>Candidate has clearly explained which of the 3 documents they think is most convincing</p>	<p>1 mark</p> <p>1 mark</p> <p>1 mark</p> <p>Up to 3 marks (1 per document)</p> <p>1 mark</p>	
Total for Question			8 Marks

Total for Part A 25

Part B Extended Answer Question

Q4

As a consumer concerned about the safety of drinking water you have decided to write to the Office of Water Services (OFWAT) who regulate the water industry in England and Wales.

Using information from all three documents, write a formal letter to the Customer Services Manager at OFWAT in which you raise some of the concerns about the safety of drinking water, and outline the responses to these concerns from water companies and other regulatory authorities. Include in your letter suggestions to OFWAT about the ways in which the safety of drinking water could be improved. OFWAT is based at Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4AU.

Criteria	Marking guide	Marks	Max Marks
3.3.1	Candidate has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ selected an appropriate form of a formal letter for presenting the information which includes sender and recipient address, date, salutation and close ▪ used an appropriate style and structure to add clarity to the text (for example the effective use of paragraphs to structure the argument) ▪ used a formal tone in writing. 	1 mark 1 mark 1 mark	3 marks
3.3.2	Candidate has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ used own words in an effective manner to present relevant information ▪ used specialist vocabulary appropriately, eg water table, filtration, oestrogen, biological significance. ▪ presented an informed view based on information from the documents, concerns around the safety of the drinking water and the responses from water companies and the regulatory authorities. ▪ demonstrated an understanding of the issues around the safety of drinking water raised by the documents. ▪ made clear and sensible suggestions to OFWAT about the ways in which the safety of drinking water could be improved based on information from the documents. 	Up to 3 marks Up to 2 marks Up to 3 marks Up to 3 marks Up to 2 marks	13 marks

3.3.3	<p>Band 1 The candidate spells, punctuates and uses grammar with reasonable accuracy, eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the spelling of simple words is usually accurate ▪ full stops and capital letters are accurately used to demarcate sentences. Commas in lists are used accurately. ▪ there may be some grammatical errors, eg confusion of pronouns, tense and some lack of cohesion. <p>Band 2 The candidate spells, punctuates and uses grammar with considerable accuracy, eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the spelling of words with complex regular patterns is usually accurate ▪ a range of punctuation including commas, apostrophes and inverted commas is used correctly including to mark sentences and clauses ▪ the work is mostly grammatically accurate showing that the candidate can construct complex sentences accurately, use pronouns so that their meaning is clear, makes accurate subject/verb agreement and uses tenses accurately and consistently, although there may be occasional errors of sentence separation. <p>Band 3 The candidate spells, punctuates and uses the rules of grammar with almost faultless accuracy eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ virtually all spelling, including that of irregular words is usually correct. Any errors stand out as untypical or 'one-off' slips ▪ punctuation is accurate and is used to vary pace, clarify meaning, avoid ambiguity and create deliberate effects ▪ grammar is accurate and gives appropriate variation in sentence structure. 	<p>1-3 marks</p> <p>4-7 marks</p> <p>8-9 marks</p>	<p>9 marks</p>
-------	--	--	----------------

Total for Part B 25

TOTAL MARKS FOR TEST 50

First published in 2004.

© Qualifications and Curriculum Authority 2004.

Reproduction, storage, adaptation or translation, in any form or by any means, of this publication is prohibited without prior written permission of the publisher, unless within the terms of licences issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency.

Printed in Great Britain.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is an exempt charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, 83 Piccadilly, London W1J 8QA. www.qca.org.uk

Ref: COM/L3/2.1/P3