

**INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL  
MATHEMATICS**

**MA04**

(9660/MA04) Unit S2 Statistics

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Mark scheme

January 2026

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Version: 1.0 Final

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**Key to mark scheme abbreviations**

<b>M</b>	Mark is for method
<b>m</b>	Mark is dependent on one or more M marks and is for method
<b>A</b>	Mark is dependent on M or m marks and is for accuracy
<b>B</b>	Mark is independent of M or m marks and is for method and accuracy
<b>E</b>	Mark is for explanation
<b>√ or ft</b>	Follow through from previous incorrect result
<b>CAO</b>	Correct answer only
<b>CSO</b>	Correct solution only
<b>AWFW</b>	Anything which falls within
<b>AWRT</b>	Anything which rounds to
<b>ACF</b>	Any correct form
<b>AG</b>	Answer given
<b>SC</b>	Special case
<b>oe</b>	Or equivalent
<b>A2, 1</b>	2 or 1 (or 0) accuracy marks
<b>-x EE</b>	Deduct x marks for each error
<b>NMS</b>	No method shown
<b>PI</b>	Possibly implied
<b>SCA</b>	Substantially correct approach
<b>sf</b>	Significant figure(s)
<b>dp</b>	Decimal place(s)
<b>ISW</b>	Ignore subsequent working

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
1(a)	$P(T < 4) = 1 - e^{-\frac{1}{8} \times 4}$	M1	PI Attempts to find correct probability using the cdf of the exponential distribution or through integration
	= 0.3935	A1	AWRT 0.3935
		2	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
1(b)	$P(3 < T < 10) = \left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{8} \times 10}\right) - \left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{8} \times 3}\right)$	M1	oe sight of $\left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{8} \times 10}\right)$ or $\left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{8} \times 3}\right)$
	= 0.4008	A1	PI by 0.7134... or 0.3127.... AWRT
		2	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
1(c)	$e^{-\frac{1}{8}t} = 0.2$	M1	Sets up a correct equation and attempts to solve for $t$
	$-\frac{1}{8}t = \ln 0.2$		
	$t = 12.9$ [hours]	A1	AWRT 12.9
		2	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
1(d)	64	B1	
		1	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
1(e)	$P(T > 12   T > 9) = P(T > 3)$ $P(T > 3) = e^{-\frac{1}{8} \times 3}$ $= 0.687$	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p><b>A1</b></p>	<b>CAO</b>
		<b>2</b>	
	<b>Question 1 total</b>	<b>9</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
<b>2(a)</b>	$\int_2^a \frac{3}{1072} \sqrt{5x+6} dx = 1$	<b>M1</b>	Attempt to integrate and set equal to 1
	$\frac{1}{2680} \left[ (5x+6)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]_2^a = 1$	<b>A1</b>	Correct integration and limits seen or used
	$(5a+6)^{\frac{3}{2}} - 64 = 2680$	<b>m1</b>	Attempt to use limits to find $a$
	$5a+6 = 196$ $a = 38$	<b>A1</b>	<b>CAO</b>
		<b>4</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
<b>2(b)</b>	0	<b>B1</b>	
		<b>1</b>	

	<b>Question 2 total</b>	<b>5</b>	
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Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
3(a)	$0.85^{30}$	M1	oe
	$= 0.00763$	A1	CAO
		2	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments	
3(b)	$H_0 : p = 0.15$	B1	Both hypotheses $H_0 : p = 0.85$ $H_1 : p > 0.85$	
	$H_1 : p < 0.15$			
	$X \sim B(30, 0.15)$			M1
	$P(X \leq 1) = 0.0480$			A1
	$0.0480 < 0.05$			A1ft
	Reject $H_0$			B1ft
	Evidence to suggest that the new computer system has decreased the proportion of missed appointments each workday	E1	PI by a binomial probability calculation $Y \sim B(30, 0.85)$ $P(Y \geq 29) = 0.0480$ or CR is $X \leq 1$ Compares their probability with 0.05 or states 1 is in the CR Correct conclusion on $H_0$ based on a comparison of their test statistic with 0.05 Must be in context, must not be definite and all the previous 5 marks must have been awarded	
		6		

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
3(c)	Concluding that the proportion of missed appointments has decreased even though it hasn't	B1	
		1	

	Question 3 total	9	
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Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
4(a)	Any <b>two</b> from; That each car arrives independently of another car That cars arrive at a constant average rate Cars arrive singly	<b>B2</b>	<b>B1</b> for one correct assumption
		<b>2</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
4(b)(i)	$\sum fx = 140$ or $\sum fx^2 = 528$  $\bar{x} = 2.8$  $s^2 = 2.78$	<b>M1</b>  <b>A1</b>  <b>A1</b>	Sight of either summary statistic <b>PI</b> by at one correct value  <b>oe</b>  <b>AWRT</b> 2.78 Allow $\frac{136}{49}$
		<b>3</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
4(b)(ii)	As $\bar{x} \approx s^2$ we can conclude that a Poisson distribution might be a good model for $X$	<b>B1</b>	<b>ft</b> their $\bar{x}$ and $s^2$ with correct comment on suitability
		<b>1</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
4(c)(i)	$[2.9 + 3.6] = 6.5$	<b>B1</b>	
		<b>1</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
4(c)(ii)	$P(T \leq 13) = 0.9929$ $P(T \leq b) = 0.9929 - 0.7692$ $P(T \leq 4) = 0.2237 \Rightarrow b = 4$	<b>M1</b>  <b>M1</b>  <b>A1</b>	<b>oe</b> such as $P(T < 14) = 0.9929$ <b>oe</b> $P(T \leq b) = P(T \leq 13) - 0.7692$ <b>ft</b> their $P(T \leq 13)$  <b>CAO</b> from fully correct working
		<b>3</b>	
	<b>Question 4 total</b>	<b>10</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
5(a)	$1 - \int_0^{0.5} \frac{1}{2}x^2 dx$	M1	oe 1 – their attempt at integration
	$= 1 - \frac{1}{6} \times 0.5^3$ $= \frac{47}{48}$	A1	AWRT 0.979
		2	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
5(b)	$[E(X) =] \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2}x^3 dx + \int_1^4 \frac{x}{54}(35 - 8x) dx$	M1	Correct integrals and limits PI
	$= \left[ \frac{x^4}{8} \right]_0^1 + \left[ \frac{35x^2}{108} - \frac{4x^3}{81} \right]_1^4$	A1	Correct integration with correct limits seen or used PI by correct final answer
	$= \left( \frac{1}{8} - 0 \right) + \left( \frac{164}{81} - \frac{89}{324} \right)$ $= \frac{15}{8}$	A1	oe
		3	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
5(c)	$\left[ E(X)^2 = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2}x^4 dx + \int_1^4 \frac{x^2}{54}(35-8x) dx \right]$	M1	Correct integrals and limits
	$= \left[ \frac{x^5}{10} \right]_0^1 + \left[ \frac{35x^3}{162} - \frac{x^4}{27} \right]_1^4$		
	$= \left( \frac{1}{10} - 0 \right) + \left( \frac{352}{81} - \frac{29}{162} \right)$	A1	Correct value for $E(X)^2$
	$= \frac{64}{15}$	M1	ft their $E(X)^2$ and their $E(X)$ in the correct formula for $\text{Var}(X)$
	$\left[ \text{Var}(X) = E(X)^2 - (E(X))^2 = \right] \frac{64}{15} - \left( \frac{15}{8} \right)^2$	A1	AG Must be convincingly shown
	$= \frac{721}{960}$		
		4	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
5(d)	$\left[ 3^2 \times \text{Var}(X) = \right] 9 \times \frac{721}{960}$	M1	PI by correct final answer
	$= \frac{2163}{320}$	A1	CAO
		2	

	<b>Question 5 total</b>	<b>11</b>	
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Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
7(a)	$H_0 : \mu = 2000$ $H_1 : \mu \neq 2000$  $\bar{X} \sim N\left(2000, \frac{18^2}{40}\right)$  $z = \frac{1995 - 2000}{\sqrt{\frac{18^2}{40}}}$  $z = -1.75682\dots$  $z_{critical} = -1.9600\dots$  Fail to reject $H_0$ as $-1.96 < -1.76$ or $ z  <  z_{critical} $  Insufficient evidence to suggest the LED lightbulb meantime has changed [at the 5% level of significance]	<b>B1</b>  <b>M1</b>  <b>M1</b>  <b>A1</b> <b>B1</b>  <b>A1ft</b>  <b>E1</b>	Both hypotheses  <b>PI</b>  <b>PI</b>  <b>AWRT</b> $-1.76$ <b>AWRT</b> $-1.96$ or $P(\bar{X} > 1995) = \mathbf{AWFW}$ [0.0392, 0.0395] <b>oe</b> Dependent on both <b>M1</b> marks and a correct comparison of their values using a $z$ -test, e.g. $z_{critical} < z$ , or $0.039511 > 0.025$  Correct statement must be in context and must not be definite.
		<b>7</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
7(b)	An increase in the standard deviation causes a <b>decrease</b> in the magnitude of the $z$ -value of the test statistic.  This will have <b>no</b> effect to the conclusion of the hypothesis as $ z  <  z_{critical} $ remains true.	<b>E1</b>  <b>E1</b>	<b>oe</b>  <b>oe</b> $z_{critical} < z$ Must have been awarded previous <b>E1</b> mark
		<b>2</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
7(c)	Central limit theorem [applies as the sample size is large enough, the sample mean will be approximately] normally distributed]	E1	Refers to central limit theorem
	The sample size is 40 which is sufficient [to apply the central limit theorem]	E1	Refers to sample size being sufficient
		2	
	<b>Question 7 total</b>	<b>11</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
8(a)	$H_0 : \lambda = 15$ $H_1 : \lambda \neq 15$	B1	
		1	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
8(b)	$P(X \leq 8) = 0.0374 (< 0.05)$ $P(X \leq 9) = 0.0699 (> 0.05)$  CR $\{X \leq 8\}$  $P(X \geq 22) = 0.0531 (> 0.05)$ $P(X \geq 23) = 0.0327 (< 0.05)$  CR $\{X \geq 23\}$	M1  A1  M1  A1	Either correct probability statement  Both probabilities and a correct CR for the lower tail  Either correct probability statement or at least one of $P(X \leq 21) = 0.9469 (< 0.95)$ $P(X \leq 22) = 0.9673 (> 0.95)$  Both probabilities and a correct CR for the upper tail
		4	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
8(c)	As 22 is not in the Critical Region.  ... there is insufficient evidence to support that the [population] mean number of bacteria in the water has changed (at the 10% level of significance)	E1ft  E1ft	Comparison of 22 to their CR  Comment in context which cannot be definite ft their CR Must have been awarded previous E1 mark
		2	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
8(d)	Rejecting that there has been a change in the [population] mean number of bacteria in water when there has been a change	E1	Must be in context
		1	

	<b>Question 8 total</b>	<b>8</b>	
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Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
9(a)	$\left[ P(\bar{X}_1 > 182) = 0.9 \Rightarrow \right] z = -1.2816$	<b>B1</b>	<b>Allow</b> $\pm 1.28$ <b>PI</b> by answer correct to 3 sf before rounding
	$-1.2816 > \frac{182 - 185}{\frac{20}{\sqrt{n}}}$	<b>M1</b>	For standardising
	$\sqrt{n} > 8.544\dots$	<b>m1</b>	Attempt to solve for $n$
	$n > 72.9\dots$	<b>A1</b>	<b>CAO</b>
	$n = 73$	<b>A1</b>	<b>CAO</b>
		<b>4</b>	

Q	Answer	Marks	Comments
9(b)	Mean of $X_T = 555 + \mu$	<b>B1</b>	<b>PI</b> if embedded correctly in calculations
	Variance of $X_T = 625 + \sigma^2$	<b>B1</b>	<b>PI</b> if embedded correctly in calculations
	$1.6449 = \frac{750 - (555 + \mu)}{\sqrt{625 + \sigma^2}}$	<b>M1 A1</b>	<b>M1</b> : Attempt to standardise with <b>AWRT</b> $z = 1.64$ <b>A1</b> : Fully correct expression
	$-2.0537 = \frac{650 - (555 + \mu)}{\sqrt{625 + \sigma^2}}$	<b>M1 A1</b>	<b>M1</b> : Attempt to standardise with <b>AWRT</b> $z = -2.05$ <b>A1</b> : Fully correct expression
	$3.6986\sqrt{625 + \sigma^2} = 100$	<b>m1</b>	Correctly eliminates one unknown $\frac{1.6449}{-2.0537} = \frac{195 - \mu}{95 - \mu}$
	$\sigma = 10.3$ [3 sf]	<b>A1</b>	<b>AWRT</b> 10.3 (use of 3 sf for 1.64 and $-2.05$ gives 10.5 (3sf) gets <b>A0</b> then <b>A1</b> for 151)
	$\mu = 151$ [3 sf]	<b>A1</b>	<b>AWRT</b> 151
		<b>9</b>	

	<b>Question 9 total</b>	<b>13</b>	
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