Comprehensives Examinations 2008
Outline Marking Criteria for Essay Questions

General Points
- The full range of marks will be used – it is possible to obtain high marks on these questions.
- All Short Notes and Essays are assessed by two members of staff.
- Students are welcome to use simple diagrams if appropriate.
- Mathematical derivations are not generally appropriate.

Essay
For all topics the examiners are looking for:
- Good and appropriate use of language.
- A clear and logical structure of the essay.

Depending on topic, the weight assigned to the following criteria will vary:
- *Factual content* - assimilation of material from inside and outside the scope of the core curriculum.
- *Development of argument* - in support of or against a proposed position. Students are expected to justify whatever position they take on an issue.
- *Awareness of the broader context* – e.g. historical, economic, environmental, social or philosophical.
- *Use of examples* - citation of specific relevant examples to illustrate or support the points made.
Comprehensives Examinations 2008
Outline Marking Criteria for Short Notes Questions

General Points

- The full range of marks will be used – it is possible to obtain high marks on these questions.
- All Short Notes and Essays are assessed by two members of staff.
- Students are welcome to use simple diagrams if appropriate.
- Mathematical derivations are not generally appropriate.

Brief notes

Equal marks are awarded for each one of the five required sets of notes. The following general aspects are expected in the notes:

- Definition of topic
- Basic physics relating to the topic and the wider physics context
- Historical aspects if relevant
- Applications and/or examples