



## Marks

Ranges between 2-6 marks

If it is 6 marks, you must:

- Make several linked comparisons
- Use information given AND your own knowledge
- Write in full, comparative sentences

Compare questions often include:

- Two or more named things (methods, materials, processes, treatments)
- A table of data, graph, or diagram
- A short passage of text
- Information about advantages, disadvantages, performance, or outcomes

# Compare



## What you need to do

- Identify similarities AND differences
- Write about X and Y together
- Use comparative language throughout
- Link points clearly
- If 6 marks: include several comparisons, not just one or two

## Useful comparative words

- "however"
- "whereas"
- "while"
- "in contrast"
- "both..., but..."
- "more / less"
- "higher / lower"
- "faster / slower"



## Tips for full marks

- Make one comparison per sentence
- Include both similarities and differences
- Use data or trends if provided
- Add relevant scientific knowledge
- Do not repeat the same comparison in different words
- Write in a clear, logical sequence

## You do NOT need to

- Explain why something happens (unless asked)
- Evaluate or judge which is better (unless asked)
- Write a conclusion (unless the question asks)
- Copy data without comparing it

## Common Physics Focuses:

Common Physics comparisons include:

- Renewable vs non-renewable energy sources
- Series vs parallel circuits
- I-V characteristics of components
- Insulation methods
- Solar panels vs immersion heaters

Examiner focus in Physics:

- Correct use of data
- Comparison of efficiency, output, or reliability
- Use of quantitative language
- Clear linking of points

**Example sentence:** "Both energy sources produce electricity without direct emissions; however, solar panels only work during daylight, whereas an immersion heater can provide energy at any time."

## Common mistakes



- Only writing similarities or only differences
- Writing two separate paragraphs (one for X, one for Y). Marks are not awarded for separate descriptions of X and Y
- Missing comparative words
- Using vague phrases like "it is better"
- Repeating the same idea in different sentences