

5-DECADE EXAM CHALLENGE

13 June 2008

This document contains detailed information for the Royal Society of Chemistry's 5-decade exam challenge, taking place 27 June 2008.

The examination

- Each candidate will need to work on a computer and submit their answers online during the examination, and will have a hard copy to work from as well.
- The online examination will be available via the RSC web site www.rsc.org/ChemistryChallengeExam
- We will also email you a direct link as an alternative method of accessing the examination.
- Candidates should arrive at their school in plenty of time to be briefed for the examination, to log on to their computer and to start promptly at 12.00pm.
- Candidates will need to enter their name and school at the start of the exam.
- It will not be possible to start the examination until midday.
- On a hard copy of the exam, each candidate must show their working, and also record the answers which have been submitted online. **Candidates must not be handed these hard copies until they log-on and start the online examination.**
- Any additional data needed to complete the examination, and a periodic table, will form part of this downloaded document.

Timing

- The length of time that each candidate takes to complete the examination will be recorded to help us to differentiate between the most successful candidates and to identify the winners. (In the event of a tie for top marks, the entry completed in the shortest time will win).
- Timing will be automatic on the online system with the clock starting as soon as the examination is started and finishing when the final submission is made.
- **As soon as candidates submit their online answer electronically, they should hand in their hard copies to the supervising teacher, and this teacher must record the time of submission on the hard copy, to the nearest minute, and countersign.**
- By the 2pm deadline candidates must all submit their final answers online.

Retaining a copy of each manuscript

- Teachers must keep the completed paper manuscripts securely as these will be used to judge and check the working of the top-scoring candidates. We ask that these are available on request for up to four weeks after the examination.
- If the teacher holding these manuscripts is not the key contact already given, please send us the relevant contact details for this member of staff. We will also contact this staff member to inform schools of the winning candidates.

In case of problems

If schools experience problems on the day, back-up procedures will be available:

- If candidates experience problems with the online examination and are unable to open the first question, a link to an alternative provider will be available from: www.rsc.org/ChemistryChallengeExam
- If problems occur during the examination, or in the unlikely event of experiencing problems with both providers, candidates should continue to work on the hard copy.
- The hard copy manuscripts will be used as an alternative examination and marking system in the event of the electronic answers failing to be submitted. These hard-copy answers must be handed in to the teacher after two hours.
- Teachers should report any problems by email to chemistrychallenge@rsc.org as soon as feasible. We will respond to these emails within 5 working days with information on how to submit your candidates' answers to us.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunctions of any computer online systems, servers, providers, computer equipment or failure of any entry to be received on account of technical problems.

Procedures and Rules

- Candidates should have their own pens and calculator.
- Strict examination conditions will be expected on the day and candidates must be supervised at all times.
- Candidates should read all instructions on the examination carefully.
- All candidates must submit their online and paper manuscripts after two hours.
- The answers to the questions have been provided by a group of chemists and the competition entries shall be marked and prize winners shall be determined accordingly. All decisions of the Royal Society of Chemistry shall be final and no correspondence or discussion shall be entered into.
- Winners will be announced as soon as possible after the competition. Winners may be requested to take part in promotional activity and the Royal Society of Chemistry shall contact the school with regards to the use of the names and the school of winners and their photographs of them in any publicity.

All other candidates will receive their marks in the following weeks, sent via the school contact.

Technical requirements

- There is no particular software that will be needed on the computers apart from a current version of Internet Explorer (version 6.0 or higher) or Firefox (version 2.0 or higher)
- JavaScript, Pop-Ups and Cookies should be enabled.
- Acrobat reader should also be installed on the PC used by teachers to access the PDF document.

Trial test

We will be emailing a link to a trial test of the examination approximately a week before the examination so that schools can test the system and we can troubleshoot for any problems. We strongly encourage you to use this opportunity. If there is a problem at this stage we would recommend that you check with your IT support that the web browsers have JavaScript, Pop-ups and Cookies enabled; more information can be found on <http://www.keysurvey.com/products/BrowserRecommendations.jsp>