

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

March 2011

GCSE

360Science

GCSE Science

Multiple Choice Paper C1a (5007/01)

GCSE Chemistry

Multiple Choice Paper C1a (5035/01)

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5007 Science/ 5035 Chemistry (C1a) Examiners' Report

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Foundation Tier

The first six questions on this paper were generally well answered. Candidates showed a clear understanding of chemical and hazard symbols, being able to recognise the correct symbol for neon, recall that neon is in the noble gas group, and understand why elements are placed in the same groups. Candidates were able to recognise the appropriate hazard symbol for a toxic substance such as chlorine.

Candidates found questions on sodium chloride more difficult, with only 38% recognising the correct formula as NaCl. Just 37% of candidates knew that the reaction of sodium hydroxide with hydrochloric acid was a neutralisation reaction, with 33% believing that the reaction taking place was hydration.

Only 35% of candidates realised that sodium chloride can be used to flavour food.

Questions 13-16 were generally answered well, with the exception of question 14; candidates found this question very difficult, with 64% believing that sodium carbonate is present in baking powder rather than sodium hydrogencarbonate. Out of the 36% that could recall that sodium hydrogencarbonate is in baking powder only 21% knew that an acidic substance also needs to be present.

Candidates found the section on practical chemistry (questions 17 and 18) quite difficult, with only 24% being able to recall that copper sulphate solution is blue in colour. Just 19% of candidates knew that a red-brown precipitate would indicate a salt of iron.

Questions 19-24 were generally well answered, with 72% of candidates being able to recognise the position of a transition metal in the periodic table.

Higher Tier

The first section of the paper was well answered with candidates showing a good understanding of the periodic table, 88% were able to identify the position of a transition metal, and 71% could recall the positions of metals and non-metals.

Candidates were able to interpret data on properties of materials to be able to explain their uses.

Candidates found the questions on the reaction of calcium oxide with hydrochloric acid challenging with only 39% of candidates being able to select the correct balanced equation for the reaction. In question 27, 46% of candidates believed that a reduction was taking place during the reaction whilst 50% of candidates believed that the soluble salt, calcium chloride, would be formed as a white precipitate.

The section on trends and patterns was generally well answered, with the exception of question 33, where only 28% of the candidates could select the correct balanced equation for the reaction of lithium with water.

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