

RECORD SHEETS FOR INTERNATIONAL CENTRES

GCE ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY AND ADVANCED CHEMISTRY – AS and A2

For first use in the summer 2012 examination session

Rationale:

- A significant number of international centres reported that some of their candidates were not attending any (or very few) Chemistry laboratory sessions at both AS and A2 in view of the fact that they were entered for the International Written Alternative to Practical examinations at AS and/or A2. This mode of assessment was introduced for the 2008 specification as the Practical Test is no longer available.
- These centres stated that they would appreciate some formal mechanism by which attendance by each of their candidates at a minimum number of laboratory sessions could be enforced.
- Edexcel supports the concept that Chemistry is a practical subject and that laboratory work for candidates remains an essential component of GCE Advanced Chemistry at both AS and A2. As a result, from the summer 2012 session, Edexcel will require all international centres who enter candidates for the International Written Alternative to Practical examinations at AS and/or A2 to confirm that practical work has been undertaken by candidates.
- Administration, for both the centre and Edexcel, should be kept to a minimum (e.g. a record sheet (form 1A) for practical work which can be e-mailed by the Centre to Edexcel before the written papers are sat). The completed record sheet (form 1A) should be sent to: gce.sciences@edexcel.com
- For parity with the home centres – for which five GPC experiments have to be identified and also three assessed tasks submitted - international centres who enter candidates for the International Written Alternative to Practical examinations at AS and/or A2 will be required to complete a record sheet to confirm that candidates have carried out a minimum number of **eight** practical assignments as appropriate.
- Edexcel reserves the right to award zero marks for the Unit 3 or 6 component, for candidates who have not satisfied the minimum requirement of eight practical assignments.

Proposed Format:

- By May 1st for each Summer Series and December 1st for each January Series, every centre entering candidates for papers 6CH07 and/or 6CH08 should have sent a Record sheet (forms 1A & 1B), as appropriate (please see samples attached), to the email address as above.

Guidance for Centres:

- Each experiment or practical task should be relevant to the AS or A2 Specification, as appropriate.
- Within the eight practical assignments, it is desirable that a range of experiments is chosen to include at least one Inorganic, one Organic and one Physical Chemistry exercise.
- Each experiment or practical task should take a minimum of about 30 minutes to complete.
- Experiments or practical tasks chosen do not have to be full-scale preparations (e.g. test tube experiments are suitable for qualitative tasks).
- Experiments or practical tasks can be from a published resource or written by teachers at the centre. Centres are free to select any suitable experiment they wish.
- Candidates can have worked in pairs for any experiment or practical task.
- No formal assessment of any experiment or practical task chosen for a candidate's eight practical assignments is required (i.e. no marks or written laboratory reports from candidates will be required from any centre).
- Centres will not be required to send the titles of the practical assignments carried out by candidates at their centre.
- Candidates at any centre do not have to do the same practical assignments.

- Centres are required to list **eight** typical experiment or practical tasks which have been carried out by the majority of their candidates. However, it is appreciated that not all candidates at the centre would carry out all the experiment or practical tasks listed.
- Centres should inform Edexcel of any candidates at their centre who have **NOT** carried out the minimum number of experiments or practical tasks, using the form provided for this purpose (form 1B).