CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

SYLLABUS

Cambridge IGCSE®
Physical Science

0652

For examination in November 2016

Changes to syllabus for 2016

This is version 2 of the syllabus, released February 2015.

- Text relating to teacher accreditation from January 2016 has been removed from pages 13 and 41.

More information is available in the February 2015 update for this syllabus.

|| The changes in version 2 of this syllabus, released February 2015, are indicated by double black vertical lines on either side of the text. ||

Changes in version 1 of the syllabus, released February 2014

- Please note that the format of the Periodic Table has changed in this version of the syllabus (2016) to reflect current practice. The examination papers sat in 2016 will contain this version of the Periodic Table.

| The changes in version 1 of this syllabus, released February 2014 are indicated by single vertical lines on either side of the text. |

You are advised to read the whole of this syllabus before planning your teaching programme.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Why choose Cambridge?

Recognition

Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for learners aged 5 to 19. We are part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge, trusted for excellence in education. Our qualifications are recognised by the world's universities and employers.

Cambridge IGCSE® (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent in demand to UK GCSEs. Learn more at **www.cie.org.uk/recognition**

Excellence in education

Our mission is to deliver world-class international education through the provision of high-quality curricula, assessment and services.

More than 9000 schools are part of our Cambridge learning community. We support teachers in over 160 countries who offer their learners an international education based on our curricula and leading to our qualifications. Every year, thousands of learners use Cambridge qualifications to gain places at universities around the world.

Our syllabuses are reviewed and updated regularly so that they reflect the latest thinking of international experts and practitioners and take account of the different national contexts in which they are taught.

Cambridge programmes and qualifications are designed to support learners in becoming:

- **confident** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- **responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- **reflective** as learners, developing their ability to learn
- **innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
- **engaged** intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference.

Support for teachers

A wide range of materials and resources is available to support teachers and learners in Cambridge schools. Resources suit a variety of teaching methods in different international contexts. Through subject discussion forums and training, teachers can access the expert advice they need for teaching our qualifications. More details can be found in Section 2 of this syllabus and at **www.cie.org.uk/teachers**

Support for exams officers

Exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exams entries and excellent personal support from our customer services. Learn more at **www.cie.org.uk/examsofficers**

Not-for-profit, part of the University of Cambridge

We are a not-for-profit organisation where the needs of the teachers and learners are at the core of what we do. We continually invest in educational research and respond to feedback from our customers in order to improve our qualifications, products and services.

Our systems for managing the provision of international qualifications and education programmes for learners aged 5 to 19 are certified as meeting the internationally recognised standard for quality management, ISO 9001:2008. Learn more at **www.cie.org.uk/ISO9001**

1.2 Why choose Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSEs are international in outlook, but retain a local relevance. The syllabuses provide opportunities for contextualised learning and the content has been created to suit a wide variety of schools, avoid cultural bias and develop essential lifelong skills, including creative thinking and problem-solving.

Our aim is to balance knowledge, understanding and skills in our programmes and qualifications to enable candidates to become effective learners and to provide a solid foundation for their continuing educational journey.

Through our professional development courses and our support materials for Cambridge IGCSEs, we provide the tools to enable teachers to prepare learners to the best of their ability and work with us in the pursuit of excellence in education.

Cambridge IGCSEs are considered to be an excellent preparation for Cambridge International AS and A Levels, the Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) Group Award, Cambridge Pre-U, and other education programmes, such as the US Advanced Placement program and the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. Learn more about Cambridge IGCSEs at **www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecondary2**

Guided learning hours

Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses are designed on the assumption that learners have about 130 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course, but this is for guidance only. The number of hours required to gain the qualification may vary according to local curricular practice and the learners' prior experience of the subject.

1.3 Why choose Cambridge IGCSE Physical Science?

Cambridge IGCSE Physical Science is accepted by universities and employers as proof of real ability and knowledge.

As well as a subject focus, the Cambridge IGCSE Physical Science syllabus enables candidates to better understand the technological world they live in, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Candidates learn about the basic principles of physical science through a mix of theoretical and practical studies.

Candidates also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, candidates learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

This syllabus has been developed to:

- be appropriate to the wide range of teaching environments in Cambridge IGCSE Centres
- encourage the consideration of science within an international context
- be relevant to the differing backgrounds and experiences of candidates throughout the world

The Cambridge IGCSE Physical Science syllabus is aimed at candidates across a very wide range of attainments, and will allow them to show success over the full range of grades from A* to G.

Prior learning

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously studied a science syllabus such as that of the Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme or equivalent national educational frameworks. Candidates should also have adequate mathematical skills for the content contained in this syllabus.

Progression

Cambridge IGCSE Certificates are general qualifications that enable candidates to progress either directly to employment, or to proceed to further qualifications.

Candidates who are awarded grades C to A* in Cambridge IGCSE Physical Science are well prepared to follow courses leading to Cambridge International AS Level Physical Science, or the equivalent.

1.4 Cambridge ICE (International Certificate of Education)

Cambridge ICE is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE. It gives schools the opportunity to benefit from offering a broad and balanced curriculum by recognising the achievements of learners who pass examinations in at least seven subjects. To qualify for the Cambridge ICE award learners are required to have studied subjects from five groups: two languages from Group 1, and one subject from each of the remaining four groups. The seventh subject can be taken from any of the five subject groups.

Physical Science is in Group 3, Science.

Learn more about Cambridge ICE at **www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecondary2**

The Cambridge ICE is awarded from examinations administered in the June and November series each year.

1.5 How can I find out more?

If you are already a Cambridge school

You can make entries for this qualification through your usual channels. If you have any questions, please contact us at **info@cie.org.uk**

If you are not yet a Cambridge school

Learn about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge school at **www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge**. Email us at **info@cie.org.uk** to find out how your organisation can register to become a Cambridge school.

2. Teacher support

2.1 Support materials

Cambridge syllabuses, past question papers and examiner reports to cover the last examination series are on the *Syllabus and Support Materials* DVD, which we send to all Cambridge schools.

You can also go to our public website at **www.cie.org.uk/igcse** to download current and future syllabuses together with specimen papers or past question papers and examiner reports from one series.

For teachers at registered Cambridge schools a range of additional support materials for specific syllabuses is available from Teacher Support, our secure online support for Cambridge teachers. Go to **http://teachers.cie.org.uk** (username and password required).

2.2 Resource lists

We work with publishers providing a range of resources for our syllabuses including textbooks, websites, CDs, etc. Any endorsed, recommended and suggested resources are listed on both our public website and on Teacher Support.

The resource lists can be filtered to show all resources or just those which are endorsed or recommended by Cambridge. Resources endorsed by Cambridge go through a detailed quality assurance process and are written to align closely with the Cambridge syllabus they support.

2.3 Training

We offer a range of support activities for teachers to ensure they have the relevant knowledge and skills to deliver our qualifications. See **www.cie.org.uk/events** for further information.

3. Syllabus content at a glance

C1. The particulate nature of matter

C2. Experimental techniques

C3. Atoms, elements and compounds
- 3.1 Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
- 3.2 Bonding: the structure of matter
  - 3.2(a) Ions and ionic bonds
  - 3.2(b) Molecules and covalent bonds
  - 3.2(c) Macromolecules
  - 3.2(d) Metallic bonding

C4. Stoichiometry

C5. Chemical reactions
- 5.1 Production of energy
- 5.2 Energetics of a reaction
- 5.3 Speed of reaction
- 5.4 Redox

C6. Acids, bases and salts
- 6.1 The characteristic properties of acids and bases
- 6.2 Types of oxides
- 6.3 Preparation of salts
- 6.4 Identification of ions
- 6.5 Idenfitication of gases

C7. The Periodic Table
- 7.1 Periodic trends
- 7.2 Group properties
- 7.3 Transition elements
- 7.4 Noble gases

C8. Metals
- 8.1 Properties of metals
- 8.2 Reactivity series
  - 8.3(a) Extraction of metals
  - 8.3(b) Uses of metal

C9. Air and water

C10. Lime and limestone

C11. Organic chemistry

- 11.1 Names of compounds
- 11.2 Fuels
- 11.3 Homologous series
- 11.4 Alkanes
- 11.5 Alkenes
- 11.6 Alcohol

P1. General physics

- 1.1 Length and time
- 1.2 Speed, velocity and acceleration
- 1.3 Mass and weight
- 1.4 Density
- 1.5 Forces
  - 1.5(a) Effects of forces
  - 1.5(b) Turning effect
  - 1.5(c) Centre of mass
- 1.6 Energy, work and power
  - 1.6(a) Energy
  - 1.6(b) Major sources of energy and alternative sources of energy
  - 1.6(c) Work
  - 1.6(d) Power

P2. Thermal physics

- 2.1 Thermal properties
  - 2.1(a) Thermal expansion of solids,liquids and gases
  - 2.1(b) Measurement of temperature
  - 2.1(c) Melting and boiling
- 2.2 Transfer of thermal energy
  - 2.2(a) Conduction
  - 2.2(b) Convection
  - 2.2(c) Radiation
  - 2.2(d) Consequences of energy transfer

P3. Properties of waves, including light and sound

- 3.1 General wave properties
- 3.2 Light
  - 3.2(a) Reflection of light
  - 3.2(b) Refraction of light
  - 3.2(c) Thin converging lens
  - 3.2(d) Electromagnetic spectrum
- 3.3 Sound

P4. Electricity and magnetism

- 4.1 Simple phenomena of magnetism
- 4.2 Electrostatics
  - 4.2(a) Electric charge
- 4.3 Electricity
  - 4.3(a) Current
  - 4.3(b) Electromotive force (e.m.f.)
  - 4.3(c) Potential difference (p.d.)
  - 4.3(d) Resistance
  - 4.3(e) V/I characteristic graphs
- 4.4 Electric circuits
- 4.5 Practical electric circuitry
  - 4.5(a) Uses of electricity
  - 4.5(b) Safety considerations
- 4.6 Electromagnetic effects
  - 4.6(a) Electromagnetic induction
  - 4.6(b) a.c. generator
  - 4.6(c) d.c. motor
  - 4.6(d) Transformer
- 4.7 Cathode rays and the cathode-ray oscilloscope (c.r.o.)
  - 4.7(a) Cathode rays
  - 4.7(b) Simple treatment of cathode-ray oscilloscope

P5. Atomic physics

- 5.1 Radioactivity
  - 5.1(a) Detection of radioactivity
  - 5.1(b) Characteristics of the three kinds of emission
  - 5.1(c) Radioactive decay
  - 5.1(d) Half-life
  - 5.1(e) Safety precautions
- 5.2 The nuclear atom
  - 5.2(a) Nucleus
  - 5.3(b) Isotopes

4. Assessment at a glance

For the Cambridge IGCSE in Physical Science, candidates take three components. All candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 2 **or** Paper 3 **and one** of Paper 4, 5 **or** 6. Candidates who take Paper 2 are eligible for grades C to G. Candidates who take Paper 3 are eligible for grades A* to G.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">All candidates take:</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Paper 1 45 minutes
Multiple choice question paper
Weighted at 30% of total available marks</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">and either:</th><th>or:</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Paper 2 1 hour 15 minutes
Core theory paper
Weighted at 50% of total available marks</td><td>Paper 3 1 hour 15 minutes
Extended theory paper
Weighted at 50% of total available marks</td></tr>
<tr><th>and either:</th><th>or:</th><th>or:</th></tr>
<tr><td>Paper 4
Coursework
Weighted at 20% of total available marks</td><td>Paper 5 1 hour 30 minutes
Practical Test
Weighted at 20% of total available marks</td><td>Paper 6 1 hour
Alternative to Practical
Weighted at 20% of total available marks</td></tr>
</table>

Availability

This syllabus is examined in the November examination series.

This syllabus is available to private candidates.

Detailed timetables are available from **www.cie.org.uk/examsofficers**

Centres in the UK that receive government funding are advised to consult the Cambridge website **www.cie.org.uk** for the latest information before beginning to teach this syllabus.

Combining this with other syllabuses

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination series with any other Cambridge syllabus, except:

- syllabuses with the same title at the same level
- 0620 Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry
- 0625 Cambridge IGCSE Physics
- 0653 Cambridge IGCSE Combined Science
- 0654 Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award)
- 5054 Cambridge O Level Physics
- 5070 Cambridge O Level Chemistry
- 5129 Cambridge O Level Combined Science

Please note that Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate and Cambridge O Level syllabuses are at the same level.

5. Syllabus aims and assessment objectives

5.1 Syllabus aims

The aims, which are not listed in order of priority, are:

1. to provide a worthwhile educational experience for all candidates, through well-designed studies of experimental and practical science, whether or not they go on to study science beyond this level
2. to enable candidates to acquire sufficient understanding and knowledge to:
   - become confident citizens in a technological world, to take or develop an informed interest in scientific matters
   - recognise the usefulness, and limitations, of scientific method and to appreciate its applicability in other disciplines and in everyday life
   - be suitably prepared for studies beyond the Cambridge IGCSE level in pure sciences, in applied sciences or in science-dependent vocational courses
3. to develop abilities and skills that:
   - are relevant to the study and practice of physical science
   - are useful in everyday life
   - encourage efficient and safe practice
   - encourage effective communication
4. to develop attitudes relevant to physical science such as:
   - concern for accuracy and precision
   - objectivity
   - integrity
   - enquiry
   - initiative
   - inventiveness
5. to stimulate interest in, and care for, the environment
6. to promote an awareness that:
   - scientific theories and methods have developed, and continue to do so, as a result of the co-operative activities of groups and individuals
   - the study and practice of science is subject to social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural influences and limitations
   - the applications of science may be both beneficial and detrimental to the individual, the community and the environment
   - science transcends national boundaries and that the language of science, correctly and rigorously applied, is universal

5.2 Assessment objectives

The three assessment objectives in Cambridge IGCSE Physical Science are

AO1: Knowledge with understanding

AO2: Handling information and problem solving

AO3: Experimental skills and investigations

A description of each assessment objective follows.

AO1: Knowledge with understanding

Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- scientific phenomena, facts, laws, definitions, concepts and theories
- scientific vocabulary, terminology and conventions (including symbols, quantities and units)
- scientific instruments and apparatus, including techniques of operation and aspects of safety
- scientific quantities and their determination
- scientific and technological applications with their social, economic and environmental implications

The syllabus content defines the factual material that candidates may be required to recall and explain. Questions testing this will often begin with one of the following words: *define*, *state*, *describe*, *explain* or *outline*.

AO2: Handling information and problem solving

Candidates should be able, using oral, written, symbolic, graphical and numerical forms of presentation, to:

- locate, select, organise and present information from a variety of sources
- translate information from one form to another
- manipulate numerical and other data
- use information to identify patterns, report trends and draw inferences
- present reasoned explanations for phenomena, patterns and relationships
- make predictions and hypotheses
- solve problems

Questions testing these skills may be based on information that is unfamiliar to candidates, requiring them to apply the principles and concepts from the syllabus to a new situation, in a logical, reasoned or deductive way.

Questions testing these objectives will often begin with one of the following words: *discuss*, *predict*, *suggest*, *calculate* or *determine*.

AO3: Experimental skills and investigations

Candidates should be able to:

- use techniques, apparatus and materials (including the following of a sequence of instructions where appropriate)
- make and record observations, measurements and estimates
- interpret and evaluate experimental observations and data
- plan investigations and/or evaluate methods and suggest possible improvements (including the selection of techniques, apparatus and materials)

Specification grid

The approximate weightings allocated to each of the assessment objectives in the assessment model are summarised in the table below.

Assessment Objective	Weighting
AO1: Knowledge with understanding	50% (not more than 25% recall)
AO2: Handling information and problem solving	30%
AO3: Experimental skills and investigations	20%

5.3 Scheme of assessment

All candidates must enter for three papers: Paper 1; one from either Paper 2 or Paper 3; and one from Papers 4, 5 or 6.

Candidates who have only studied the core syllabus content, or who are expected to achieve a grade D or below, should normally be entered for Paper 2. Candidates who take Paper 2 are eligible for grades C to G.

Candidates who have studied the extended syllabus content, and who are expected to achieve a grade C or above, should be entered for Paper 3. Candidates who take Paper 3 are eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates must take a practical paper, chosen from: Paper 4 (Coursework), Paper 5 (Practical Test), or Paper 6 (Alternative to Practical).

The data sheet (Periodic Table) will be included in Papers 1, 2 and 3.

All candidates take:

Paper 1 45 minutes

A multiple choice paper consisting of 40 items of the four-choice type.

This paper will test skills mainly in Assessment Objectives AO1 and AO2.

Questions will be based on the core syllabus content and will be of a difficulty appropriate to grades C to G.

40 marks

Weighted at 30% of total available marks.

and either:	or:
Paper 2 1 hour 15 minutes *Core syllabus content – Grades C to G available* Core theory paper consisting of short-answer and structured questions, based on the core curriculum. The questions will be of a difficulty appropriate to grades C to G and will test skills mainly in Assessment Objectives AO1 and AO2. 80 marks Weighted at 50% of total available marks.	**Paper 3** 1 hour 15 minutes *Extended syllabus content – Grades A* to G available* Extended theory paper consisting of short-answer and structured questions. The questions will be based on all of the material, from both the core and supplement, and will allow candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. The questions will be of a difficulty appropriate to the higher grades and will test skills mainly in Assessment Objectives AO1 and AO2. 80 marks Weighted at 50% of total available marks.

and either:	or:	or:
Paper 4 * Coursework School-based assessment of practical skills ** 48 marks Weighted at 20% of total available marks.	**Paper 5** * 1 hour 30 minutes Practical Test Questions covering experimental and observational skills 30 marks Weighted at 20% of total available marks.	**Paper 6** * 1 hour Alternative to Practical Written paper designed to test familiarity with laboratory-based procedures 60 marks Weighted at 20% of total available marks.

* The purpose of this component is to test appropriate skills in Assessment Objective AO3. Candidates will not be required to use knowledge outside the core syllabus content.

** Teachers may not undertake school-based assessment without the written approval of Cambridge. This will only be given to teachers who satisfy Cambridge requirements concerning moderations.

5.4 Grade descriptions

The scheme of assessment is intended to encourage positive achievement by all candidates.

A **Grade A** candidate will be able to:

- relate facts to principles and theories and vice versa
- state why particular techniques are preferred for a procedure or operation
- select and collate information from a number of sources and present it in a clear logical form
- solve problems in situations which may involve a wide range of variables
- process data from a number of sources to identify any patterns or trends
- generate an hypothesis to explain facts, or find facts to support an hypothesis

A **Grade C** candidate will be able to:

- link facts to situations not specified in the syllabus
- describe the correct procedure(s) for a multi-stage operation
- select a range of information from a given source and present it in a clear logical form
- identify patterns or trends in given information
- solve problems involving more than one step, but with a limited range of variables
- generate a hypothesis to explain a given set of facts or data

A **Grade F** candidate will be able to:

- recall facts contained in the syllabus
- indicate the correct procedure for a single operation
- select and present a single piece of information from a given source
- solve a problem involving one step, or more than one step if structured help is given
- identify a pattern or trend where only a minor manipulation of data is needed
- recognise which of two given hypotheses explains a set of facts or data

5.5 Conventions (e.g. signs, symbols, terminology and nomenclature)

Syllabuses and question papers will conform with generally accepted international practice. In particular, attention is drawn to the following documents, published in the UK, which will be used as guidelines.

Reports produced by the Association for Science Education (ASE):

SI Units, Signs, Symbols and Abbreviations (1981)

Chemical Nomenclature, Symbols and Terminology for use in school science (1985)

Signs, Symbols and Systematics: The ASE Companion to 16–19 Science (2000)

Litre/dm^3

To avoid any confusion concerning the symbol for litre, **dm^3** will be used in place of *l* or litre.

Decimal markers

In accordance with current ASE convention, decimal markers in examination papers will be a single dot on the line.

Numbers

Numbers from 1000 to 9999 will be printed without commas or spaces. Numbers greater than or equal to 10000 will be printed without commas. A space will be left between each group of three whole numbers, e.g. 4256789.

Experimental work

Experimental work is an essential component of all science.

Experimental work within science education:

- gives candidates first-hand experience of phenomena
- enables candidates to acquire practical skills
- provides candidates with the opportunity to plan and carry out investigations into practical problems

This can be achieved by individual or group experimental work, or by demonstrations which actively involve the candidates.

Duration of course

Centres will obviously make their own decisions about the length of time taken to teach this course, though it is assumed that most Centres will attempt to cover it in two years.

6. Syllabus content

The syllabus content that follows is divided into two sections: Chemistry (C1–C11) and Physics (P1–P5). **Candidates must study both sections.**

Candidates can either follow the core syllabus content only, or they can follow the extended syllabus content which includes both the core and the supplement. Candidates aiming for grades A* to C should follow the extended syllabus content.

Note:

1. The syllabus content is designed to provide guidance to teachers as to what will be assessed in the overall evaluation of the candidate. It is not meant to limit, in any way, the teaching programme of any particular school or college.
2. The content is set out in topic areas within chemistry and physics. Each topic area is divided into a number of sections. The left-hand column provides amplification of the core content, which all candidates must study. The right-hand column outlines the supplementary content, which should be studied by candidates following the extended syllabus content.

The syllabus content below is a guide to the areas on which candidates are assessed.

It is important that, throughout this course, teachers should make candidates aware of the relevance of the concepts studied to everyday life, and to the natural and man-made worlds.

Specific content has been limited to allow flexibility in the design of teaching programmes. Cambridge provides science schemes of work which teachers may find helpful; these can be found on the Cambridge Teacher Support website.

6.1 Chemistry

It is important that, throughout this section, attention should be drawn to:

- the finite life of the world's resources and hence the need for recycling and conservation
- economic considerations in the chemical industry, such as the availability and cost of raw materials and energy
- the importance of chemicals in industry and in everyday life

C1. The particulate nature of matter	
Core	**Supplement**
1 describe the states of matter and explain their interconversion in terms of kinetic particle theory 2 describe diffusion and Brownian motion in terms of kinetic theory	
C2. Experimental techniques	
Core	**Supplement**
1 name appropriate apparatus for the measurement of time, temperature, mass and volume, including burettes, pipettes and measuring cylinders 2 describe paper chromatography (including the use of locating agents) and interpret simple chromatograms 3 recognise that mixtures melt and boil over a range of temperatures 4 describe methods of purification by the use of a suitable solvent, filtration, crystallisation and distillation (including use of fractionating column) Refer to the fractional distillation of crude oil (petroleum – section 11.2) and fermented liquor (section 11.6)	

C3. Atoms, elements and compounds

3.1 Atomic structure and the Periodic Table

Core	Supplement
1 state the relative charge and approximate relative mass of a proton, a neutron and an electron 2 define *proton number* and *nucleon number* 3 use proton number and the simple structure of atoms to explain the basis of the Periodic Table (section 7.1 to 7.4), with special reference to the elements with proton numbers 1 to 20 4 use the notation ${}^{A}_{Z}X$ for an atom 5 describe the build-up of electrons in 'shells' and understand the significance of the noble gas electronic structures and of outer electrons (The ideas of the distribution of electrons in s- and p-orbitals and in d-block elements are not required. A copy of the Periodic Table, will be provided in Papers 1, 2 and 3.) 6 define *isotopes*	

3.2 Bonding: the structure of matter

Core	Supplement
1 describe the differences between *elements*, *mixtures* and *compounds*, and between *metals* and *non-metals* (section 7.1) 2 describe *alloys*, such as brass, as mixtures of a metal with other elements	3 explain how alloying affects the properties of metals (see 3.2(d))

3.2(a) Ions and ionic bonds

Core	Supplement
1 describe the formation of *ions* by electron loss or gain and describe the formation of ionic bonds between the alkali metals and the halogens	2 describe the formation of ionic bonds between metallic and non-metallic elements

3.2(b) Molecules and covalent bonds	
Core 1 describe the formation of single covalent bonds in H_2, Cl_2, H_2O, CH_4 and HCl as the sharing of pairs of electrons leading to the noble gas configuration 3 describe the differences in volatility, solubility and electrical conductivity between ionic and covalent compounds	**Supplement** 2 describe the electron arrangement in more complex covalent molecules such as N_2, C_2H_4, CH_3OH and CO_2
3.2(c) Macromolecules	
Core 1 describe the structure of graphite and of diamond	**Supplement** 2 relate these structures to melting point, conductivity and hardness
3.2(d) Metallic bonding	
Core	**Supplement** 1 describe metallic bonding as a lattice of positive ions in a 'sea of electrons' and use this to explain the electrical conductivity and malleability of metals
C4. Stoichiometry	
Core 1 use the symbols of the elements and write the formulae of simple compounds 3 deduce the formula of a simple compound from the relative numbers of atoms present 5 construct word equations and simple balanced chemical equations 6 define *relative atomic mass*, A_r 7 define *relative molecular mass*, M_r, and calculate it as the sum of the relative atomic masses (the term relative formula mass or M_r will be used for ionic compounds)	**Supplement** 2 determine the formula of an ionic compound from the charges on the ions present 4 deduce the balanced equation of a chemical reaction, given relevant information 8 calculate stoichiometric reacting masses and volumes of gases and solutions, solution concentrations expressed in g/dm^3 and mol/dm^3. (Calculations based on limiting reactants may be set; questions on the gas laws and the conversion of gaseous volumes to different temperatures and pressures will **not** be set.)

C5. Chemical reactions

5.1 Production of energy

Core	Supplement
1 describe the production of heat energy by burning fuels 2 describe hydrogen as a fuel 3 describe radioactive isotopes, such as ^{235}U, as a source of energy	

5.2 Energetics of a reaction

Core	Supplement
1 describe the meaning of *exothermic* and *endothermic* reactions 2 describe bond breaking as endothermic and bond forming as exothermic	

5.3 Speed of reaction

Core	Supplement
1 describe the effects of concentration, particle size, catalysts (including enzymes) and temperature on the speeds of reactions 3 state that organic compounds that catalyse organic reactions are called enzymes 5 describe the application of the above factors to the danger of explosive combustion with fine powders (e.g. flour mills) and gases (e.g. mines)	2 show awareness that light can provide the energy needed for a chemical reaction to occur 4 state that photosynthesis leads to the production of glucose from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of chlorophyll and sunlight (energy) 6 describe the use of silver salts in photography (i.e. reduction of silver ions to silver)

5.4 Redox

Core	Supplement
1 define *oxidation* and *reduction* in terms of oxygen gain / loss	

C6. Acids, bases and salts

6.1 The characteristic properties of acids and bases

Core

1 describe the characteristic properties of acids as reactions with metals, bases, carbonates and effect on litmus

3 describe neutrality, relative acidity and alkalinity in terms of pH (whole numbers only) measured using Universal Indicator paper

5 describe and explain the importance of the use of lime in controlling acidity in soil

Supplement

2 define *acids* and *bases* in terms of proton transfer, limited to aqueous solutions

4 use these ideas to explain specified reactions as acid/base

6.2 Types of oxides

Core

1 classify oxides as either acidic or basic, related to the metallic and non-metallic character of the element forming the oxide

Supplement

2 classify other oxides as neutral or amphoteric

6.3 Preparation of salts

Core

1 describe the preparation, separation and purification of salts as examples of some of the techniques specified in section 2 and the reactions specified in section 6.1

Supplement

2 suggest a method of making a given salt from suitable starting materials, given appropriate information, including precipitation

6.4 Identification of ions

Core

1 describe the use of the following tests to identify:

- *aqueous cations:*

  ammonium, copper(II), iron(II), iron(III) and zinc, using aqueous sodium hydroxide and aqueous ammonia as appropriate. (Formulae of complex ions are **not** required.)

- *anions:*

  carbonate (by reaction with dilute acid and then limewater), chloride (by reaction under acidic conditions with aqueous silver nitrate), nitrate (by reduction with aluminium to ammonia) and sulfate (by reaction under acidic conditions with aqueous barium ions)

Supplement

6.5 Identification of gases	
Core 1 describe the use of the following tests to identify: ammonia (using damp red litmus paper), carbon dioxide (using limewater), chlorine (using damp litmus paper), hydrogen (using a lighted splint), oxygen (using a glowing splint)	**Supplement**
C7. The Periodic Table	
Core 1 describe the Periodic Table as a method of classifying elements and describe its use in predicting properties of elements	**Supplement**
7.1 Periodic trends	
Core 1 describe the change from metallic to non-metallic character across a period	**Supplement** 2 describe the relationship between group number and the number of outer electrons
7.2 Group properties	
Core 1 describe lithium, sodium and potassium in Group I as a collection of relatively soft metals showing a trend in melting point, density and reaction with water 2 predict the properties of other elements in the group given data, where appropriate 3 describe chlorine, bromine and iodine in Group VII as a collection of diatomic non-metals showing a trend in colour, and state their reaction with other halide ions 4 predict the properties of other elements in the group, given data where appropriate	**Supplement** 5 identify trends in other groups given data about the elements concerned
7.3 Transition elements	
Core 1 describe the transition elements as a collection of metals having high densities, high melting points and forming coloured compounds, and which, as elements and compounds, often act as catalysts	**Supplement**

7.4 Noble gases	
Core 1 describe the noble gases as being unreactive 2 describe the uses of the noble gases in providing an inert atmosphere (e.g. argon in lamps and helium for filling weather balloons)	**Supplement**
C8. Metals	
8.1 Properties of metals	
Core 1 compare the general physical and chemical properties of metals with those of non-metals	**Supplement**
8.2 Reactivity series	
Core 1 place in order of reactivity: calcium, copper, (hydrogen), iron, magnesium, potassium, sodium and zinc, by reference to the reactions, if any and where relevant, of the metals with: – water or steam – dilute hydrochloric acid (equations not required) – the aqueous ions of other metals 3 deduce an order of reactivity from a given set of experimental results	**Supplement** 2 account for the apparent unreactivity of aluminium in terms of the oxide layer adhering to the metal
8.3(a) Extraction of metals	
Core 1 describe the ease in obtaining metals from their ores by relating the elements to the reactivity series 3 name metals that occur 'native', including copper and gold 4 name the main ores of aluminium, copper and iron	**Supplement** 2 describe the essential reactions in the extraction of iron from haematite

8.3(b) Uses of metal	
Core 1 describe the idea of changing the properties of iron by the controlled use of additives to form steel alloys 3 name the uses of mild steel (car bodies and machinery) and stainless steel (chemical plant and cutlery) 4 name the uses of zinc for galvanising and making brass	**Supplement** 2 name the uses, related to their properties, of copper (electrical wiring and in cooking utensils) and of aluminium (aircraft parts and food containers)
C9. Air and water	
Core 1 describe a chemical test for water 2 show understanding that hydration may be reversible (e.g. by heating hydrated copper(II) sulfate or hydrated cobalt(II) chloride) 3 describe, in outline, the purification of the water supply in terms of filtration and chlorination 4 name some of the uses of water in industry and in the home 5 describe the composition of clean air as being approximately 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and the remainder as being a mixture of noble gases, water vapour and carbon dioxide 6 name the common pollutants in the air as being carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and lead compounds 7 state the source of each of these pollutants: – carbon monoxide from the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing substances – sulfur dioxide from the combustion of fossil fuels which contain sulfur compounds (leading to 'acid rain') – oxides of nitrogen and lead compounds from car exhausts	**Supplement** 8 explain the catalytic removal of nitrogen oxides from car exhaust gases

Core	Supplement
9 state the adverse effect of common pollutants on buildings and on health 10 describe the separation of oxygen and nitrogen from liquid air by fractional distillation 11 name the uses of oxygen in oxygen tents in hospitals, and with acetylene (a hydrocarbon) in welding 12 describe methods of rust prevention: – paint and other coatings, to exclude oxygen – galvanising 14 describe the need for nitrogen-, phosphorous- and potassium-containing fertilisers 15 describe the formation of carbon dioxide: – as a product of complete combustion of carbon-containing substances – as a product of respiration – as a product of the reaction between an acid and a carbonate	13 explain galvanising in terms of the reactivity of zinc and iron
C10. Lime and limestone	
Core	**Supplement**
1 describe the manufacture of calcium oxide (lime) from calcium carbonate (limestone) in terms of the chemical reactions involved 2 name some uses of lime and calcium hydroxide (slaked lime) such as treating acidic soil and neutralising acidic industrial waste products	

C11. Organic chemistry

11.1 Names of compounds

Core

1 name, and draw, the structures of methane, ethane, ethanol, ethanoic acid and the products of the reactions stated in sections 11.4 to 11.6

2 state the type of compound present, given a chemical name ending in *-ane*, *-ene*, *-ol*, or *-oic* acid or a molecular structure

Supplement

11.2 Fuels

Core

1 name the fuels coal, natural gas and petroleum

2 name methane as the main constituent of natural gas

3 describe petroleum as a mixture of hydrocarbons and its separation into useful fractions by fractional distillation

4 name the uses of the fractions:
- petrol fraction as fuel in cars
- paraffin fraction for oil stoves and aircraft fuel
- diesel fraction for fuel in diesel engines
- lubricating fraction for lubricants and making waxes and polishes
- bitumen for making roads

Supplement

11.3 Homologous series

Core

1 describe the concept of homologous series as a 'family' of similar compounds with similar properties due to the presence of the same functional group

Supplement

11.4 Alkanes

Core

1 describe the properties of alkanes (exemplified by methane) as being generally unreactive, except in terms of burning

Supplement

11.5 Alkenes	
Core 1 describe the properties of alkenes in terms of addition reactions with bromine, hydrogen and steam 3 distinguish between *saturated* and *unsaturated* hydrocarbons from molecular structures, by simple chemical tests 4 describe the formation of poly(ethene) as an example of addition polymerisation of monomer units	**Supplement** 2 describe the manufacture of alkenes and of hydrogen by cracking
11.6 Alcohols	
Core 1 name the uses of ethanol: as a solvent, as a fuel and as a constituent of wine and beer	**Supplement** 2 describe the formation of ethanol by fermentation and by the catalytic addition of steam to ethene

6.2 Physics

Throughout this section, attention should be paid to showing the relevance of concepts to the student's everyday life and to the natural and man-made world.

P1. General physics	
1.1 Length and time	
Core	**Supplement**
1 use, and describe the use of rules and measuring cylinders to determine a length or a volume 3 use, and describe the use of clocks and devices for measuring an interval of time	2 use, and describe the use of a mechanical method for the measurement of a small distance 4 measure, and describe how to measure a short interval of time (including the period of a pendulum)
1.2 Speed, velocity and acceleration	
Core	**Supplement**
1 define *speed* and calculate speed from $\frac{\textit{total distance}}{\textit{total time}}$ 3 plot and interpret a speed/time graph 5 recognise from the shape of a speed/time graph when a body is: – at rest – moving with constant speed – moving with changing speed 7 calculate the area under a speed/time graph to determine the distance travelled for motion with constant acceleration 8 demonstrate some understanding that acceleration is related to changing speed 9 state that the acceleration of free fall for a body near to the Earth is constant	2 distinguish between *speed* and *velocity* 4 recognise linear motion for which the acceleration is constant and calculate the acceleration 6 recognise motion for which the acceleration is not constant 10 describe qualitatively the motion of bodies falling in a uniform gravitational field with and without air resistance (including reference to terminal velocity)

1.3 Mass and weight	
Core	**Supplement**
1 show familiarity with the idea of the mass of a body	2 demonstrate an understanding that mass is a property which 'resists' change in motion
3 state that weight is a force	
4 calculate the weight of a body from its mass	
5 demonstrate understanding that weights (and hence masses) may be compared using a balance	6 describe, and use the concept of, weight as the effect of a gravitational field on a mass
1.4 Density	
Core	**Supplement**
1 describe an experiment to determine the density of a liquid and of a regularly shaped solid, and make the necessary calculation	2 describe the determination of the density of an irregularly shaped solid by the method of displacement
1.5 Forces	
1.5(a) Effects of forces	
Core	**Supplement**
1 state that a force may produce a change in size and shape of a body	2 take readings from and interpret extension-load graphs (Hooke's law, as such, is **not** required)
3 plot extension-load graphs and describe the associated experimental procedure	4 recognise the significance of the term 'limit of proportionality' for an extension-load graph and use proportionality in simple calculations
5 describe the ways in which a force may change the motion of a body	6 recall and use the relation between force, mass and acceleration (including the direction)
1.5(b) Turning effect	
Core	**Supplement**
1 describe the moment of a force as a measure of its turning effect and give everyday examples	2 perform and describe an experiment (involving vertical forces) to verify that there is no net moment on a body in equilibrium

1.5(c) Centre of mass	
Core 1 calculate the moment of a force given the necessary information 2 perform and describe an experiment to determine the position of the centre of mass of a plane lamina 3 describe qualitatively the effect of the position of the centre of mass on the stability of simple objects	**Supplement**
1.6 Energy, work and power	
1.6(a) Energy	
Core 1 give examples of energy in different forms, its conversion and conservation, and apply the principle of energy conservation to simple examples 3 show some understanding of energy of motion and energy of position (i.e. gravitational and strain)	**Supplement** 2 describe energy transfer in terms of work done and make calculations involving $F \times d$ 4 use the terms *kinetic* and *potential energy* in context 5 recall and use the expressions: k.e. = ½ mv^2 p.e. = mgh
1.6(b) Major sources of energy and alternative sources of energy	
Core 1 describe processes by which energy is converted from one form to another, including reference to: – chemical/fuel energy (a regrouping of atoms) – energy from water (hydroelectric energy, waves, tides) – geothermal energy – nuclear energy (fission of heavy atoms) – wind energy (e.g. wind turbines, windmills, sailing boats and ships)	**Supplement** 2 express a qualitative understanding of efficiency 3 describe the process of energy conversion by the fusion of nuclei of atoms in the Sun (solar energy) 4 recall and use the mass/energy equation $E = mc^2$

1.6(c) Work	
Core 1 relate, without calculation, work done to the magnitude of a force and distance moved	**Supplement** 2 recall and use $\Delta W = F \times d = \Delta E$
1.6(d) Power	
Core 1 relate, without calculation, power to work done and time taken, using appropriate examples	**Supplement** 2 recall and use the equation $P = E/t$ in simple systems
P2. Thermal physics	
2.1 Thermal properties	
2.1(a) Thermal expansion of solids, liquids and gases	
Core 1 describe qualitatively the thermal expansion of solids, liquids and gases 3 identify and explain some of the everyday applications and consequences of thermal expansion	**Supplement** 2 show an appreciation of the relative order of magnitude of the expansion of solids, liquids and gases
2.1(b) Measurement of temperature	
Core 1 appreciate how a physical property which varies with temperature may be used for the measurement of temperature and state examples of such properties 4 recognise the need for and identify a fixed point 5 describe the structure and action of liquid-in-glass thermometers	**Supplement** 2 apply a given property to the measurement of temperature 3 demonstrate understanding of sensitivity, range and linearity 6 describe the structure and action of a thermocouple and show understanding of its use for measuring high temperatures and those which vary rapidly

2.1(c) Melting and boiling	
Core 1 describe melting and boiling in terms of energy input without a change in temperature 3 state the meaning of *melting point* and *boiling point*	**Supplement** 2 distinguish between *boiling* and *evaporation*
2.2 Transfer of thermal energy	
2.2(a) Conduction	
Core 1 describe experiments to demonstrate the properties of good and bad conductors of heat	**Supplement** 2 give a simple molecular account of heat transfer in solids
2.2(b) Convection	
Core 1 relate convection in fluids to density changes and describe experiments to illustrate convection	**Supplement**
2.2(c) Radiation	
Core 1 identify infra-red radiation as part of the electromagnetic spectrum	**Supplement** 2 describe experiments to show the properties of good and bad emitters and good and bad absorbers of infra-red radiation
2.2(d) Consequences of energy transfer	
Core 1 identify and explain some of the everyday applications and consequences of conduction, convection and radiation	**Supplement**

P3. Properties of waves, including light and sound

3.1 General wave properties

Core	Supplement
1 describe what is meant by wave motion as illustrated by vibration in ropes, springs and by experiments using water waves	
2 use the term *wavefront*	
3 give the meaning of *speed*, *frequency*, *wavelength* and *amplitude*	4 recall and use the equation $v = f\lambda$
5 describe the use of water waves to show – reflection at a plane surface – refraction due to a change of speed	6 interpret reflection, refraction and diffraction using wave theory

3.2 Light

3.2(a) Reflection of light

Core	Supplement
1 describe the formation, and give the characteristics, of an optical image formed by a plane mirror	2 perform simple constructions, measurements and calculations
3 use the law *angle of incidence = angle of reflection*	

3.2(b) Refraction of light

Core	Supplement
1 describe the refraction, including angle of refraction, in terms of the passage of light through a parallel sided glass block	2 determine and calculate refractive index using $n = \sin i / \sin r$

3.2(c) Thin converging lens

Core	Supplement
1 describe the action of a thin converging lens on a beam of light	4 describe the difference between a real image and a virtual image
2 use the terms *principal focus* and *focal length*	5 use and describe the use of a single lens as a magnifying glass
3 draw ray diagrams to illustrate the formation of a real image by a single lens	

3.2(d) Electromagnetic spectrum	
Core 1 describe the main features of the electromagnetic spectrum and state that all electromagnetic waves travel with the same high speed *in vacuo*	**Supplement** 2 state the approximate value of the speed of electromagnetic waves 3 use the term *monochromatic*
3.3 Sound	
Core 1 describe the production of sound by vibrating sources 2 state the approximate range of audible frequencies 3 show an understanding that a medium is required in order to transmit sound waves	**Supplement**
P4. Electricity and magnetism	
4.1 Simple phenomena of magnetism	
Core 1 state the properties of magnets 2 give an account of induced magnetism 3 distinguish between ferrous and non-ferrous materials 4 describe an experiment to identify the pattern of field lines around a bar magnet 5 distinguish between the magnetic properties of iron and steel 6 distinguish between the design and use of permanent magnets and electromagnets	**Supplement**
4.2 Electrostatics	
Core 1 describe simple experiments to show the production and detection of electrostatic charges	**Supplement**
4.2(a) Electric charge	
Core 1 state that there are positive and negative charges 3 state that unlike charges attract and that like charges repel	**Supplement** 2 state that charge is measured in coulombs

4.3 Electricity	
Core 1 state that current is related to the flow of charge	**Supplement** 2 show understanding that a current is a rate of flow of charge and recall and use the equation $I = Q/t$
4.3(a) Current	
Core 1 use and describe the use of an ammeter	**Supplement**
4.3 (b) Electromotive force (e.m.f.)	
Core 1 state that the e.m.f. of a source of electrical energy is measured in volts	**Supplement** 2 show understanding that e.m.f. is defined in terms of energy supplied by a source in driving charge around a complete circuit
4.3(c) Potential difference (p.d.)	
Core 1 state that the potential difference across a circuit component is measured in volts 2 use and describe the use of a voltmeter	**Supplement**
4.3(d) Resistance	
Core 1 recall and use the equation $V = IR$ 3 describe an experiment to determine resistance using a voltmeter and an ammeter 4 relate (without calculation) the resistance of a wire to its length and to its diameter	**Supplement** 2 recall and use quantitatively the proportionality between resistance and the length, and the inverse proportionality between resistance and the cross-sectional area of a wire
4.3(e) V/I characteristic graphs	
Core 1 sketch the V/I characteristic graphs for metallic (ohmic) conductors	**Supplement**

4.4 Electric circuits	
Core 1 draw and interpret circuit diagrams containing sources, switches, resistors (fixed and variable), ammeters, voltmeters, magnetising coils, bells, fuses, relays 3 understand that the current at every point in a series circuit is the same 5 give the combined resistance of two or more resistors in series 6 state that, for a parallel circuit, the current from the source is larger than the current in each branch 8 state that the combined resistance of two resistors in parallel is less than that of either resistor by itself	**Supplement** 2 draw and interpret circuit diagrams containing diodes as rectifiers 4 recall and use the fact that the sum of the p.d.s across the components in a series circuit is equal to the total p.d. across the supply 7 recall and use the fact that the current from the source is the sum of the currents in the separate branches of a parallel circuit 9 calculate the effective resistance of two resistors in parallel
4.5 Practical electric circuitry	
4.5(a) Uses of electricity	
Core 1 describe the uses of electricity in heating, lighting (including lamps in parallel) and motors	**Supplement** 2 recall and use the equations $P = IV$ and $E = IVt$ and their alternative forms
4.5(b) Safety considerations	
Core 1 state the hazards of – damaged insulation – overheating of cables – damp conditions	**Supplement**

4.6 Electromagnetic effects

4.6(a) Electromagnetic induction

Core	Supplement
	1 describe an experiment which shows that a changing magnetic field can induce an e.m.f. in a circuit 2 state the factors affecting the magnitude of the induced e.m.f. 3 show understanding that the direction of an induced e.m.f. opposes the change causing it

4.6(b) a.c. generator

Core	Supplement
	1 describe a rotating-coil generator and the use of slip rings 2 show understanding of the nature of an alternating current (a.c.) 3 sketch a graph of voltage output against time for a simple a.c. generator

4.6(c) d.c. motor

Core	Supplement
1 state that a current-carrying coil in a magnetic field experiences a turning effect and that the effect is increased by increasing the number of turns on the coil 3 relate this turning effect to the action of an electric motor	2 describe the effect of increasing the current

4.6(d) Transformer

Core	Supplement
	1 describe the construction of a basic iron-cored transformer as used for voltage transformations 2 show an understanding of the principle of operation of a transformer 3 use the equation $(V_p / V_s) = (N_p / N_s)$ 4 recall and use the equation $V_p I_p = V_s I_s$ (for 100% efficiency) 5 show understanding of energy loss in cables (calculation not required) 6 describe the use of the transformer in high-voltage transmission of electricity 7 advantages of high-voltage transmission

4.7 Cathode rays and the cathode-ray oscilloscope (c.r.o.)	
4.7(a) Cathode rays	
Core 1 describe the production and detection of cathode rays 3 describe their deflection in electric fields and magnetic fields 4 deduce that the particles emitted in thermionic emission are negatively charged 5 state that the particles emitted in thermionic emission are electrons	**Supplement** 2 distinguish between the direction of electron current and conventional current
4.7(b) Simple treatment of cathode-ray oscilloscope	
Core 1 describe in outline the basic structure, and action, of a cathode-ray oscilloscope (detailed circuits are **not** required) 3 use and describe the use of a cathode-ray oscilloscope to display waveforms	**Supplement** 2 use, and describe the use of a cathode ray oscilloscope (c.r.o.) to measure p.d.s and short intervals of time (detailed circuits are **not** required)
P5. Atomic physics	
5.1 Radioactivity	
5.1(a) Detection of radioactivity	
Core 1 show awareness of the existence of background radioactivity 2 describe the detection of alpha-particles, beta-articles and gamma-rays	**Supplement**
5.1(b) Characteristics of the three kinds of emission	
Core 1 state that radioactive emissions occur randomly over space and time 2 state, for radioactive emissions: – their nature – their relative ionising effects – their relative penetrating abilities 3 describe their deflection in electric fields and magnetic fields	**Supplement**

5.1(c) Radioactive decay	
Core 1 state the meaning of *radioactive decay*, using word equations to represent changes in the composition of the nucleus when particles are emitted	**Supplement**
5.1(d) Half-life	
Core 1 use the term *half-life* in simple calculations which might involve information in tables or decay curves	**Supplement**
5.1(e) Safety precautions	
Core 1 describe how radioactive materials are handled, used and stored in a safe way	**Supplement**
5.2 The nuclear atom	
5.2(a) Nucleus	
Core 1 describe the composition of the nucleus in terms of protons and neutrons 2 use the term *proton number, Z* 3 use the term *nucleon number, A* 4 use the term *nuclide* and nuclide notation ${}^{A}_{Z}X$ 5 use the nuclide notation in equations to show alpha and beta decay	**Supplement**
5.2(b) Isotopes	
Core 1 use the term *isotopes*	**Supplement** 2 give and explain examples of practical applications of isotopes

7. Practical assessment

Scientific subjects are, by their nature, experimental. It is therefore important that an assessment of a learner's knowledge and understanding of science should contain a component relating to practical work and experimental skills (as identified by AO3).

Schools' circumstances (e.g. the availability of resources) differ greatly, so three alternative ways of examining the practical component are provided. The three alternatives are:

- Paper 4 – Coursework (school-based assessment)
- Paper 5 – Practical Test
- Paper 6 – Alternative to Practical (written paper)

Whichever practical assessment route is chosen, the following points should be noted:

- the same assessment objectives apply
- the same practical skills are to be learned and developed
- the same benefits to theoretical understanding come from all practical work
- the same motivational effect, enthusiasm and enjoyment should be experienced
- the same sequence of practical activities is appropriate

7.1 Paper 4: Coursework

Teachers may not undertake school-based assessment without the written approval of Cambridge. This w
only be given to teachers who satisfy Cambridge requirements concerning moderation.

Cambridge offers schools in-service training in the form of courses held at intervals in Cambridge and elsewhere, and also via the *Coursework Training Handbook*.

It is expected that the teaching and assessment of experimental skills and abilities will take place throughout the course.

The experimental skills and abilities to be assessed are:

AO3.1 Using and organising techniques, apparatus and materials

AO3.2 Observing, measuring and recording

AO3.3 Handling experimental observations and data

AO3.4 Planning, carrying out and evaluating investigations

The four skills carry equal weighting.

All assessments must be based upon experimental work carried out by the candidates.

The teaching and assessment of experimental skills and abilities should take place throughout the course.

Teachers must ensure that they can make available to Cambridge evidence of **two** assessments for each skill for each candidate. For skills AO3.1 to AO3.4 inclusive, information about the tasks set and how the marks were awarded will be required. For skills AO3.2, AO3.3 and AO3.4, the candidate's written work will also be required.

The final assessment scores for each skill must represent the candidate's best performances.

For candidates who miss the assessment of a given skill through no fault of their own, for example because of illness, and who cannot be assessed on another occasion, Cambridge's procedure for special consideration should be followed. However, candidates who for no good reason absent themselves from an assessment of a given skill should be given a mark of zero for that assessment.

Criteria for assessment of experimental skills and abilities

Each skill must be assessed on a six-point scale, level 6 being the highest level of achievement.

Each of the skills is defined in terms of three levels of achievement at scores of 2, 4 and 6.

A score of 0 is available if there is no evidence of positive achievement for a skill.

For candidates who do not meet the criteria for a score of 2, a score of 1 is available if there is some evidence of positive achievement.

A score of 3 is available for candidates who go beyond the level defined by 2, but who do not fully meet the criteria for 4.

Similarly, a score of 5 is available for those who go beyond the level defined for 4, but do not fully meet the criteria for 6.

Score	Skill AO3.1: Using and organising techniques, apparatus and materials
0	No evidence of positive achievement for this skill.
1	Some evidence of positive achievement, but the criteria for a score of 2 are not met.
2	Follows written, diagrammatic or oral instructions to perform a single practical operation. Uses familiar apparatus and materials adequately, needing reminders on points of safety.
3	Is beyond the level defined for 2, but does not fully meet the criteria for 4.
4	Follows written, diagrammatic or oral instructions to perform an experiment involving a series of step-by-step practical operations. Uses familiar apparatus, materials and techniques adequately and safely.
5	Is beyond the level defined for 4, but does not fully meet the criteria for 6.
6	Follows written, diagrammatic or oral instructions to perform an experiment involving a series of practical operations where there may be a need to modify or adjust one step in the light of the effect of a previous step. Uses familiar apparatus, materials and techniques safely, correctly and methodically.

Score	Skill AO3.2: Observing, measuring and recording
0	No evidence of positive achievement for this skill.
1	Some evidence of positive achievement, but the criteria for a score of 2 are not met.
2	Makes observations or readings given detailed instructions. Records results in an appropriate manner given a detailed format.
3	Is beyond the level defined for 2, but does not fully meet the criteria for 4.
4	Makes relevant observations, measurements or estimates given an outline format or brief guidelines. Records results in an appropriate manner given an outline format.
5	Is beyond the level defined for 4, but does not fully meet the criteria for 6.
6	Makes relevant observations, measurements or estimates to a degree of accuracy appropriate to the instruments or techniques used. Records results in an appropriate manner given no format.

Score	Skill AO3.3: Handling experimental observations and data
0	No evidence of positive achievement for this skill.
1	Some evidence of positive achievement, but the criteria for a score of 2 are not met.
2	Processes results in an appropriate manner given a detailed format. Draws an obvious qualitative conclusion from the results of an experiment.
3	Is beyond the level defined for 2, but does not fully meet the criteria for 4.
4	Processes results in an appropriate manner given an outline format. Recognises and comments on anomalous results. Draws qualitative conclusions which are consistent with obtained results and deduces patterns in data.
5	Is beyond the level defined for 4, but does not fully meet the criteria for 6.
6	Processes results in an appropriate manner given no format. Deals appropriately with anomalous or inconsistent results. Recognises and comments on possible sources of experimental error. Expresses conclusions as generalisations or patterns where appropriate.

Score	Skill AO3.4: Planning, carrying out and evaluating investigations
0	No evidence of positive achievement for this skill.
1	Some evidence of positive achievement, but the criteria for a score of 2 are not met.
2	Suggests a simple experimental strategy to investigate a given practical problem. Attempts 'trial and error' modification in the light of the experimental work carried out.
3	Is beyond the level defined for 2, but does not fully meet the criteria for 4.
4	Specifies a sequence of activities to investigate a given practical problem. In a situation where there are two variables, recognises the need to keep one of them constant while the other is being changed. Comments critically on the original plan, and implements appropriate changes in the light of the experimental work carried out.
5	Is beyond the level defined for 4, but does not fully meet the criteria for 6.
6	Analyses a practical problem systematically and produces a logical plan for an investigation. In a given situation, recognises there are a number of variables and attempts to control them. Evaluates chosen procedures, suggests/implements modifications where appropriate and shows a systematic approach in dealing with unexpected results.

Notes for guidance

The following notes are intended to help teachers to make valid and reliable assessments of the skills and abilities of their candidates.

The assessments should be based on the principle of positive achievement: candidates should be given opportunities to demonstrate what they understand and can do.

It is expected that candidates will have had opportunities to acquire a given skill before assessment takes place.

It is not expected that all of the practical work undertaken by a candidate will be assessed.

Assessments can be carried out at any time during the course. However, at whatever stage assessments are done, the standards applied must be those expected at the end of the course as exemplified in the criteria for the skills.

Assessments should normally be made by the person responsible for teaching the candidates.

It is recognised that a given practical task is unlikely to provide opportunities for all aspects of the criteria at a given level for a particular skill to be satisfied, for example, there may not be any anomalous results (skill AO3.3). However, by using a range of practical work, teachers should ensure that opportunities are provided for all aspects of the criteria to be satisfied during the course.

The educational value of extended experimental investigations is widely recognised. Where such investigations are used for assessment purposes, teachers should make sure that candidates have ample opportunity for displaying the skills and abilities required by the scheme of assessment.

It is not necessary for all candidates in a Centre, or in a teaching group within a Centre, to be assessed on exactly the same practical work, although teachers may well wish to make use of work that is undertaken by all of their candidates.

When an assessment is carried out on group work the teacher must ensure that the individual contribution of each candidate can be assessed.

Skill AO3.1 may not generate a written product from the candidates. It will often be assessed by watching the candidates carrying out practical work.

Skills AO3.2, AO3.3 and AO3.4 will usually generate a written product from the candidates. This product will provide evidence for moderation.

Raw scores for individual practical assessments may be given to candidates as part of the normal feedback from the teacher. The final, internally moderated, total score which is submitted to Cambridge should **not** be given to the candidate.

Recording candidates' marks

Candidates' marks for Paper 4 Coursework must be recorded on the Individual Candidate Record Card produced by Cambridge. These forms, and the instructions for completing them, may be downloaded from **www.cie.org.uk/samples**. The database will ask you for the syllabus code (i.e. 0652) and your Centre number, after which it will take you to the correct forms. Follow the instructions when completing each form.

Moderation

(a) Internal moderation

When several teachers in a Centre are involved in internal assessments, arrangements must be made within the Centre for all candidates to be assessed to a common standard.

It is essential that within each Centre the marks for each skill assigned within different teaching groups (e.g. different classes) are moderated internally for the whole Centre entry. The Centre assessments will then be subject to external moderation.

The internally moderated marks for all candidates must be recorded on the Coursework Assessment Summary Form and Experiment Form. These forms, and the instructions for completing them, may be downloaded from **www.cie.org.uk/samples**. The database will ask you for the syllabus code (i.e. 0652) and your Centre number, after which it will take you to the correct form. Follow the instructions when completing the form.

(b) External moderation

External moderation of internal assessment will be carried out by Cambridge.

The deadlines and methods for submitting internally assessed marks are in the *Cambridge Administrative Guide* available on our website.

Once Cambridge has received the marks, Cambridge will select a sample of candidates whose work should be submitted for external moderation. Cambridge will communicate the list of candidates to the Centre, and the Centre should despatch the coursework of these candidates to Cambridge immediately. For each candidate on the list, every piece of work which has contributed to the final mark should be sent to Cambridge. Individual Candidate Record Cards and Coursework Assessment Summary Forms must be enclosed with the coursework.

Further information about external moderation may be found in the *Cambridge Handbook* and the *Cambridge Administrative Guide*.

A further sample may be required. All records and supporting written work should be retained until after publication of results. Centres may find it convenient to use loose-leaf A4 file paper for assessed written work. This is because samples will be sent through the post for moderation and postage bills are likely to be large if whole exercise books are sent. Authenticated photocopies of the sample required would be acceptable.

The individual pieces of work should **not** be stapled together. Each piece of work should be labelled with the skill being assessed, the Centre number and candidate name and number, title of the experiment, a copy of the mark scheme used, and the mark awarded. This information should be attached securely, mindful that adhesive labels tend to peel off some plastic surfaces.

Information about re-submission of coursework samples and about carrying forward internally assessed marks can be found in the *Cambridge Administrative Guide*.

7.2 Paper 5: Practical Test

Chemistry

Candidates may be asked to carry out exercises involving:

- simple quantitative experiments involving the measurement of volumes
- speeds of reaction
- measurement of temperature based on a thermometer with 1 °C graduations
- problems of an investigatory nature, possibly including suitable organic compounds
- filtration
- identification of ions and gases as specified in the core syllabus content. The question paper will include *Notes for Use in Qualitative Analysis*
- making suitable observations without necessarily identifying compounds

Candidates may be required to do the following:

- record readings from apparatus
- estimate small volumes without the use of measuring devices
- describe, explain or comment on experimental arrangements and techniques
- complete tables of data
- draw conclusions from observations and/or from information given
- interpret and evaluate observations and experimental data
- plot graphs and/or interpret graphical information
- identify sources of error and suggest possible improvements in procedures
- plan an investigation, including suggesting suitable techniques and apparatus

Note on taking readings

When approximate volumes are used, e.g. about 2 cm^3, it is expected that candidates will estimate this and not use measuring devices. Thermometers may be marked with intervals of 1 °C. It is, however, appropriate to record a reading which coincides exactly with a mark, e.g. 22.0 °C rather than 22 °C. Interpolation between scale divisions should also be used such that a figure of 22.5 °C may be more appropriate.

Apparatus list

The list below details the apparatus expected to be generally available for examination purposes. The list is not exhaustive: in particular, items that are commonly regarded as standard equipment in a chemical laboratory (such as Bunsen burners, tripods, hot water baths, etc.) are not included. It is expected that the following items would be available for each candidate:

- two conical flasks within the range 150 cm^3 to 250 cm^3
- measuring cylinders, 100 cm^3, 25 cm^3 and 10 cm^3
- a filter funnel
- two beakers, 250 cm^3 and 100 cm^3
- a thermometer, –10 °C to +110 °C at 1 °C graduations
- a dropping pipette
- clocks (or wall clock) to measure to an accuracy of about 1 s. Candidate's own wristwatch may be used
- a plastic trough of approximate size W150 mm × L220 mm × D80 mm
- test-tubes. Sizes approximately 125 × 15 mm and 150 × 25 mm should be available and should include some hard glass test-tubes

Physics

Candidates should be able to:

- follow written instructions for the assembly and use of provided apparatus (e.g. for using ray-tracing equipment, for wiring up simple electrical circuits)
- select, from given items, the measuring device suitable for the task
- carry out the specified manipulation of the apparatus, for example:
  - when determining a (derived) quantity such as the extension per unit load for a spring
  - when testing/identifying the relationship between two variables, such as between the p.d. across a wire and its length
  - when comparing physical quantities such as the thermal capacity of two metals
- take readings from a measuring device, including:
  - reading a scale with appropriate precision/accuracy
  - consistent use of significant figures
  - interpolating between scale divisions
  - allowing for zero errors, where appropriate
  - taking repeated measurements to obtain an average value
- record their observations systematically, with appropriate units
- process their data, as required
- present their data graphically, using suitable axes and scales (appropriately labelled) and plotting the points accurately
- take readings from a graph by interpolation and extrapolation
- determine a gradient, intercept or intersection on a graph
- draw and report a conclusion or result clearly
- indicate how they carried out a required instruction
- describe precautions taken in carrying out a procedure
- give reasons for making a choice of items of apparatus
- comment on a procedure used in an experiment and suggest an improvement

Note: a measuring instrument should be used to its full precision. Thermometers may be marked in 1 °C intervals but it is often appropriate to interpolate between scale divisions and record a temperature as 21.5 °C. Measurements using a rule require suitable accuracy of recording, such as 15.0 cm rather than 15 cm, and millimetres used more regularly. Similarly, when measuring current, it is often more useful to use milliamperes rather than amperes.

Apparatus list

The list below details the apparatus expected to be generally available for examination purposes. The list is not exhaustive: in particular, items that are commonly regarded as standard equipment in a physics laboratory are not included. It is expected that the following items would be available for each candidate:

- ammeter FSD 1 A or 1.5 A
- voltmeter FSD 1 V, 5 V
- cells and holders to enable several cells to be joined
- connecting leads and crocodile clips
- d.c. power supply – variable to 12 V
- metre rule
- converging lens with f = 15 cm
- low voltage filament bulbs in holders
- good supply of masses and holder
- Newton meter
- plastic or polystyrene cup
- modelling clay, e.g. Plasticine
- various resistors
- switch
- thermometer, –10 °C to +110 °C at 1 °C graduations
- wooden board
- glass or perspex block, rectangular and semi-circular
- measuring cylinder, 100 cm^3, 250 cm^3
- springs
- stopwatch
- ray box

Note:

The examination will **not** require the use of textbooks, nor will candidates need to have access to their own records of laboratory work made during their course; candidates will be expected to carry out the experiments from the instructions given in the paper.

7.3 Paper 6: Alternative to Practical

This paper is designed to test candidates' familiarity with laboratory practical procedures.

Questions may be set requesting candidates to:

- describe in simple terms how they would carry out practical procedures
- explain and/or comment critically on described procedures or points of practical detail
- follow instructions for drawing diagrams
- draw, complete and/or label diagrams of apparatus
- take readings from their own diagrams, drawn as instructed, and/or from printed diagrams including:
  - reading a scale with appropriate precision/accuracy with consistent use of significant figures and with appropriate units
  - interpolating between scale divisions
  - taking repeat measurements to obtain an average value
- process data as required
- complete tables of data
- present data graphically, using suitable axes and scales (appropriately labelled) and plotting the points accurately
- take readings from a graph by interpolation and extrapolation
- determine a gradient, intercept or intersection on a graph
- draw and report a conclusion or result clearly
- identify and/or select, with reasons, items of apparatus to be used for carrying out practical procedures
- explain, suggest and/or comment critically on precautions taken and/or possible improvements to techniques and procedures
- describe, from memory, tests for gases and ions, and/or draw conclusions from such tests

(*Notes for Use in Qualitative Analysis* will **not** be provided in the question paper.)

8. Appendix

8.1 Symbols, units and definitions of physical quantities

Candidates should be able to state the symbols for the following physical quantities and, where indicated, state the units in which they are measured. Candidates should be able to define those items indicated by an asterisk (*). The list for the extended syllabus content includes both the core and the supplement.

Core			Supplement		
Quantity	***Symbol***	***Unit***	***Quantity***	***Symbol***	***Unit***
length	*l, h ...*	km, m, cm, mm			
area	*A*	m^2, cm^2			
volume	*V*	m^3, dm^3, cm^3			
weight	*W*	N			N*
mass	*m, M*	kg, g			mg
density	*d, ρ*	kg/m^3, g/cm^3			
time	*t*	h, min, s			ms
speed*	*u, v*	km/h, m/s, cm/s			
acceleration	*a*		acceleration*		m/s^2
acceleration of free fall	*g*				
force	*F, P ...*	N	force*		N*
			moment of a force*		N m
work done	*W, E*	J	work done by a force*		J*
energy	*E*	J			J*, kW h*
power	*P*	W	power*		W*
temperature	*θ, T*	°C			
			frequency*	*f*	Hz
			wavelength*	*λ*	m, cm
focal length	*f*	cm, mm			
angle of incidence	*i*	degree (°)			
angle of reflection	*r*	degree (°)			
potential difference/ voltage	*V*	V, mV	potential difference*		V*
current	*I*	A, mA	current*		
e.m.f.	*E*	V	e.m.f.*		
resistance	*R*	Ω			

8.2 Notes for use in qualitative analysis

Tests for anions

anion	test	test result
carbonate (CO_3^{2-})	add dilute acid	effervescence, carbon dioxide produced
chloride (Cl^-) [in solution]	acidify with dilute nitric acid, then add aqueous silver nitrate	white ppt.
bromide (Br^-) [in solution]	acidify with dilute nitric acid, then add aqueous silver nitrate	cream ppt.
nitrate (NO_3^-) [in solution]	add aqueous sodium hydroxide, then aluminium foil; warm carefully	ammonia produced
sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) [in solution]	acidify with dilute nitric acid, then add aqueous barium nitrate	white ppt.

Tests for aqueous cations

cation	effect of aqueous sodium hydroxide	effect of aqueous ammonia
ammonium (NH_4^+)	ammonia produced on warming	-
copper(II) (Cu^{2+})	light blue ppt., insoluble in excess	light blue ppt., soluble in excess, giving a dark blue solution
iron(II) (Fe^{2+})	green ppt., insoluble in excess	green ppt., insoluble in excess
iron(III) (Fe^{3+})	red-brown ppt., insoluble in excess	red-brown ppt., insoluble in excess
zinc (Zn^{2+})	white ppt., soluble in excess, giving a colourless solution	white ppt., soluble in excess, giving a colourless solution

Tests for gases

gas	test and test result
ammonia (NH_3)	turns damp red litmus paper blue
carbon dioxide (CO_2)	turns lime water milky
chlorine (Cl_2)	bleaches damp litmus paper
hydrogen (H_2)	'pops' with a lighted splint
oxygen (O_2)	relights a glowing splint

Flame tests for metal ions

metal ion	flame colour
sodium (Na^+)	yellow
potassium (K^+)	lilac
copper(II) (Cu^{2+})	blue-green

8.3 Safety in the laboratory

Responsibility for safety matters rests with Centres. Further information can be found in the following UK associations, websites, publications and regulations.

Associations

CLEAPSS is an advisory service providing support in practical science and technology, primarily for UK schools. International schools and post-16 colleges can apply for associate membership which includes access to the CLEAPSS publications listed below.

http://www.cleapss.org.uk

Websites

http://www.ncbe.reading.ac.uk/NCBE/SAFETY/menu.html

http://www.microbiologyonline.org.uk/teachers/safety-information

Publications

Safeguards in the School Laboratory, ASE, 11th edition, 2006

Topics in Safety, ASE, 3rd edition, 2001

CLEAPSS Laboratory Handbook, updated 2009 (available to CLEAPSS members only)

CLEAPSS Hazcards, 2007 update of 1995 edition (available to CLEAPSS members only)

Safety in Science Education, DfES, HMSO, 1996

Hazardous Chemicals Manual, SSERC, 1997

Hazardous Chemicals. An interactive manual for science education, SSERC, 2002 (CD)

UK Regulations

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 and subsequent amendment in 2004 **http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2677/contents/made**, **http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3386/contents/made**, a brief guide may be found at **http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg136.pdf**

8.4 The Periodic Table of Elements

Group																	
I	II											III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
							1 H hydrogen 1										2 He helium 4
3 Li lithium 7	4 Be beryllium 9											5 B boron 11	6 C carbon 12	7 N nitrogen 14	8 O oxygen 16	9 F fluorine 19	10 Ne neon 20
11 Na sodium 23	12 Mg magnesium 24											13 Al aluminium 27	14 Si silicon 28	15 P phosphorus 31	16 S sulfur 32	17 Cl chlorine 35.5	18 Ar argon 40
19 K potassium 39	20 Ca calcium 40	21 Sc scandium 45	22 Ti titanium 48	23 V vanadium 51	24 Cr chromium 52	25 Mn manganese 55	26 Fe iron 56	27 Co cobalt 59	28 Ni nickel 59	29 Cu copper 64	30 Zn zinc 65	31 Ga gallium 70	32 Ge germanium 73	33 As arsenic 75	34 Se selenium 79	35 Br bromine 80	36 Kr krypton 84
37 Rb rubidium 85	38 Sr strontium 88	39 Y yttrium 89	40 Zr zirconium 91	41 Nb niobium 93	42 Mo molybdenum 96	43 Tc technetium –	44 Ru ruthenium 101	45 Rh rhodium 103	46 Pd palladium 106	47 Ag silver 108	48 Cd cadmium 112	49 In indium 115	50 Sn tin 119	51 Sb antimony 122	52 Te tellurium 128	53 I iodine 127	54 Xe xenon 131
55 Cs caesium 133	56 Ba barium 137	57–71 lanthanoids	72 Hf hafnium 178	73 Ta tantalum 181	74 W tungsten 184	75 Re rhenium 186	76 Os osmium 190	77 Ir iridium 192	78 Pt platinum 195	79 Au gold 197	80 Hg mercury 201	81 Tl thallium 204	82 Pb lead 207	83 Bi bismuth 209	84 Po polonium –	85 At astatine –	86 Rn radon –
87 Fr francium –	88 Ra radium –	89–103 actinoids	104 Rf rutherfordium –	105 Db dubnium –	106 Sg seaborgium –	107 Bh bohrium –	108 Hs hassium –	109 Mt meitnerium –	110 Ds darmstadtium –	111 Rg roentgenium –	112 Cn copernicium –		114 Fl flerovium –		116 Lv livermorium –		

Key

atomic number
atomic symbol
name
relative atomic mass

lanthanoids	57 La lanthanum 139	58 Ce cerium 140	59 Pr praseodymium 141	60 Nd neodymium 144	61 Pm promethium –	62 Sm samarium 150	63 Eu europium 152	64 Gd gadolinium 157	65 Tb terbium 159	66 Dy dysprosium 163	67 Ho holmium 165	68 Er erbium 167	69 Tm thulium 169	70 Yb ytterbium 173	71 Lu lutetium 175
actinoids	89 Ac actinium –	90 Th thorium 232	91 Pa protactinium 231	92 U uranium 238	93 Np neptunium –	94 Pu plutonium –	95 Am americium –	96 Cm curium –	97 Bk berkelium –	98 Cf californium –	99 Es einsteinium –	100 Fm fermium –	101 Md mendelevium –	102 No nobelium –	103 Lr lawrencium –

The volume of one mole of any gas is 24 dm^3 at room temperature and pressure (r.t.p.)

8.5 Mathematical requirements

Calculators may be used in all parts of the assessment.

Candidates should be able to:

- add, subtract, multiply and divide
- understand and use *averages, decimals, fractions, percentages, ratios* and *reciprocals*
- recognise and use standard notation
- use direct and inverse proportion
- use positive, whole number indices
- draw charts and graphs from given data
- interpret charts and graphs
- select suitable scales and axes for graphs
- make approximate evaluations of numerical expressions
- recognise and use the relationship between length, surface area and volume and their units on metric scales
- use usual mathematical instruments (ruler, compasses, protractor and set square)
- understand the meaning of *angle, curve, circle, radius, diameter, square, parallelogram, rectangle* and *diagonal*
- solve equations of the form $x = yz$ for any one term when the other two are known
- recognise and use points of the compass (N, S, E, W)

8.6 Glossary of terms used in science papers

It is hoped that the glossary (which is relevant only to science subjects) will prove helpful to candidates as a guide (e.g. it is neither exhaustive nor definitive). The glossary has been deliberately kept brief not only with respect to the number of terms included but also to the descriptions of their meanings. Candidates should appreciate that the meaning of a term must depend, in part, on its context.

1. *Define* (the term(s) ...) is intended literally, only a formal statement or equivalent paraphrase being required.
2. *What do you understand by*/ *What is meant by* (the term(s) ...) normally implies that a definition should be given, together with some relevant comment on the significance or context of the term(s) concerned, especially where two or more terms are included in the question. The amount of supplementary comment intended should be interpreted in the light of the indicated mark value.
3. *State* implies a concise answer with little or no supporting argument (e.g. a numerical answer that can readily be obtained 'by inspection').
4. *List* requires a number of points, generally each of one word, with no elaboration. Where a given number of points is specified this should not be exceeded.
5. *Explain* may imply reasoning or some reference to theory, depending on the context.
6. *Describe* requires the candidate to state in words (using diagrams where appropriate) the main points of the topic. It is often used with reference either to particular phenomena or to particular experiments. In the former instance, the term usually implies that the answer should include reference to (visual) observations associated with the phenomena.

   In other contexts, *describe* should be interpreted more generally (i.e. the candidate has greater discretion about the nature and the organisation of the material to be included in the answer). *Describe and explain* may be coupled, as may *state and explain*.

7. *Discuss* requires the candidate to give a critical account of the points involved in the topic.
8. *Outline* implies brevity (i.e. restricting the answer to giving essentials).
9. *Predict* implies that the candidate is not expected to produce the required answer by recall but by making a logical connection between other pieces of information. Such information may be wholly given in the question or may depend on answers extracted in an earlier part of the question.

   Predict also implies a concise answer with no supporting statement required.
10. *Deduce* is used in a similar way to *predict* except that some supporting statement is required (e.g. reference to a law, principle, or the necessary reasoning is to be included in the answer).
11. *Suggest* is used in two main contexts (i.e. either to imply that there is no unique answer (e.g. in chemistry, two or more substances may satisfy the given conditions describing an 'unknown'), or to imply that candidates are expected to apply their general knowledge to a 'novel' situation, one that may be formally 'not in the syllabus').
12. *Find* is a general term that may variously be interpreted as *calculate, measure, determine*, etc.
13. *Calculate* is used when a numerical answer is required. In general, working should be shown, especially where two or more steps are involved.
14. *Measure* implies that the quantity concerned can be directly obtained from a suitable measuring instrument (e.g. length, using a rule; or mass, using a balance).
15. *Determine* often implies that the quantity concerned cannot be measured directly but is obtained by calculation, substituting measured or known values of other quantities into a standard formula (e.g. resistance or the formula of an ionic compound).
16. *Estimate* implies a reasoned order of magnitude statement or calculation of the quantity concerned, making such simplifying assumptions as may be necessary about points of principle and about the values of quantities not otherwise included in the question.
17. *Sketch*, when applied to graph work, implies that the shape and/or position of the curve need only be qualitatively correct, **but** candidates should be aware that, depending on the context, some quantitative aspects may be looked for (e.g. passing through the origin or having an intercept).

    In diagrams, *sketch* implies that simple, freehand drawing is acceptable; nevertheless, care should be taken over proportions and the clear exposition of important details.

9. Other information

Equality and inclusion

Cambridge International Examinations has taken great care in the preparation of this syllabus and assessment materials to avoid bias of any kind. To comply with the UK Equality Act (2010), Cambridge has designed this qualification with the aim of avoiding direct and indirect discrimination.

The standard assessment arrangements may present unnecessary barriers for candidates with disabilities or learning difficulties. Arrangements can be put in place for these candidates to enable them to access the assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. Access arrangements will not be agreed if they give candidates an unfair advantage over others or if they compromise the standards being assessed.

Candidates who are unable to access the assessment of any component may be eligible to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have taken.

Information on access arrangements is found in the *Cambridge Handbook* which can be downloaded from the website **www.cie.org.uk/examsofficer**

Language

This syllabus and the associated assessment materials are available in English only.

Grading and reporting

Cambridge IGCSE results are shown by one of the grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, F or G indicating the standard achieved, A* being the highest and G the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for grade G. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. The letters Q (result pending), X (no results) and Y (to be issued) may also appear on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

Entry codes

To maintain the security of our examinations, we produce question papers for different areas of the world, known as 'administrative zones'. Where the component entry code has two digits, the first digit is the component number given in the syllabus. The second digit is the location code, specific to an administrative zone. Information about entry codes can be found in the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*.

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