

General information about practical exams

Centres must follow the guidance on science practical exams given in the *Cambridge Handbook*.

Safety

Supervisors must follow national and local regulations relating to safety and first aid.

Only those procedures described in the question paper should be attempted.

Supervisors must inform candidates that materials and apparatus used in the exam should be treated with caution. Suitable eye protection should be used where necessary.

The following hazard codes are used in these confidential instructions, where relevant:

C	corrosive	MH	moderate hazard
HH	health hazard	T	acutely toxic
F	flammable	O	oxidising
N	hazardous to the aquatic environment		

Hazard data sheets relating to substances used in this exam should be available from your chemical supplier.

Before the exam

- The packets containing the question papers must **not** be opened before the exam.
- It is assumed that standard school laboratory facilities, as indicated in the *Guide to Planning Practical Science*, will be available.
- Spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set must be available for candidates, if required.

During the exam

- It must be made clear to candidates at the start of the exam that they may request spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set.
- Where specified, the supervisor **must** perform the experiments and record the results as instructed. This must be done **out of sight** of the candidates, using the same materials and apparatus as the candidates.
- Any assistance provided to candidates must be recorded in the supervisor's report.
- If any materials or apparatus need to be replaced, for example, in the event of breakage or loss, this must be recorded in the supervisor's report.

After the exam

- The supervisor must complete a report for each practical session held and each laboratory used.
- Each packet of scripts returned to Cambridge International must contain the following items:
 - the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
 - the supervisor's results relevant to these candidates
 - the supervisor's reports relevant to these candidates
 - seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
 - the attendance register.

Specific information for this practical exam

During the exam, the supervisor (NOT the invigilator) must do the experiments and record the results on a spare copy of the question paper, clearly labelled 'supervisor's results'.

If chemicals are prepared in more than one batch, clearly labelled supervisor's results must be provided for each batch. The candidates using each batch must be listed on the supervisor's report.

Apparatus

The apparatus listed must be provided to each candidate.

- 1 × 25 cm³ pipette
- 1 × pipette filler
- 1 × 50 cm³ burette
- 1 × burette stand
- 1 × burette clamp
- 1 × funnel for filling burette
- 1 × conical flask within range 150 to 250 cm³
- 2 × 100 cm³ beakers
- 1 × 250 cm³ beaker
- 1 × foamed plastic (expanded polystyrene) cup
- 1 × thermometer, −10 °C to +50 °C at 0.5 °C intervals
- 1 × 50 cm³ measuring cylinder
- 10 × test-tubes
- 2 × hard-glass or pyrex test-tubes
- 1 × test-tube rack
- 1 × test-tube holder
- 2 × dropping pipettes
- 1 × glass rod
- 1 × spatula
- 1 × Bunsen burner
- 1 × heat-proof mat
- 1 × wash bottle containing distilled water
- 1 × pen (suitable for marking glassware)
- paper towels
- red and blue litmus papers
- aluminium foil for testing nitrate/nitrite
- wooden splints
- apparatus normally used in the centre in testing for carbon dioxide with limewater
- access to balance, single-pan, direct reading, minimum accuracy 0.1 g (1 per 8–12 candidates), weighing to 300 g

Candidates are expected to rinse and reuse test-tubes and boiling tubes where necessary. Additional tubes should be available.

Materials

The materials listed in the table must be provided to each candidate.

label	per candidate	identity	notes
[MH] FA 1	200 cm ³	0.90 mol dm ⁻³ sulfuric acid	Cautiously pour 49.5 cm ³ of concentrated (98%) sulfuric acid [C] into 500 cm ³ of distilled water with continuous stirring. Make the solution up to 1 dm ³ with distilled water.
[C] FA 2	50 cm ³	2.00 mol dm ⁻³ sodium hydroxide	Care: concentrated H ₂ SO ₄ is very corrosive.
[MH] FA 3	2.8–3.2 g	anhydrous sodium carbonate	See preparation instructions in the current syllabus.
[C] [N] [MH] FA 4	1.4–1.8 g	hydrated copper(II) sulfate	Provide 3.0±0.2 g of Na ₂ CO ₃ [MH] in a stoppered tube.
[MH] FA 5	0.8–1.0 g	hydrated manganese(II) chloride	Provide 1.6±0.2 g of CuSO ₄ ·5H ₂ O [C] [N] [MH] in a stoppered tube.
[C] [N] [MH] FA 6	10 cm ³	0.20 mol dm ⁻³ zinc bromide	Provide 0.9±0.1 g of MnCl ₂ ·4H ₂ O [MH] in a stoppered tube.
[MH] '20 volume' hydrogen peroxide	10 cm ³	'20 volume' hydrogen peroxide	Dissolve 45.0 g of ZnBr ₂ [C] [N] [MH] in each dm ³ .
distilled water	150 cm ³	distilled water	Dilute 200 cm ³ of '100 volume' (8.3 mol dm ⁻³) H ₂ O ₂ [C] to 1 dm ³ .

label	per candidate	identity	notes
dilute hydrochloric acid	10 cm ³	2.0 mol dm ⁻³ HCl	<p>See preparation instructions in the current syllabus.</p> <p>If necessary, each of these reagents can be provided as a communal supply for groups of up to 6 candidates.</p> <p>Invigilators must be alert to the risk of contamination and the opportunity for malpractice when using a communal supply.</p>
[C] dilute nitric acid	10 cm ³	2.0 mol dm ⁻³ HNO ₃	
[MH] dilute sulfuric acid	10 cm ³	1.0 mol dm ⁻³ H ₂ SO ₄	
[C] aqueous ammonia [MH] [N]	20 cm ³	2.0 mol dm ⁻³ NH ₃	
[C] aqueous sodium hydroxide	10 cm ³	2.0 mol dm ⁻³ NaOH	
aqueous barium chloride	10 cm ³	0.1 mol dm ⁻³ BaCl ₂	
aqueous silver nitrate	10 cm ³	0.05 mol dm ⁻³ AgNO ₃	
aqueous potassium iodide	10 cm ³	0.1 mol dm ⁻³ KI	
[MH] 1.0 mol dm ⁻³ sodium carbonate	10 cm ³	1.0 mol dm ⁻³ sodium carbonate	
[MH] limewater	10 cm ³	saturated aqueous calcium hydroxide, Ca(OH) ₂	

- An excess of at least 10% of each material must be prepared to cover accidental loss.
- All solutions must be thoroughly mixed.
- If you are unable to source any of these chemicals, you must contact Cambridge International as far as possible in advance of the exam for advice.
- Materials must be labelled only as specified in the 'label' column. The identities of chemicals labelled with letter codes, e.g. FA 1, may be different from their descriptions in the question paper. Candidates must use the descriptions given in the question paper.

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Supervisor's report

Syllabus and component number

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Centre number

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Centre name

Time of the practical session

Laboratory name/number

Give details of any difficulties experienced by the centre or by candidates (include the relevant candidate names and candidate numbers).

You must include:

- any difficulties experienced by the centre in the preparation of materials
- any difficulties experienced by candidates, e.g. due to faulty materials or apparatus
- any specific assistance given to candidates.

If chemicals have been prepared in more than one batch, list the candidates using each batch.

Declaration

- 1 Each packet that I am returning to Cambridge International contains the following items:
 - the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
 - the supervisor's results relevant to these candidates
 - the supervisor's reports relevant to these candidates
 - seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
 - the attendance register.
- 2 Where the practical exam has taken place in more than one practical session, I have clearly labelled the supervisor's results, supervisor's reports and seating plans with the time and laboratory name/number for each practical session.
- 3 I have included details of difficulties relating to each practical session experienced by the centre or by candidates.
- 4 I have reported any other adverse circumstances affecting candidates, e.g. illness, bereavement or temporary injury, directly to Cambridge International on a *special consideration form*.

Signed (supervisor)

Name (in block capitals)