

Chemistry

WACE written examination—2010 design brief

Stage 3

Time allowed

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes
Working time for paper: three hours

Permissible items

Standard items: pens, pencils, eraser, correction fluid, ruler, highlighter
Special items: approved non-programmable (not graphics or computer algebra system) calculators and a Chemistry data sheet

Additional information

The examination is weighted approximately equally between Unit 3A and Unit 3B. The weighting of the content areas of the examination are within the following ranges:

5–10%	Macroscopic properties of matter
10–15%	Atomic structure and bonding
20–30%	Chemical reactions
10–15%	Acids bases in aqueous solutions
10–15%	Oxidation and reduction
10–15%	Organic chemistry
10–15%	Applied chemistry

These weightings apply to the whole exam rather than individual sections. Instructions to candidates will indicate that unless otherwise specified, the working or reasoning should be shown clearly when calculating answers. The examination is presented in a combined question/answer booklet with a separate multiple-choice answer sheet.

Section	Supporting information
Section One Multiple-choice 25% of the written exam 25 questions Suggested working time: 50 minutes	Candidates indicate their answers on a separate multiple-choice answer sheet. Stimulus materials may be used in this section.
Section Two Short answer 30–40% of the written exam 8–12 questions Suggested working time: 60 minutes	Questions are based on knowledge, understanding and application of chemical concepts. The questions may require descriptive answers, short calculations, diagrams, tables, graphs or flowcharts.
Section Three Extended answer 35–45% of the written exam 4–6 questions Suggested working time: 70 minutes	Questions are based on provided scenarios and application of chemistry. Questions have a varying degree of scaffolding with a greater emphasis on analysis and synthesis. Questions could require a one page written answer, multi-step calculations, flowcharts or concept maps. Stimulus materials used for scenarios and text analysis/comprehension questions are in the form of technical passages; experimental data; historical documents; visuals such as pictures, diagrams, graphs and charts.