IGCSE Chemistry Tips and Advice 0620

Chemistry might seem the hardest among the natural sciences; however, with the right strategy and preparation, it can be easier than you think, and you can get your desired score. Here are some tips and advice from me, who got an A\*A\* on IGCSE Co-ordinated Science and an A on AS-level Chemistry.

**Exam structure:**

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical 40 marks in 1 hour (20% of the exam; weighting factor: 1)

Paper 4: Theory 80 marks in 1 hour 15 minutes (50% of the exam; weighting factor: 1.25)

Paper 2: Multiple-choice 40 marks in 45 minutes (30% of the exam; weighting factor: 1.5)

General advice for IGCSE Chemistry:

**Make sure you covered all the topics entirely.**

* Of course, the crucial step is to understand the whole concept of the subject you’re learning.
* If you don’t, don’t worry. You can understand some topics while working on the past examination papers & reading the related part of the coursebook.

**Doing past papers is the way you can be familiar with the exam.**

* Do a variety of past papers, such as March, June, October, Specimen, etc. Also, reviewing the examiner’s response helps understand the criteria of them.
* Make it a habit to do at least one past paper on the subject per week (excluding the teacher-given ones).
* Doing all the past papers is impossible, but you should experience most of them because most questions have similar structure and context.

**Mark scheme is your best friend.**

* At the beginning of working on the past papers, always compare your work with the mark scheme and make sure there are no minor errors.
* Learn the writing style, keywords and the way it solves the problem.
* When you’re confident you can do a whole past paper alone, do the past papers with a timer and examine yourself. (When reviewing your material, be strict. Do not pity yourself, and do not give a free score because Cambridge examiners are strict).

**Stay healthy.**

* Even though the IGCSE exams are essential, your health is more valuable than what is necessary.
* Take enough breaks while studying, namely, do stretching exercises every hour, etc.
* Get a whole night’s sleep at least two days a week.
* Ensure that you are well-rested before any exams or study sessions. Because you can not function without enough sleep. (Sleep>>>Preparing for the exam the day before of it)
* Control your depression, stress and anxiety level. Try relaxation techniques not to panic, stay calm, accept reality, and believe that you can ace the exam.

Tips for Paper 6, Alternative to Practical

* Memorise all the equipment names, the figures and the usage of them.
* You have to know the testing and the observations for several substances.
* You must be skilled in drawing a graph, such as choosing scales, plotting the points, etc.
* In the ‘plan an investigation’ part, which allows the highest score, try to include every detail needed and sketch the investigation.

Tips for Paper 4, Theory

* Memorise the definitions. Those are the easiest 1 or 2 scores.
* Improve your writing chemical equation skills, and memorise some particular equations.
* You have to know the testing and the observations for several substances.
* It is the central part of your exam; thus, you must be fully prepared.

Tips for paper 2, Multiple-choice questions

* Manage your time well because you answer 40 questions in 45 minutes; transferring your answer to the answer sheet takes five minutes. (Speaking from my personal experience, write your answer in the answer sheet directly after you find the solution, and it saves time).
* Paper 2 is the most complicated because questions are dedicated to confusing you. So, read the sentences carefully.
* No points will be deducted for wrong answers. Thus, do not leave any blank space.

**Additional sources:**

* Syllabus link <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/595428-2023-2025-syllabus.pdf>
* Past papers <https://papers.gceguide.com/>

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