OXFORD AQA
INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL

CHEMISTRY (9620)

CH05

Unit 5: Practical and synoptic

Mark scheme

June 2026

Version: 1.0 Final

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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A-level Chemistry
Mark Scheme Instructions for Examiners

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question
- the total marks available for the question
- the typical answer or answers which are expected
- extra information to help the examiner make his or her judgement and help to delineate what is acceptable or not worthy of credit or, in discursive answers, to give an overview of the area in which a mark or marks may be awarded.

The extra information in the 'Comments' column is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

You should mark according to the contents of the mark scheme. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme to a particular response, consult your Team Leader.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example: where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation; or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right-hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which might confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent.

The use of M1, M2, M3 etc in the right-hand column refers to the marking points in the order in which they appear in the mark scheme. So, M1 refers to the first marking point, M2 the second marking point etc.

2. Emboldening

2.1 In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following bullet points is a potential mark.

2.2 A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.

2.3 Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **OR**. Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; eg allow smooth / free movement.

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which students have provided extra responses. The general 'List' principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

Each error / contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of errors / contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (often prefaced by 'Ignore' in the mark scheme) are not penalised.

For example, in a question requiring 2 answers for 2 marks:

Correct answers	Incorrect answers (ie incorrect rather than neutral)	Mark (2)	Comment
1	0	1	
1	1	1	They have not exceeded the maximum number of responses so there is no penalty.
1	2	0	They have exceeded the maximum number of responses so the extra incorrect response cancels the correct one.
2	0	2	
2	1	1	
2	2	0	
3	0	2	The maximum mark is 2
3	1	1	The incorrect response cancels out one of the two correct responses that gained credit.
3	2	0	Two incorrect responses cancel out the two marks gained.
3	3	0	

3.2 Marking procedure for calculations

Full marks should be awarded for a correct numerical answer, without any working shown, unless the question states 'Show your working' or 'justify your answer'. In this case, the mark scheme will clearly indicate what is required to gain full credit.

If an answer to a calculation is incorrect and working is shown, process mark(s) can usually be gained by correct substitution / working and this is shown in the 'Comments' column or by each stage of a longer calculation.

3.3 Errors carried forward, consequential marking and arithmetic errors

Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation ECF or consequential in the marking scheme.

An arithmetic error should be penalised for one mark only unless otherwise amplified in the marking scheme. Arithmetic errors may arise from a slip in a calculation or from an incorrect transfer of a numerical value from data given in a question.

3.3 Equations

In questions requiring students to write equations, state symbols are generally ignored unless otherwise stated in the 'Comments' column.

Examiners should also credit correct equations using multiples and fractions unless otherwise stated in the 'Comments' column.

3.5 Oxidation states

In general, the sign for an oxidation state will be assumed to be positive unless specifically shown to be negative.

3.6 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

3.7 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term or if the question requires correct IUPAC nomenclature.

3.8 Brackets

(…..) are used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.9 Ignore / Insufficient / Do <u>not</u> allow

Ignore or insufficient is used when the information given is irrelevant to the question or not enough to gain the marking point. Any further correct amplification could gain the marking point.

Do **not** allow means that this is a wrong answer which, even if the correct answer is given, will still mean that the mark is not awarded.

3.10 Marking crossed out work

Crossed out work that **has not been** replaced should be marked as if it were not crossed out, if possible. Where crossed out work **has been** replaced, the replacement work and not the crossed out work should be marked.

3.11 Reagents

The command word 'Identify', allows the student to choose to use **either** the name or the formula of a reagent in their answer. In some circumstances, the list principle may apply when both the name and the formula are used. Specific details will be given in mark schemes.

The guiding principle is that a reagent is a chemical which can be taken out of a bottle or container. Failure to identify complete reagents **will be penalised**, but follow-on marks (eg for a subsequent equation or observation) can be scored from an incorrect attempt (possibly an incomplete reagent) at the correct reagent. Specific details will be given in mark schemes.

For example, **no credit** would be given for:

- the cyanide ion or CN^- when the reagent should be potassium cyanide or KCN
- the hydroxide ion or OH^- when the reagent should be sodium hydroxide or NaOH
- the $Ag(NH_3)_2^+$ ion when the reagent should be Tollens' reagent (or ammoniacal silver nitrate). In this example, no credit is given for the ion, but credit could be given for a correct observation following on from the use of the ion. Specific details will be given in mark schemes.

In the event that a student provides, for example, **both** KCN and cyanide ion, it would be usual to ignore the reference to the cyanide ion (because this is not contradictory) and credit the KCN. Specific details will be given in mark schemes.

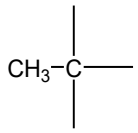
3.12 Organic structures

Where students are asked to draw organic structures, unless a specific type is required in the question and stated in the mark scheme, these may be given as displayed, structural or skeletal formulas or a combination of all three as long as the result is unambiguous.

In general

- Displayed formulae must show all of the bonds and all of the atoms in the molecule, but need not show correct bond angles.
- Skeletal formulae must show carbon atoms by an angle or suitable intersection in the skeleton chain. Functional groups must be shown and it is essential that all atoms other than C atoms are shown in these (except H atoms in the functional groups of aldehydes, secondary amines and N-substituted amides which do not need to be shown).
- Structures must not be ambiguous, eg 1-bromopropane should be shown as $CH_3CH_2CH_2Br$ and not as the molecular formula C_3H_7Br which could also represent the isomeric 2-bromopropane.
- Bonds should be drawn correctly between the relevant atoms. This principle applies in all cases where the attached functional group contains a carbon atom, eg nitrile, carboxylic acid, aldehyde and acid chloride. The carbon-carbon bond should be clearly shown. Wrongly bonded atoms will be penalised on every occasion. (see the examples below)
- The same principle should also be applied to the structure of alcohols. For example, if students show the alcohol functional group as C ─ HO, they should be penalised on every occasion.
- Latitude should be given to the representation of C ─ C bonds in alkyl groups, given that CH_3─ is considered to be interchangeable with H_3C─ even though the latter would be preferred.
- Similar latitude should be given to the representation of amines where NH_2─ C will be allowed, although H_2N─ C would be preferred.
- Poor presentation of vertical C ─ CH_3 bonds or vertical C ─ NH_2 bonds should not be penalised. For other functional groups, such as ─ OH and ─ CN, the limit of tolerance is the half-way position between the vertical bond and the relevant atoms in the attached group.

By way of illustration, the following would apply.



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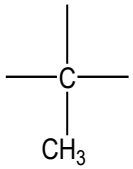

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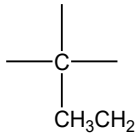

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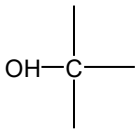

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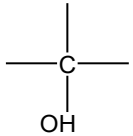

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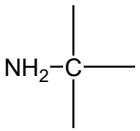

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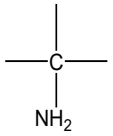

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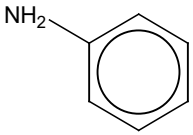

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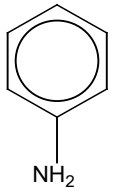

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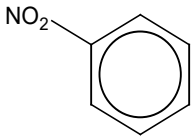

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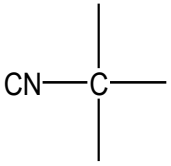

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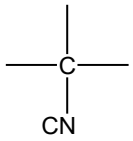

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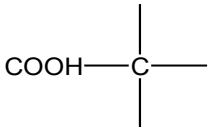

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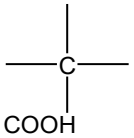

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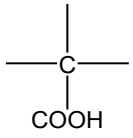

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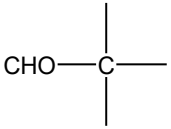

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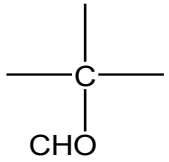

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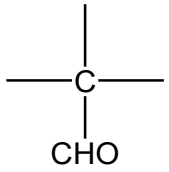

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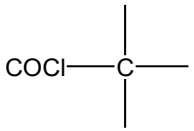

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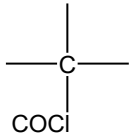


not allowed

Representation of CH_2 by C–H2 will be penalised

- Some examples are given here of **structures** for specific compounds that should **not** gain credit (but, exceptions **may** be made in the context of balancing equations)

CH_3COH	for	ethanal
CH_3CH_2HO	for	ethanol
$OHCH_2CH_3$	for	ethanol
C_2H_6O	for	ethanol
CH_2CH_2	for	ethene
$CH_2.CH_2$	for	ethene
$CH_2:CH_2$	for	ethene

- Each of the following **should gain credit** as alternatives to correct representations of the structures.

$CH_2 = CH_2$	for	ethene, $H_2C=CH_2$
$CH_3CHOHCH_3$	for	propan-2-ol, $CH_3CH(OH)CH_3$

- In most cases, the use of ‘sticks’ to represent C ─ H bonds in a structure should **not** be penalised. The exceptions to this when ‘sticks’ will be penalised include
  - structures in mechanisms where the C ─ H bond is essential (eg elimination reactions in halogenoalkanes and alcohols)
  - when a displayed formula is required
  - when a skeletal structure is required or has been drawn by the candidate.

3.13 Organic names

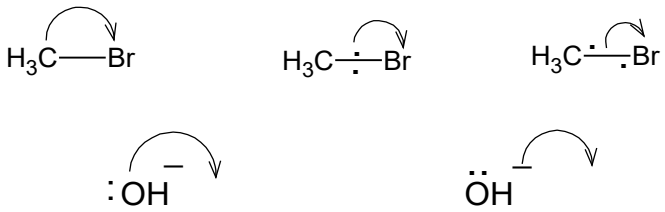
As a general principle, non-IUPAC names or incorrect spelling or incomplete names should **not** gain credit. Some illustrations are given here.

but-2-ol	should be **butan-2-ol**
2-hydroxybutane	should be **butan-2-ol**
butane-2-ol	should be **butan-2-ol**
2-butanol	should be **butan-2-ol**
ethan-1,2-diol	should be **ethane-1,2-diol**
2-methpropan-2-ol	should be **2-methylpropan-2-ol**
2-methylbutan-3-ol	should be **3-methylbutan-2-ol**
3-methylpentan	should be **3-methylpentane**
3-mythylpentane	should be **3-methylpentane**
3-methypentane	should be **3-methylpentane**
propanitrile	should be **propanenitrile**
Aminethane	should be **ethylamine** (although aminoethane can gain credit)
2-methyl-3-bromobutane	should be **2-bromo-3-methylbutane**
3-bromo-2-methylbutane	should be **2-bromo-3-methylbutane**
3-methyl-2-bromobutane	should be **2-bromo-3-methylbutane**
2-methylbut-3-ene	should be **3-methylbut-1-ene**
difluorodichloromethane	should be **dichlorodifluoromethane**

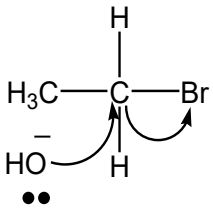
3.14 Organic reaction mechanisms

Curly arrows should originate either from a lone pair of electrons or from a bond.

The following representations should not gain credit **and will be penalised each time** within a clip.



For example, the following would score zero marks



When the curly arrow is showing the formation of a bond to an atom, the arrow can go directly to the relevant atom, alongside the relevant atom or **more than half-way** towards the relevant atom.

In free-radical substitution:

- the absence of a radical dot should be penalised **once only** within a clip
- the use of half-headed arrows is not required, but the use of double-headed arrows or the incorrect use of half-headed arrows in free-radical mechanisms should be penalised **once only** within a clip.

The correct use of skeletal formulae in mechanisms is acceptable, but where a C-H bond breaks both the bond and the H must be drawn to gain credit.

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.1	Additional drops of solution could have entered the burette from the funnel.	1	Must imply that solution from the funnel drips into the burette

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.2	Less chance of splashing/losing any solution (using a conical flask on swirling)	1	Allow easier to swirl

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.3	Decrease the value of the titre the indicator reacts with the NaOH/alkali/base	1 1	Mark independently

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.4	M1 23.2 to 23.3 (cm^3) M2 (22.50 22.75 22.55 (Exp 1,2,3)) Mean = 22.53 (cm^3)	1 1	This is the rough titration so allow to 1 decimal place here Allow 22.525 (cm^3)

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.5	M1 amount of H_2SO_4 = 0.100 × 22.70 × 10^{-3} = 2.27 × 10^{-3} (mol)	1	
	M2 amount of NaOH = M1 × 2 (mol)	1	4.54 × 10^{-3} (mol)
	M3 concentration of NaOH = M2 × $\frac{1000}{25}$ (mol dm^{-3})	1	0.182 (mol dm^{-3}) M3 and M4 either order
	M4 concentration in g dm^{-3} = M3 × 40 (g dm^{-3})	1	Allow 7.26 to 7.28 (g dm^{-3}) Allow 2 significant figures or more.

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.6	to ensure that all reagents have reacted **or** to ensure all reagents are in the solution/reaction mixture	1	

<table>
<tr><th>Question</th><th>Marking guidance</th><th>Mark</th><th>Comments</th></tr>
<tr><td>01.7</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Method to transfer solution</th><th></th></tr>
<tr><td>Allow the solution to drain out of the pipette by gravity alone.
Some solution remains in the pipette.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Allow the solution to drain out of the pipette by gravity and then touch the surface of the solution in the flask.
Some solution remains in the pipette.</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Use the pipette filler to force all of the solution out of the pipette.
No solution remains in the pipette</td><td></td></tr>
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</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr>
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Total		12	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.1	Only the pH of the buffer is being measured **or** Remove (distilled) water on the probe	1	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.2	Stir the solution	1	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.3	To avoid diluting (the solution)	1	Allow to avoid decreasing/affecting the concentration (of the solution) Ignore changes the pH Ignore references to calibrating the pH probe

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.4	$pH = -\log_{10}[H^+]$ 0.70	1 1	Square brackets essential

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.5	effervescence/bubbles/fizzing	1	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.6	short/no vertical section	1	allow gradual pH change

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.7		1	

Indicator	**pH range of indicator**	
Phenol red	6.8 – 8.4	
Bromothymol blue	6.0 – 7.6	
Bromophenol blue	3.0 – 4.6	✓
Thymol blue	1.2 – 2.8	

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<tr><th>Change to volume for equivalence point A</th><th>Change to volume for equivalence point B</th><th></th></tr>
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Total		**9**	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.1	Acid	1	allow proton donor

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.2	Oxidising agent Bidentate	1 1	 allow electron acceptor do **not** accept electron pair acceptor

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.3	To maximise the yield **or** To allow more crystals to form	1	Ignore references to rate of crystallisation

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.4	Solvent allows product to dissolve well when it is hot **and** poorly when solvent is cold	1	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.5	(Filtering) is faster (Product is) drier	1 1	Either order

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.6	Fume cupboard/hood	1	Ignore safety gloves

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.7	Remove <u>insoluble</u> impurities	1	Allow avoid crystals forming (in the funnel)

Total		**9**	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
04	B	45 | 21	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
05	A	Na > Al > Mg	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
06	D	7	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
07	D	using an acid of lower concentration	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
08	C	2.06×10^{-25}	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
09	D	71.7%	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
10	A	size of molecule	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
11	D	PCl_3	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
12	B	the heat energy change when one mole of substance is completely burned in excess oxygen at 100 kPa and 298 K with all reactants and products in their standard states	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
13	D	–1271	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
14	C	–141 kJ mol^{-1}	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
15	A	Pt | Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+} || MnO_4^-, H^+, Mn^{2+} | Pt	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
16	B	$Li \rightarrow Li^+ + e^-$	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
17	D	sulfur, phosphorus, silicon, aluminium	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
18	A	it is an endothermic process; the entropy of the H_2O sample increases	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
19	C	rate = k[**A**][**B**]^2[H^+]	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
20	B	rate = k[**P**][**S**$^+$][**Q**]	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
21	D	magnesium hydroxide is used in medicine to treat indigestion	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
22	A	barium chloride	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
23	D	**Reaction 3** produces a pair of isomers	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
24	C	the cotton wool helps to prevent air from entering the conical flask, to make sure that V^{2+} is obtained	1	

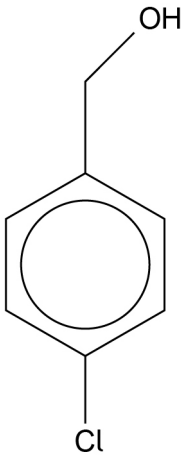
Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
25	B	$CH_3COOCH_2CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_3$	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
26	B	3	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
27	C	the polymer can be made from but-2-ene	1	

Question	Marking guidance			Mark	Comments
28	C	$NaHCO_3$	$K_2Cr_2O_7$ and H_2SO_4	1	

Question	Marking guidance				Mark	Comments
29	A	pentane	ethyl ethanoate	butanoic acid	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
30	C		1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
31	C	$Si(CH_3)_4$	1	

Question	Marking guidance			Mark	Comments
32	B	5	6	1	

Question	Marking guidance		Mark	Comments
33	C	$C_3H_{10}N_2$	1	

Total		**30**	