

The multiple-choice questions were generally well answered. However, long questions which required an explanatory sentence or two were often poorly answered. For example, in Question 2.1.1, candidates tended to offer imprecise answers, such as '...it has a lower boiling point', instead of specifying clearly that 'methanol has a lower boiling point.' This pattern was repeated elsewhere in the paper (Questions 2.1.2-2.1.3, 2.2.4 & 3.2). In calculations involving $pV = nRT$, some candidates, as before, failed to use the correct units for pressure and volume.

In Questions 3 and 4, in which sections of Grade 11 (Inorganic) and Grade 12 (Redox & Electrochemistry) were linked together, half-reactions were sometimes not written according to the Guideline Document (which clearly specifies how arrows should be used). This confusion over the correct use of arrows was also evident in Question 8. Teachers need to be much more mindful of the various prescriptions of this Document when preparing their students for the final exam.

Question 4.1 & 4.5, which dealt with Industrial processes, were generally poorly answered.

In Question 5.1.1, relatively few candidates were able to write a complete and acceptable answer. To start with, they were unable to identify the correct reduction half-reaction (Involving H^+). They also tended to write in very general terms about a substances reducing/oxidising ability. In many instances, candidates incorrectly identified the sulphate ion (SO_4^{2-}) as being a participant in the reaction, even though the question clearly identified hydrogen gas as one of the products being formed. A general problem, both here and elsewhere in the paper, was that candidates often gave irrelevant information when only a short sentence or two was required.

Question 6.1 was a relatively easy equilibrium constant calculation, and candidates generally performed well in the rest of the question too.

Question 7 contained the D-level problem (7.3), which was well answered by many candidates.

The overall performance in Question 8 was, however, disappointing, given that the candidates were supplied with all the information required for answering the question. Perhaps many students do not have an adequate enough understanding of Tables 4a and b.

Question 9 (Organic chemistry) was well answered.

The inability of candidates to write correct formulae (and to balance equations) in Questions 3.1, 3.7, 7.2.3 and 9.1.2 is a real concern, and seems to point to some serious shortcomings in what is clearly no more than basic chemistry at this level.