



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th

Thank you for participating in the 2016 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge for Lower Sixth (Year 12). Numbers were slightly reduced compared with last year, with 7200 marks submitted from around 500 schools. The reduction in numbers may be due to the new linear A-level system; we hope to see a rise in numbers once the transition to the new system is complete.

The feedback from schools was once again positive, with comments that the level of difficulty was similar to last year and including chances for every candidate to gain marks throughout the paper. The grade boundaries were almost identical to last year.

The highest scoring papers were moderated by the committee, with quite a number moving both up and down. This year, all schools submitting at least one mark will be sent one of the stunning $3d_{z^2}$ crystal orbitals. We hope schools will continue to submit marks in order to build up their collection, which we trust is becoming a useful teaching tool.

The paper, the mark-scheme, and the examiners' comments will appear on the website soon. We hope you feel taking part in this competition was a worthwhile experience and we should welcome any additional feedback: please email feedback@C3L6.com.

For your interest a summary of the results is included, over the page. As in previous years, we accepted a few entries from overseas schools but we have not included these students in this analysis.

Supporters of C3L6

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**St Catharine's College
Cambridge**



**UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
Department of Chemistry**

The C3L6 committee

Claire Badger
Tim Hersey
Vladimiras Oleinikovas
Ben Pilgrim
Kathryn Scott
Andrew Worrall
Peter Wothers

Results Summary

We felt a mark of 26 or above represented a very good achievement on this paper and showed the students were able to think their way successfully through unfamiliar material. Nearly a quarter of the candidates were of this standard and achieved at least a Silver Award. A mark over 33/60 was considered very good indeed and demonstrated a significant leap beyond the first year of sixth form study. These students were given a Gold Award or higher. The highest award, the Roentgenium, was only given to the top 0.76% of students; they have been invited to attend a residential course at the University of Cambridge. The highest mark achieved this year was an exceptional 58/60.

It was very pleasing to see 37 schools from *all* sectors of secondary education represented in this group. This confirms our view that talented and ambitious students can be found everywhere. Around 520 schools submitted at least one mark; few of these schools did not achieve any award.

As the school details entered by the teachers appear in the same format on the certificate by default we are very grateful to those who entered this information correctly.

We continue to encourage teachers to submit all marks scored by their students as a certificate at any level represents a significant achievement; any fears that this could ever count against a student in terms of university applications are entirely unfounded.

Award	Mark	Number of Students	Percentage
Roentgenium	48-60	55	0.76%
Gold	33-47	541	7.4%
Silver	26-32	992	13.7%
Copper	16-25	2631	36.4%
No Award	0-15	3010	41.6%

