



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th

Thank you for participating in the 2019 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge for Lower Sixth (Year 12). This year a record number of students participated in the challenge and over 9000 marks were entered in our database. Feedback from schools was once again positive. Teachers appreciated the opportunity to challenge all of their students, including the most able. The paper is designed to test different skills to an A-level paper and students should not be concerned if they cannot immediately see how to approach the questions.

We feel that the paper was slightly more difficult this year than last year. As a result we lowered the boundaries for gold and silver certificates by one point. The number of students awarded a roentgenium certificate is unfortunately limited by the capacity of our camps, thus the percentage awarded decreased slightly this year. The highest scoring papers were moderated by the committee, with quite a number moving both up and down.

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

For your interest a summary of the results is included over the page.

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Results Summary

This year 520 schools submitted at least one mark and it is pleasing to see that at least one student from the vast majority of these schools received a certificate.

The Copper certificate, showing a firm grasp of A-level material and the ability to apply this knowledge to novel problems was awarded to 34 % of entrants. We felt a mark of 21 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 29 was very impressive indeed and worthy of a Gold Award or higher; these students demonstrated their ability to tackle a range of different chemistry under time pressure.

The Roentgenium Award was given to the top 0.62% of students. These students have been invited to attend a residential course at the University of Cambridge. The highest mark achieved this year was an outstanding 62/64 and three students achieved 60 or above. It was very pleasing to see 38 schools from *all* sectors of secondary education represented in this group. This confirms our view that talented and ambitious students can be found everywhere.

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.

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.

Award	Mark	Number of Students	Percentage
Roentgenium	49-64	56	0.62%
Gold	29-48	809	9.0%
Silver	21-28	1714	19.0%
Copper	14-20	3079	34.2%
No Award	0-13	3352	37.2%

