

### Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th

Thank you for participating in the 2020 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge for Lower Sixth (Year 12) in this highly unusual year of lockdown. We decided to try and run a competition this year despite all the difficulties because we felt the students deserved a chance of competing in a national paper and experiencing some sense of normality. We always knew there would be risks in offering a paper which would be sent out electronically for students to sit over an extended period of time, but we believed strongly that the educational benefit that a challenging paper would offer would outweigh the risk.

Perhaps inevitably, the integrity of the paper was compromised – early on, a student demonstrated that the paper was being discussed online and others later showed that copies of the paper could be found before the window closed when students were allowed to sit the paper. We thought the fairest thing to do would be to simply allow teachers to report the marks that their students achieved and not try to provide boundaries in the usual way. However, in light of feedback from teachers we agreed to providing boundaries.

Despite all the inconvenience of participating, almost 6400 marks were returned. The profile of results is certainly very different from any previous year. Marks are considerably higher than usual even though (we felt) the paper was not noticeably easier than usual. In trying to provide boundaries, we have allocated approximately the same proportions of 'gold', 'silver' and 'copper' equivalents, but this means that the upper mark for a copper-equivalent this year would have gained a gold award in any other year! Despite the fact that we know there were some truly outstanding performances, we felt we could not make any of the usual Roentgenium Awards since there was no chance to scrutinise and re-mark these papers as we would usually do; consequently, we have simply noted 'gold-star' performances where the highest marks have been reported.

The paper, the mark-scheme, and report will appear on the website soon. We hope that that this paper, despite the problems, will add to the growing resource of challenging but fun chemistry that we are building for interested students and teachers at the year 12 level. We also hope we will be able to return to our usual format next year and that you will continue to participate.

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

#### Supporters of C3L6



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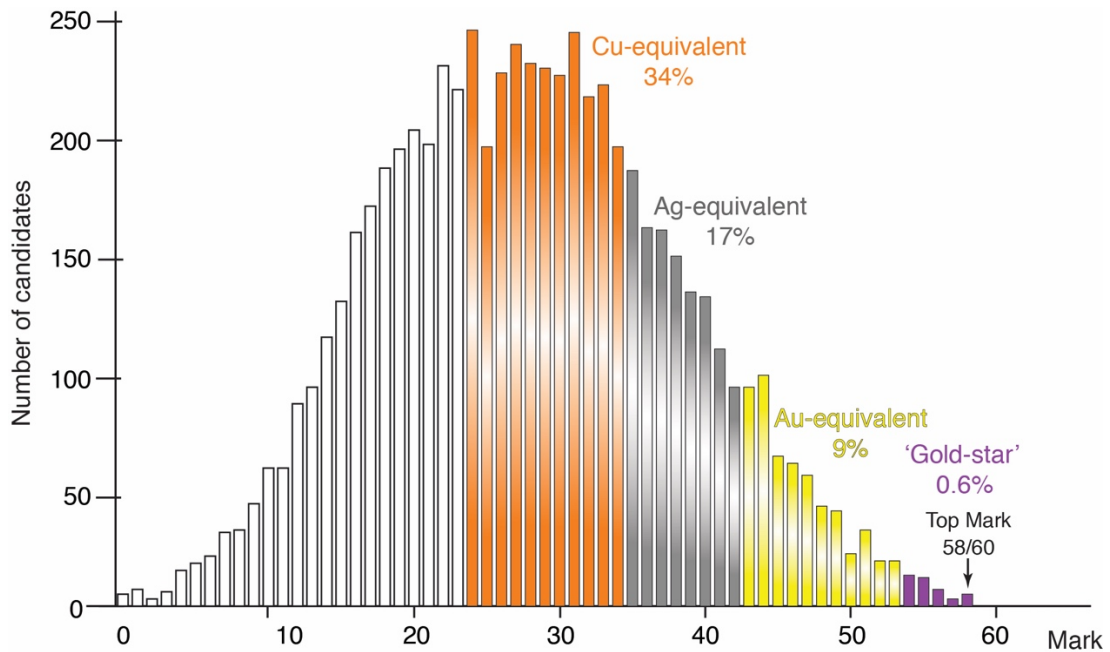
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## Results Summary

Level	Mark	Number of Students	Percentage
'Gold-star'	54-60	40	0.63%
Gold-equivalent	43-53	541	8.5%
Silver-equivalent	35-42	1109	17.4%
Copper-equivalent	25-34	2197	34.42%
Unclassified	0-24	2496	39.3%



The profile below includes the profile from last year (marked out of 64) in light grey. All previous profiles were similar to the 2019 set of results.

