

# Practical Work Mapping — Core Practicals

GCE Chemistry

**Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry (8CH01)**  
First examination 2009

**Edexcel Advanced GCE in Chemistry (9CH01)**  
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## Introduction

The following practicals can be found within *Units 1, 2, 4 or 5*, within the specification for the Edexcel GCE in Chemistry (8CH01/9CH01). These practicals are the **core practicals** that students should complete when studying *Units 1, 2, 4 and 5*. Many of these practicals, particularly in *Units 4 and 5*, state that students should '*describe and carry out, where appropriate ...*'. If you feel that it is not appropriate for your students to carry out these practicals they do not need to. **In all cases of laboratory work it is essential that centres carry out a detailed risk assessment.** If centres feel that any practicals listed here are too hazardous for their students to complete then an alternative method of studying them is acceptable, eg demonstration, video etc. For further information on risk assessments and chemical hazards please refer to the CLEAPSS website ([www.cleapss.org.uk](http://www.cleapss.org.uk)). They can be used to meet the requirements of Activity **a**: General Practical Competence (GPC), in the assessment of *Units 3 and 6*. They may also appear on the written examinations for *Units 1, 2, 4 or 5*, depending on which units they appear in. The core practicals are listed below with a **Core Practical Code** to make them easy to list on the student record sheets for *Units 3 and 6*.



## Practical Work in the Edexcel GCE in Chemistry (8CH01/9CH01)

### Unit 1: The Core Principles of Chemistry

Specification code	Practical Activity	Core Practical Code
1.3j	Make a salt and calculate the percentage yield of product, eg preparation of a double salt (ammonium iron(II) sulfate from iron, ammonia and sulfuric acid).	CP1
1.3k	Carry out and interpret the results of simple test tube reactions, such as displacements, reactions of acids, precipitations, to relate the observations to the state symbols used in equations and to give practise writing full and ionic equations.	CP2
1.4f	Evaluate the results obtained from experiments using the expression: <i>energy transferred in joules = mass × specific heat capacity × temperature change</i> and comment on sources of error and assumptions made in the experiments. The following types of experiments should be performed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>experiments in which substances are mixed in an insulated container and the temperature rise measured</li><li>simple enthalpy of combustion experiments using, eg a series of alcohols in a spirit burner</li><li>plan and carry out an experiment where the enthalpy change cannot be measured directly, eg the enthalpy change for the decomposition of calcium carbonate using the enthalpy changes of reaction of calcium carbonate and calcium oxide with hydrochloric acid.</li></ol>	CP3

**Unit 2: Application of Core Principles of Chemistry**

Specification code	Practical Activity	Core Practical Code
2.4d	Carry out experiments to determine the effect of an electrostatic force on jets of liquids and use the results to determine whether the molecules are polar or non-polar.	CP4
2.5c	Carry out experiments to study the solubility of simple molecules in different solvents.	CP5
2.7.1g	<p>Describe and carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i experiments to study the thermal decomposition of group 1 and 2 nitrates and carbonates</li> <li>ii flame tests on compounds of group 1 and 2</li> <li>iii simple acid-base titrations using a range of indicators, acids and alkalis, to calculate solution concentrations in g dm<sup>-3</sup> and mol dm<sup>-3</sup>, eg measuring the residual alkali present after skinning fruit with potassium hydroxide.</li> </ul>	CP6
2.7.2b	<p>Describe and carry out the following chemical reactions of halogens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i oxidation reactions with metal and non-metallic elements and ions such as iron(II) and iron(III) ions in solution</li> <li>ii disproportionation reactions with cold and hot alkali, eg hot potassium hydroxide with iodine to produce potassium iodate(V).</li> </ul>	CP7
2.7.2c	Carry out an iodine/thiosulfate titration, including calculation of the results and evaluation of the procedures involved, eg determination of the purity of potassium iodate(V) by liberation of iodine and titration with standard sodium thiosulfate solution.	CP8
2.7.2d	<p>Describe and carry out the following reactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i potassium halides with concentrated sulfuric acid, halogens and silver nitrate solution</li> <li>ii silver halides with sunlight and their solubilities in aqueous ammonia solution</li> <li>iii hydrogen halides with ammonia and with water (to produce acids).</li> </ul>	CP9
2.8f	Carry out simple experiments to demonstrate the factors that influence the rate of chemical reactions, eg the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide.	CP10
2.10.1d	Demonstrate an understanding of, and practise, the preparation of an organic liquid (reflux and distillation), eg oxidation of alcohols.	CP11



Specification code	Practical Activity	Core Practical Code
2.10.2c	Carry out the preparation of an halogenoalkane from an alcohol and explain why a metal halide and concentrated sulfuric acid should not be used when making a bromoalkane or an iodoalkane.	CP12
2.10.2e	Carry out the reactions described in 2.10.2d i, ii, iii.	CP13

**Unit 4: General Principles of Chemistry I — Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry**

Specification code	Practical Activity	Core Practical Code
4.3c	Investigate reactions which produce data that can be used to calculate the rate of the reaction, its half-life from concentration or volume against time graphs, eg a clock reaction.	CP14
4.3e	Investigate the reaction of iodine with propanone in acid to obtain data for the order with respect to the reactants and the hydrogen ion and make predictions about molecules/ions involved in the rate-determining step and possible mechanism (details of the actual mechanism can be discussed at a later stage in this topic).	CP15
4.4g	<p>Carry out experiments and relate the results to disorder and enthalpy changes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i dissolving a solid, eg adding ammonium nitrate crystals to water</li> <li>ii gas evolution, eg reacting ethanoic acid with ammonium carbonate</li> <li>iii exothermic reaction producing a solid, eg burning magnesium ribbon in air</li> <li>iv endothermic reaction of two solids, eg mixing solid barium hydroxide, Ba(OH)<sub>2</sub>.8H<sub>2</sub>O with solid ammonium chloride.</li> </ul>	CP16
4.8.2c	<p>Describe and carry out, where appropriate, the reactions of carbonyl compounds limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i oxidation with Fehling's or Benedict's solution, Tollens' reagent and acidified dichromate(VI) ions</li> <li>ii reduction with lithium tetrahydridoaluminate (lithium aluminium hydride) in dry ether</li> <li>iii nucleophilic addition of HCN in the presence of KCN, using curly arrows, relevant lone pairs, dipoles and evidence of optical activity to show the mechanism</li> <li>iv the reaction with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine and its use to detect the presence of a carbonyl group and to identify a carbonyl compound given data of the melting temperatures of derivatives</li> <li>v iodine in the presence of alkali.</li> </ul>	CP17



Specification code	Practical Activity	Core Practical Code
4.8.3d	<p>Describe and carry out, where appropriate, the reactions of carboxylic acids. This will be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i reduction with lithium tetrahydridoaluminate (lithium aluminium hydride) in dry ether (ethoxyethane)</li><li>ii neutralization to produce salts, eg to determine the amount of citric acid in fruit</li><li>iii phosphorus(V) chloride (phosphorus pentachloride)</li><li>iv reactions with alcohols in the presence of an acid catalyst, eg the preparation of ethyl ethanoate as a solvent or as pineapple flavouring.</li></ul>	CP18
4.8.4b	<p>Describe and carry out, where appropriate, the reactions of acyl chlorides limited to their reaction with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i water</li><li>ii alcohols</li><li>iii concentrated ammonia</li><li>iv amines.</li></ul>	CP19
4.8.4c	<p>Describe and carry out, where appropriate, the reactions of esters. This will be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i their hydrolysis with an acid</li><li>ii their hydrolysis with a base, eg to form soaps</li><li>iii their reaction with alcohols and acids to explain the process of trans-esterification and recall how it is applied to the manufacture of bio-diesel (as a potentially greener fuel) and low-fat spreads (replacing the hydrogenation of vegetable oils to produce margarine).</li></ul>	CP20



## Unit 5: General Principles of Chemistry II — Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry

Specification code	Practical Activity	Core Practical Code
5.3.1d	Set up some simple cells and calculate values of $E_{cell}$ from standard electrode potential values and use them to predict the thermodynamic feasibility and extent of reactions.	CP21
5.3.1g	Carry out and evaluate the results of an experiment involving the use of standard electrode potentials to predict the feasibility of a reaction, eg interchange of the oxidation states of vanadium or manganese.	CP22
5.3.2g	Carry out experiments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i investigate ligand exchange in copper complexes</li> <li>ii study the redox chemistry of chromium in oxidation states Cr(VI), Cr(III) and Cr(II)</li> <li>iii prepare a sample of a complex, eg chromium(II) ethanoate.</li> </ul>	CP23
5.3.2j	Carry out and interpret the reactions of transition metal ions with aqueous sodium hydroxide and aqueous ammonia, both in excess, limited to reactions with aqueous solutions of Cr(III), Mn(II), Fe(II), Fe(III), Ni(II), Cu(II), Zn(II).	CP24
5.4.1d	Carry out the reactions in 5.4.1b where appropriate (using methylbenzene or methoxybenzene).	CP25
5.4.1e	Carry out the reaction of phenol with bromine water and dilute nitric acid and use these results to illustrate the activation of the benzene ring	CP26
5.4.2b	Describe and carry out, where appropriate (using butylamine and phenylamine), reactions to investigate the typical behaviour of primary amines. This will be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i characteristic smell</li> <li>ii miscibility with water as a result of hydrogen bonding and the alkaline nature of the resulting solution</li> <li>iii formation of salts</li> <li>iv complex ion formation with copper(II) ions</li> <li>v treatment with ethanoyl chloride and halogenoalkanes, eg making paracetamol.</li> </ul>	CP27
5.4.2d	Describe and carry out, where appropriate, the reaction of aromatic amines with nitrous acid to form benzenediazonium ions followed by a coupling reaction with phenol to form a dye.	CP28



Specification code	Practical Activity	Core Practical Code
5.4.2i	<p>Describe and carry out, where appropriate, experiments to investigate the characteristic behaviour of amino acids. This will be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i acidity and basicity and the formation of zwitterions</li><li>ii separation and identification by chromatography</li><li>iii effect of aqueous solutions on plane-polarised monochromatic light</li><li>iv formation of peptide groups in proteins by condensation polymerization</li><li>v reaction with ninhydrin.</li></ul>	CP29
5.4.3f	<p>Describe and carry out, where appropriate, the preparation of a compound, eg cholesteryl benzoate (a liquid crystal) and of methyl 3-nitrobenzoate, requiring some of the following techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i refluxing</li><li>ii purification by washing, eg with water and sodium carbonate solution</li><li>iii solvent extraction</li><li>iv recrystallization</li><li>v drying</li><li>vi distillation</li><li>vii steam distillation</li><li>viii melting temperature determination</li><li>ix boiling temperature determination.</li></ul>	CP30

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