

General information about practical exams

Centres must follow the guidance on science practical exams given in the *Cambridge Handbook*.

Safety

Supervisors must follow national and local regulations relating to safety and first aid.

Only those procedures described in the question paper should be attempted.

Supervisors must inform candidates that materials and apparatus used in the exam should be treated with caution. Suitable eye protection should be used where necessary.

The following hazard codes are used in these confidential instructions, where relevant:

C	corrosive	MH	moderate hazard
HH	health hazard	T	acutely toxic
F	flammable	O	oxidising
N	hazardous to the aquatic environment		

Hazard data sheets relating to substances used in this exam should be available from your chemical supplier.

Before the exam

- The packets containing the question papers must **not** be opened before the exam.
- It is assumed that standard school laboratory facilities, as indicated in the *Guide to Planning Practical Science*, will be available.
- Spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set must be available for candidates, if required.

During the exam

- It must be made clear to candidates at the start of the exam that they may request spare materials and apparatus for the tasks set.
- Where specified, the supervisor **must** perform the experiments and record the results as instructed. This must be done **out of sight** of the candidates, using the same materials and apparatus as the candidates.
- Any assistance provided to candidates must be recorded in the supervisor's report.
- If any materials or apparatus need to be replaced, for example, in the event of breakage or loss, this must be recorded in the supervisor's report.

After the exam

- The supervisor must complete a report for each practical session held and each laboratory used.
- Each packet of scripts returned to Cambridge International must contain the following items:
 - the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
 - the supervisor's results relevant to these candidates
 - the supervisor's reports relevant to these candidates
 - seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
 - the attendance register.

Specific information for this practical exam

During the exam, the supervisor (**not** the invigilator) must do the experiment in Question 1 and record the results on a spare copy of the question paper, clearly labelled 'supervisor's results'.

Question 1

Each candidate should be provided with:

hazard	materials and apparatus	quantity per candidate
	12-dimple spotting tile	1
[MH] [HH] [C]	2 cm ³ of 0.5% amylase solution in a standard test-tube labelled amylase C	1
[MH] [HH] [C]	2 cm ³ of 0.5% amylase solution in a standard test-tube labelled amylase H	1
	0.5% starch suspension in a small beaker labelled starch suspension	20 cm ³
	iodine solution in a dropper bottle with a dropping pipette, labelled iodine solution	20 cm ³
	large test-tubes (approximately 150 mm × 25 mm)	2
	test-tube rack to hold large test-tubes	1
	250 cm ³ beaker containing approximately 150 cm ³ of cold tap water labelled C	1
	empty 250 cm ³ beaker labelled H	1
	a supply of warm water at 40 °C Candidates will raise their hand when they are ready for warm water to be supplied.	approximately 150 cm ³
	2 cm ³ or 2.5 cm ³ syringe	1
	2 cm ³ plastic pipette	2
	stop-clock	1
	permanent marker pen	1
	paper towels	5
	gloves	1 pair
	suitable eye protection	1

Question 3

Each candidate should be provided with:

hazard	materials and apparatus	quantity per candidate
	30 cm ruler with a mm scale	1

Preparation of materials*0.5% amylase solution [MH] [HH] [C]*

Put 0.5 g of bacterial amylase **[MH] [HH] [C]** into 80 cm³ of distilled water and mix until dissolved. Make up to 100 cm³ with distilled water. This should be prepared on the day of the exam.

0.5% starch suspension

Mix 0.5 g of soluble starch [low hazard] with a few drops of distilled water to make a paste. Gradually add 80 cm³ of distilled water and heat until the liquid clears. Make up to 100 cm³ with distilled water. Allow the starch suspension to cool. This can be made the day before the exam and kept in a refrigerator. The starch suspension must be at room temperature when presented to candidates.

iodine solution

A commercially prepared iodine solution suitable for standard food tests can be used.

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Supervisor's report

Syllabus and component number

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Centre number

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Centre name

Time of the practical session

Laboratory name/number

Give details of any difficulties experienced by the centre or by candidates (include the relevant candidate names and candidate numbers).

You must include:

- any difficulties experienced by the centre in the preparation of materials
- any difficulties experienced by candidates, e.g. due to faulty materials or apparatus
- any specific assistance given to candidates.

Declaration

- 1 Each packet that I am returning to Cambridge International contains all of the following items:
 - the scripts of the candidates specified on the bar code label provided
 - the supervisor’s results relevant to these candidates
 - the supervisor’s reports relevant to these candidates
 - seating plans for each practical session, referring to each candidate by candidate number
 - the attendance register.
- 2 Where the practical exam has taken place in more than one practical session, I have clearly labelled the supervisor’s results, supervisor’s reports and seating plans with the time and laboratory name/number for each practical session.
- 3 I have included details of difficulties relating to each practical session experienced by the centre or by candidates.
- 4 I have reported any other adverse circumstances affecting candidates, e.g. illness, bereavement or temporary injury, directly to Cambridge International on a *special consideration form*.

Signed (supervisor)

Name (in block capitals)