

Circular S/IF/85/13

November 2013

To: The Principals of Post-primary Schools and Directors of Further and Higher Education

For circulation to: Head of the Chemistry Department

cc. Examinations Officers

Change to marking arrangements for the GCE Chemistry practical assessments

AS 3 Practical Booklet A (AC133) and AS 3 Practical Booklet B (AC134) – both sub-components are mandatory (legacy unit codes were AC131 and AC132)

A2 3 main practical session (AC231) and A2 3 alternative practical session (AC232)

To date, the above practical assessments have been internally marked by teachers after the timetabled date for the assessments and all scripts were then submitted to CCEA where Examiners checked the marking on a script-by-script basis.

From the May 2014 examination series, all GCE Chemistry AS 3 (AC133 and AC134) and A2 3 (AC231 and AC232) practical assessments will be externally marked by CCEA just as the current theory examinations are marked. Teachers are no longer required to mark the practical scripts in advance of their submission to CCEA. Please refer to the earlier circular (S/IF/40/13) for further information on the changes in the assessment structure of the AS Chemistry practical unit.

Arrangements for returning practical scripts to CCEA

Please return the AS 3 Practical Booklet A (AC133) and the A2 3 Practical scripts (AC231 and AC232) together with the corresponding advice note to the Examinations Officer as soon as the individual exam sessions have finished. As the AS 3 Practical Booklet B (AC134) will be externally invigilated, it will be the responsibility of the Chief Invigilator to return these scripts to the Examinations Officer. All the practical scripts will be collected from your centre by CCEA the day after the timetabled exam sitting as with other theory examinations. If the collection scheduled for the day after the practical exam does not take place, please contact CCEA immediately so another pick up can be arranged.

The information regarding the marking of practical assessments will be updated on the GCE Chemistry specification very soon and the updated version will be uploaded to the Chemistry microsite (<http://www.ccea.org.uk/chemistry/>).

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

Elaine Lennox at CCEA on: (028) 9026 1200 [Ext. 2320]

Email: elennox@ccea.org.uk

