

Set assignment

DRAFT

LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONAL (AAQ) IN

APPLIED SCIENCE

Extended Certificate H151

For first teaching in 2025

F183: Analytical techniques in chemistry

Introduction

This is Sample Assessment Material (SAM). It is an example set assignment that we publish alongside a new specification to help illustrate the intended style and structure of our set assignments.

During the lifetime of the qualification, updates to the set assignment template may happen. We always recommend you look at the most recent set of past set assignments where available.

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Designed and tested with teachers and students



Helping young people develop an ethical view of the world



Equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB) are part of everything we do

Summary of updates

Date	Version	Page number	Summary of change
July 2023	1 DRAFT	All	Creation of document

Teacher support

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Our teacher support is designed to make teaching our qualifications straightforward, whether you are an experienced teacher, new to teaching, new to OCR, or not a subject specialist of the qualification you are teaching.

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Our equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging principles are that we:

- are respectful and considerate
- celebrate differences and promote positive attitudes to belonging
- include perspectives that reflect the diverse cultural and lifestyle backgrounds of our society
- challenge prejudicial views and unconscious biases
- promote a safe and supportive approach to learning
- are accessible and fair, creating positive experiences for all
- provide opportunities for everyone to perform at their best
- are contemporary, relevant and equip everyone to live and thrive in a global, diverse world
- create a shared sense of identity in a modern mixed society with one humanity.

To learn more, including our work on accessibility in our assessment materials, visit our [People and planet page](#).

OCR-set Assignment

Sample Assessment Material

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National (AAQ) in Applied Science
(Extended Certificate)

Unit F183: Analytical techniques in chemistry

Scenario Title: Be Well Pharmacy

This is a sample OCR-set assignment which should only be used for practice.

This assignment **must not** be used for live assessment of students.

The live assignments will be available on our secure website, 'Teach Cambridge'.

The OCR administrative codes linked to this unit are:

- unit entry code F183
- certification code H151

The regulated qualification number linked to this unit is:

TBC

Duration

About:

- 18 hours of supervised time (GLH)
(work that **must** be completed under teacher supervised conditions)
- 4 hours of unsupervised time
(work that students can complete independently without teacher supervision)

All this material **can** be photocopied. Any photocopying will be done under the terms of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 solely for the purposes of assessment.

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Information and instructions for Teachers

Using this assignment

This assignment provides a scenario and set of related tasks that reflect how people working within analytical chemistry would plan and perform investigations, analyse and interpret data, determine the purity of substances, evaluate techniques used, and make conclusions.

The assignment:

- Is written so that students have the opportunity to meet the requirements of all assessment criteria for the unit.
- Will tell students if their evidence must be in a specific format. If the task does not specify a format, students can choose the format to use.
- **Must** be completed under teacher supervision. Any exceptions to this will be stated in the assessment guidance.

You **must**:

- Use an OCR-set assignment for summative assessment of students.
- Familiarise yourself with the assessment criteria and assessment guidance for the tasks. These are given at the end of each student task. They are also with the unit content in **Section 4** of the Specification.
Assessment guidance is only given where additional information is needed. There might not be assessment guidance for each criterion.
- Make sure students understand that the assessment criteria and assessment guidance tell them in detail what they need to do in each task.
- Read and understand **all** the rules and guidance in **Section 6** of the Specification **before** your students start the set assignments.
- Make sure that your students complete the tasks and that you assess the tasks fully in line with the rules and guidance in **Section 6** of the Specification.
- Give your students the Applied Science **Student guide to NEA assignments** **before** they start the assignments.
- Complete the **Teacher Observation Record** for **Task 2** and **Task 4**. You **must** follow the guidance given when completing it.

You **must not**:

- Use live OCR-set assignments for practice or formative assessment. This sample assessment material **can** be used for practice or formative assessment.
- Use this sample assessment material for live assessment of students.
- Allow group work for **any** task in this assignment.
- Change any part of the OCR-set assignments or assessment criteria.

Information for delivering tasks

Task	Requirements
General	Students will be expected to plan their own investigations. It is essential that teachers check the methods and risk assessments prior to students conducting any practical work to ensure they have chosen equipment and reagents available at the centre and that their methods and reagents are safe to use.
1, 2, 3, and 4	See accompanying 'Teacher/Technician Advice' for guidance specific to this scenario.

Pages 1-5 are for teachers only. Please do **not** give **Pages 1-5** to your students.

You can give **any** or **all** of the pages **that follow** to your students.

Sample

Tasks for students and assessment criteria

Unit F183: Analytical Techniques in Chemistry

Scenario Title: Be Well Pharmacy

Scenario

You are an analytical chemist and have been asked to identify two unknown compounds sent into your laboratory by a local pharmacy called Be Well Pharmacy.

Compound X was found in a colourless, stoppered glass bottle with the word “solvent” written on it. It has been found on a shelf in the pharmacy and its identity needs to be known so that it can be safely disposed of.

Compound Y is known to be an ingredient in a leading brand of eye drops. You have been sent a crystallised, impure sample of this compound and a sample of the eye drop solution to determine the concentration of compound Y.

Your laboratory is well equipped with standard laboratory reagents and equipment, but you had to send a sample of compound X to a colleague for spectroscopic analysis. Other samples from the laboratory have been sent for spectroscopic analysis, so you will need to find out which of the spectra received belongs to compound X.

You will need to use the information given and perform chemical tests to identify the unknown compounds. The compounds have become contaminated so you will also need to perform appropriate purification techniques.

Information about unknown organic compound X:

- It has a boiling point below 150°C.
- It is impure and is contaminated with salt water.
- The hazard symbols associated with this compound are:



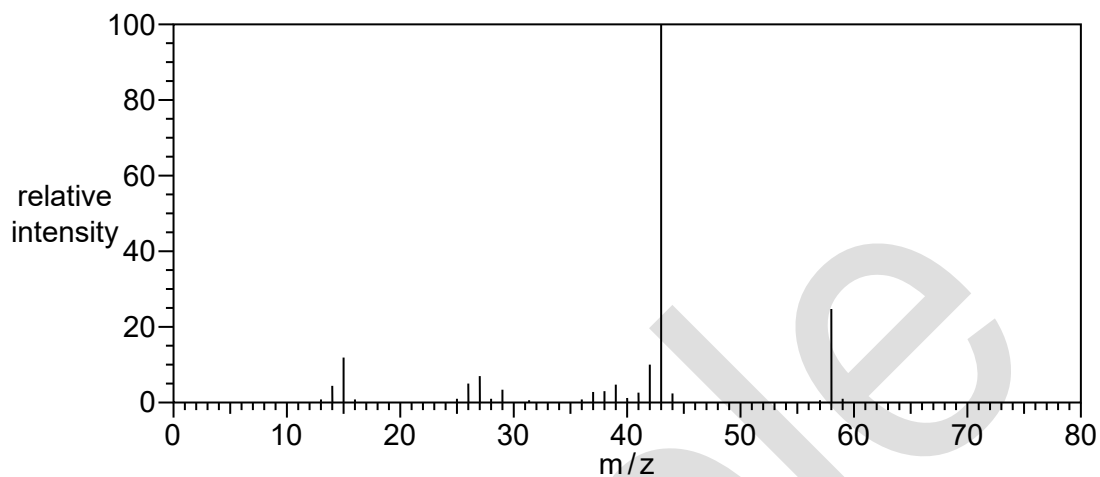
Information about unknown inorganic compound Y:

- It has no hazard symbols associated with it.
- It is safe to heat this compound and to react it with common laboratory reagents.
- It is impure and has been contaminated by another ionic salt that has a low solubility in ethanol.
- The eye drops are an aqueous solution of this compound. The label originally indicated a 10% weight/volume (w/v) concentration for this application.

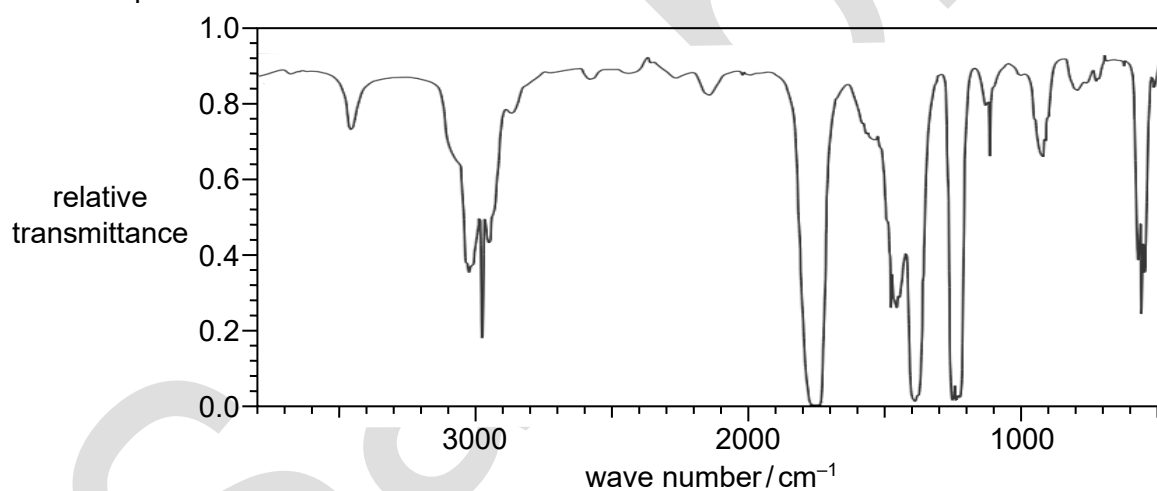
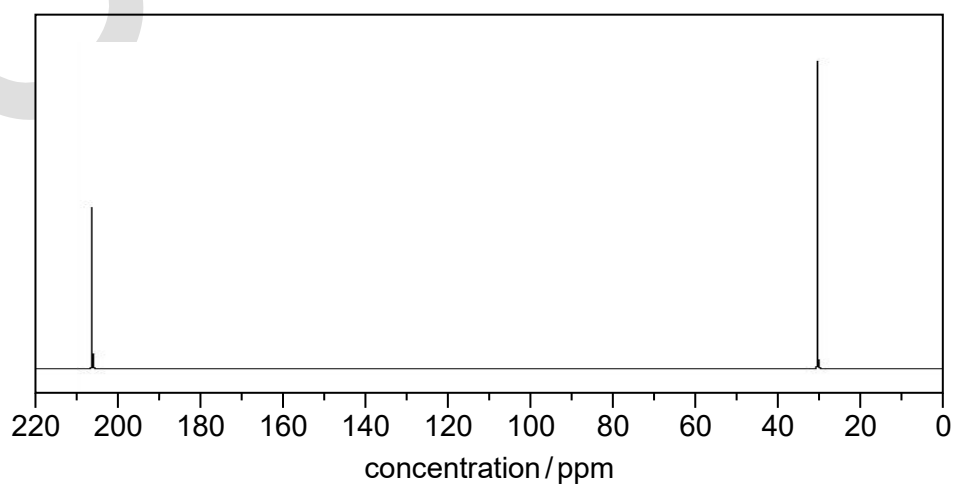
Spectra received**Compound 1**

Percentage composition: 62.0% C, 10.4% H, and 27.5% O

mass spectrum

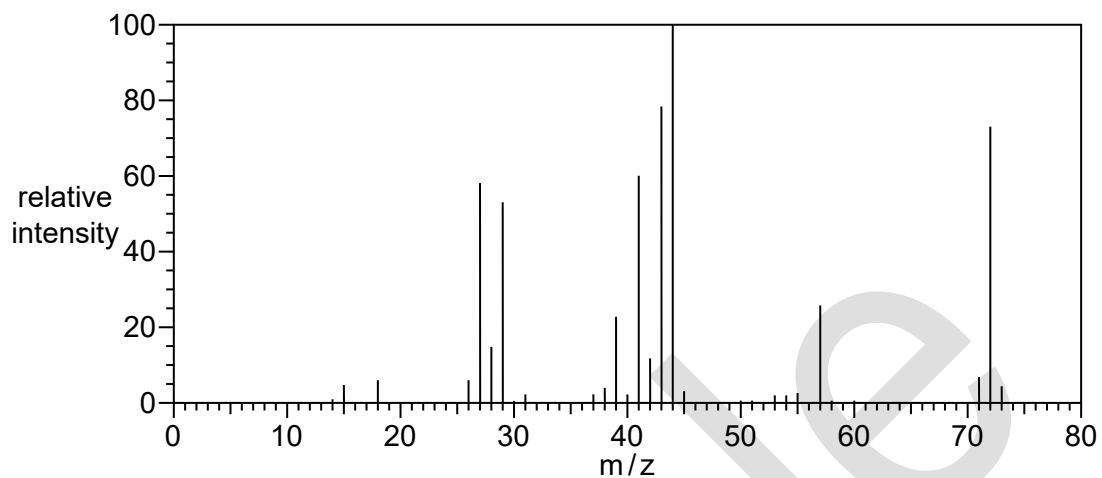


infrared spectrum

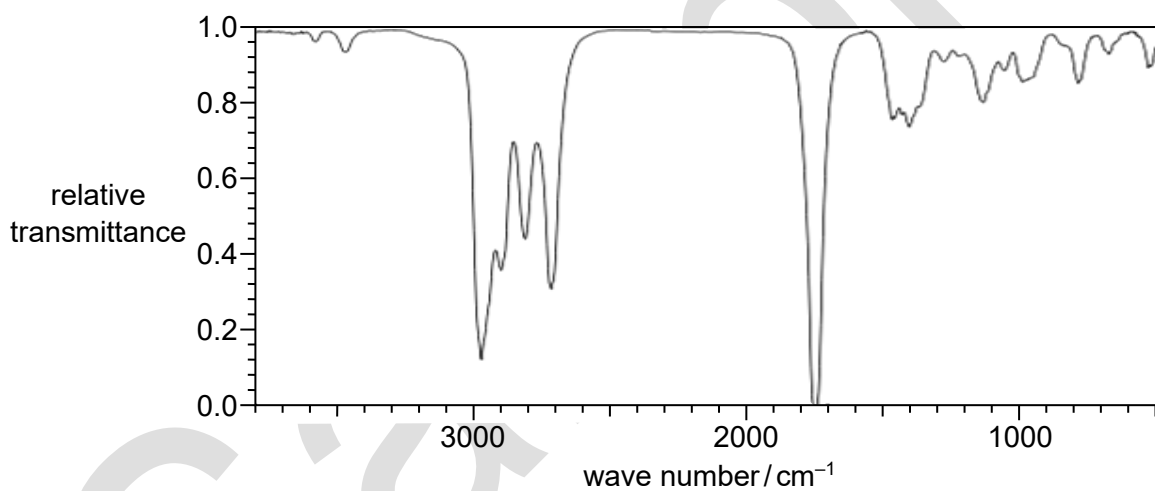
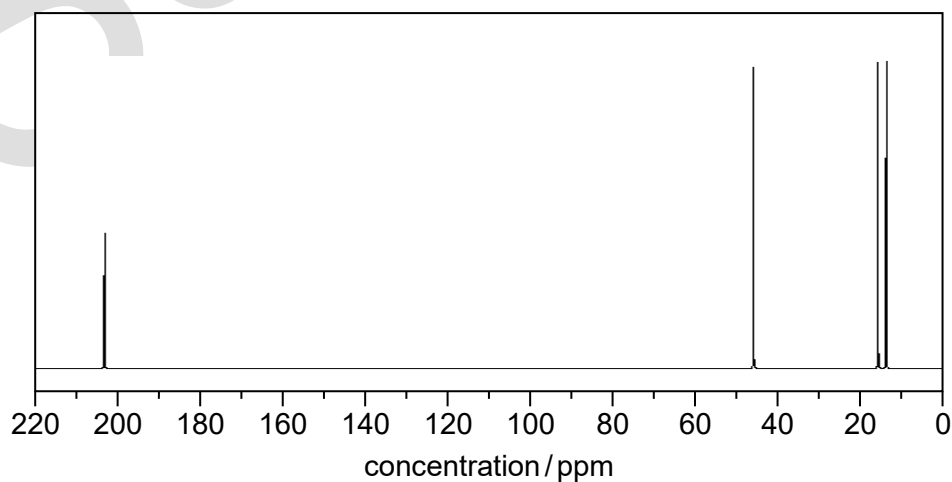
 ^{13}C -NMR

Compound 2**Percentage Composition:** 66.62% C, 11.18% H, 22.19% O

mass spectrum

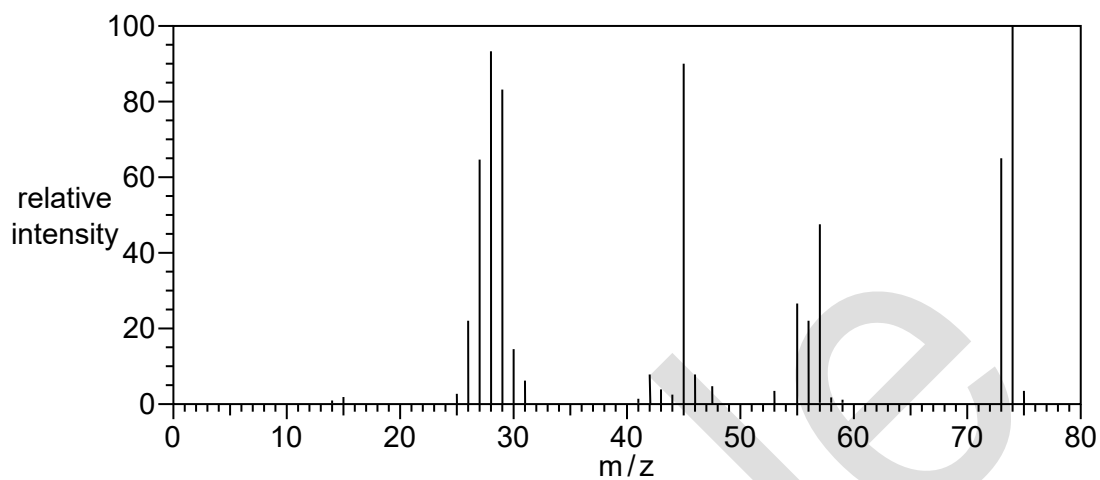


infrared spectrum

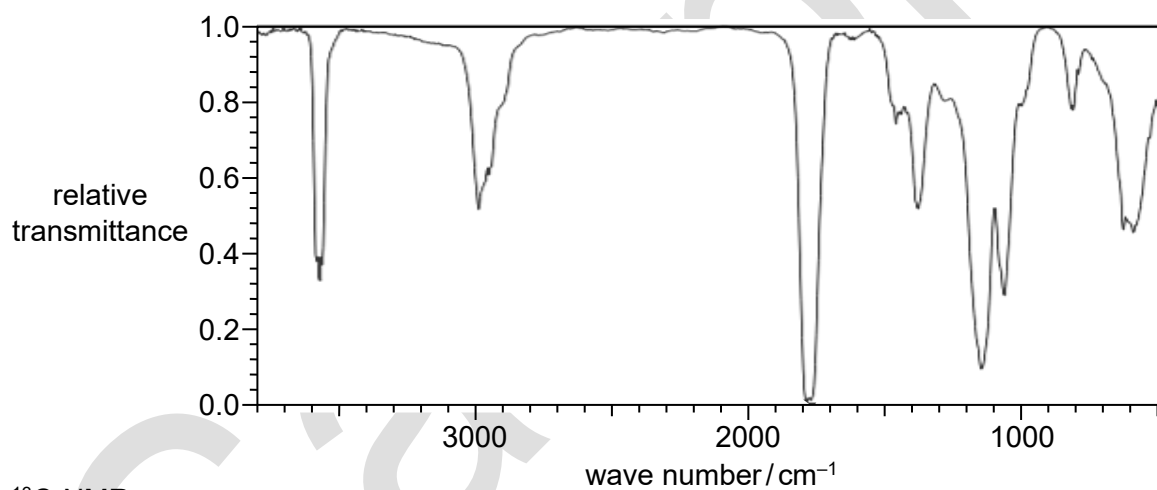
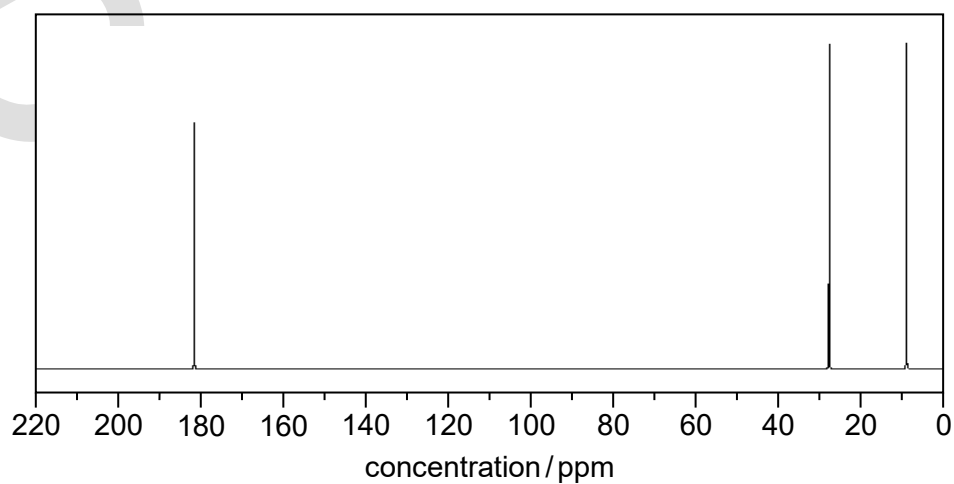
 ^{13}C -NMR

Compound 3**Percentage Composition:** 48.64% C, 8.16% H, 43.19% O

mass spectrum



infrared spectrum

 ^{13}C -NMR

Task 1

Plan your investigations

Topic Areas 1 to 3 are assessed in this task.

The task is:

Plan how you will separate the two unknown compounds from their mixtures, confirm their purity and then identify them. This should include a plan for gravimetric analysis of the inorganic compound to determine its percentage purity.

Your evidence **must** include:

- A written plan
- A risk assessment using the template provided

Use the assessment criteria below to tell you what you need to do in more detail.

Pass	Merit	Distinction
P1: Identify appropriate tests and techniques to investigate the unknown compounds in a logically sequenced order.		
P2: Identify appropriate equipment, reagents and quantities to investigate the unknown compounds.		
P3: Use research to complete a risk assessment for your investigation.		

Assessment Guidance

This assessment guidance gives you information to meet the assessment criteria. There might not be additional assessment guidance for each criterion. It is only given where it is needed. You must read this guidance before you complete your evidence.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment guidance
P1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 does not require research from students, it should be from taught Unit F183 knowledge. • P1 should not be a standalone list, it should form part of a written, logically sequenced plan for the investigation.
P2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size, quantity and type of equipment (e.g. size and type of pipettes/beakers etc.) will need to be specified by the student to achieve P2. • P2 should not be a standalone list, it should form part of the written, logically sequenced plan for the investigation.
P3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will need to complete some basic research to help them identify the risks associated with the reagents and techniques chosen. • References should be included at the end of the risk assessment template. • The research element of this criterion does not need to be completed under supervised conditions.

Advice:

- Following the completion of **Task 1**, your teacher will need to ensure that your planned investigation is safe for you to do in your school laboratory.
- Remember to clearly reference any information used from books, websites or other sources to support your evidence.

Task 2

Discover the unknown organic compound

Topic Areas 1 to 3 are assessed in this task.

The task is:

Conduct your planned investigation to determine the identity of the unknown organic compound.

Your evidence **must** include:

- Written evidence
- Photographic evidence of the observations
- A Teacher Observation Record form

Use the assessment criteria below to tell you what you need to do in more detail.

Pass	Merit	Distinction
P4: Perform separating techniques identified in the plan for the unknown organic compound safely and skilfully.	M1: Use appropriate techniques to confirm the purity of the isolated compound.	D1: Justify the identity of the organic compound.
P5: Perform qualitative tests identified in the plan to determine the functional group of the organic compound safely.	M2: Interpret spectra to confirm the identity of the organic compound.	

Assessment Guidance

This assessment guidance gives you information to meet the assessment criteria. There might not be additional assessment guidance for each criterion. It is only given where it is needed. You must read this guidance before you complete your evidence.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment guidance
P4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should use annotated photographic evidence to help them describe qualitative observations.• The teacher observation record form should comment on the safe carrying out of the separating techniques and the skilful use of apparatus by the student to collect data of sufficient quality.
P5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should use annotated photographic evidence to help them describe qualitative observations.• The teacher observation record form should comment on the safe carrying out of the qualitative tests by the student.
M2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should match the evidence collected from P4, P5 and M1 to the spectroscopic data provided, to identify the type of organic compound.• Students should then use calculations to confirm the identity of the organic compound.• The name of the organic compound should be provided using IUPAC nomenclature, as well as the displayed or structural formula of the organic compound.
D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should explain how they matched the evidence from P4, P5 and M1 to the spectroscopic data. Students should also explain why they rejected the other spectroscopic data.• Annotations to the spectroscopic data should be made to help students form their explanation.

Task 3

Discover the unknown inorganic compound

Topic Areas 1 and 2 are assessed in this task.

The task is:

Conduct your planned investigation to determine the identity of the unknown inorganic compound.

Conduct a gravimetric analysis of your sample.

Your evidence **must** include:

- Written evidence
- Photographic evidence of the observations

Use the assessment criteria below to tell you what you need to do in more detail.

Pass	Merit	Distinction
P6: Perform appropriate separating techniques for the unknown inorganic compound.	M3: Use appropriate techniques to confirm the purity of the isolated compound.	D2: Evaluate the accuracy of the percentage purity of the inorganic compound.
P7: Perform qualitative tests identified in the plan to confirm the identity of the inorganic compound.	M4: Explain the identity of the inorganic compound.	

Assessment Guidance

This assessment guidance gives you information to meet the assessment criteria. There might not be additional assessment guidance for each criterion. It is only given where it is needed. You must read this guidance before you complete your evidence.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment guidance
P6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should use annotated photographic evidence to help them describe qualitative observations.
P7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should use annotated photographic evidence to help them describe qualitative observations.
M4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should explain how they collated evidence from P6, P7 and M3 to identify the ions in the inorganic compound. Students should explain why they rejected the presence of other ions in the inorganic compound.The name of the inorganic compound should be provided using IUPAC nomenclature, as well as the chemical formula.
D2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should use appropriate techniques (including gravimetric analysis) to calculate the percentage purity of the inorganic compound.Students should then consider how accurate this value is considering the techniques used in P6 and M3.

Task 4**Determine the concentration of the solution**

Topic Area 2 is assessed in this task.

The task is:

Determine the concentration of the solution you have been provided with.

Your evidence **must** include:

- Written evidence
- Photographic evidence of observations
- A Teacher Observation Record form

Use the assessment criteria below to tell you what you need to do in more detail.

Pass	Merit	Distinction
P8: Use research to identify appropriate techniques and reagent(s) to determine concentration.		
P9: Prepare appropriate standard solution(s).		
P10: Use appropriate technique(s) to determine reacting volumes safely and skilfully.	M5: Calculate the concentration of the solution and the combined uncertainty in this result.	D3: Evaluate concentration of the solution in comparison with the actual concentration that is suggested in the scenario.

Advice:

- Remember to clearly reference any information used from books, websites or other sources to support your evidence.

Assessment Guidance

This assessment guidance gives you information to meet the assessment criteria. There might not be additional assessment guidance for each criterion. It is only given where it is needed. You must read this guidance before you complete your evidence.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment guidance
P8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research is required to select appropriate reagents to determine the concentration of the unknown inorganic compound.• The research element of this criterion does not need to be completed under supervised conditions.
P9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The teacher observation record form should comment on the skilful preparation of standard solutions.
P10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should use annotated photographic evidence to help them indicate that they have collected data of sufficient quality.• The teacher observation record form should comment on the safe carrying out of the quantitative tests by the student.
M5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should process raw data appropriately and indicate their decisions in their written evidence. All working out should be included in the written evidence, with appropriate units.

Task 5

Review of your investigations

Topic Areas 1 to 3 are assessed in this task.

The task is:

Review how well you carried out your investigations, the suitability of the techniques you used in producing a pure sample for analysis, and the tests you used to determine their identities, concentration and purity.

Your evidence **must** include:

- Written evidence

Use the assessment criteria below to tell you what you need to do in more detail.

Pass	Merit	Distinction
P11: Explain other tests or techniques that could be used to help confirm the identity of the compounds and the concentration of the solution.	M6: Assess the quality of the data collected.	D4: Evaluate the tests and techniques used to confirm the identity and concentrations of the compounds.
		D5: Justify suggestions for improvements that could be made.

Assessment Guidance

This assessment guidance gives you information to meet the assessment criteria. There might not be additional assessment guidance for each criterion. It is only given where it is needed. You must read this guidance before you complete your evidence.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment guidance
P11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should not be restricted to the tests or techniques available in their school.
M6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should use their understanding of quality data to offer a reasoned judgment of the data collected.Students should consider the purity of the final compounds they isolated, potential losses during separation techniques, and any other errors that may have been introduced during the investigation.They should not attribute errors in the data to the materials provided by the centre or that provided in the scenario.
D4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should consider the strengths and limitations of the apparatus, tests, and techniques that were used.Combined uncertainty calculated in M5 should form part of this judgment.
D5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should consider all techniques explored in Unit F183 when making their decisions about improvements.The justification should be restricted to the tests or techniques available in their school.

Teacher Observation Record Form for Task 2

Use this form to record what is observed.

Read the **guidance notes** below the form **before** you complete the form.

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National (AAQ) in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

Unit number:	F183
Unit title:	Analytical techniques in chemistry
Task number:	2
Task title:	Discover the unknown organic compound

Student's name:	
Date the activity was completed:	

What extra evidence is attached to the form?	
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The **teacher** fills in this section:

<p>What Assessment Criteria does this activity relate to?</p> <p>This activity relates to the assessment criteria P4, and P5. For P4, you must comment on the safe carrying out of the separating techniques and the skilful use of apparatus by the student to collect data of sufficient quality. For P5, you must comment on the safe carrying out of the qualitative tests by the student.</p>	
<p>How does the activity meet the requirements of the Assessment Criteria? You must describe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. what the student did 2. how it relates to the relevant Assessment Criteria 	
Teacher's name:	
Teacher's signature:	
Date:	

The **student** fills in this section:

I agree with my teacher's description of how I completed this activity		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Use this space to make any extra comments.		
Student's signature:		
Date:		

Guidance notes

Both the teacher **and** the student are responsible for completing this form.

The **teacher must**:

- use the form to describe in detail what they observed the student doing.
- give contextualised details of what the student did and how this relates to the Assessment Criteria.
- say how well the activity was completed in relation to the Assessment Criteria with reasons.
- share what they have written with the student and offer the opportunity to discuss if the student disagrees with what is written.
- reach agreement with the student before the work is submitted for moderation.
- sign and date the form as evidence of agreement.

The **student must**:

- reach agreement with the teacher before the work is submitted for moderation.
- use the form to show that they agree with the teacher's record of the activity observed.
- sign and date the form as evidence of agreement.

The form **must**:

- be accompanied by extra evidence, as required by the task.
- provide evidence that is individual to the student.

The form **must not**:

- contain a simple repeat of the Assessment Criteria.
- contain just a list of skills.
- be completed by anyone other than the teacher observing the activity and the student completing the activity.
- be written by the student for the teacher to sign.
- be used to evidence achievement of a whole unit or task in isolation.

Teacher Observation Record Form for Task 4

Use this form to record what is observed.

Read the **guidance notes** below the form **before** you complete the form.

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National (AAQ) in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

Unit number:	F183
Unit title:	Analytical techniques in chemistry
Task number:	4
Task title:	Determine the concentration of the solution

Student's name:	
Date the activity was completed:	

What extra evidence is attached to the form?	
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The **teacher** fills in this section:

<p>What Assessment Criteria does this activity relate to?</p> <p>This activity relates to the assessment P9 and P10. For P9, you must comment on the skilful preparation of standard solutions For P10, you must comment on the safe carrying out of the quantitative tests by the student.</p>	
<p>How does the activity meet the requirements of the Assessment Criteria? You must describe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. what the student did 2. how it relates to the relevant Assessment Criteria 	
Teacher's name:	
Teacher's signature:	
Date:	

The **student** fills in this section:

I agree with my teacher's description of how I completed this activity		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Use this space to make any extra comments.		
Student's signature:		
Date:		

Guidance notes

Both the teacher **and** the student are responsible for completing this form.

The **teacher must**:

- use the form to describe in detail what they observed the student doing.
- give contextualised details of what the student did and how this relates to the Assessment Criteria.
- say how well the activity was completed in relation to the Assessment Criteria with reasons.
- share what they have written with the student and offer the opportunity to discuss if the student disagrees with what is written.
- reach agreement with the student before the work is submitted for moderation.
- sign and date the form as evidence of agreement.

The **student must**:

- reach agreement with the teacher before the work is submitted for moderation.
- use the form to show that they agree with the teacher's record of the activity observed.
- sign and date the form as evidence of agreement.

The form **must**:

- be accompanied by extra evidence, as required by the task.
- provide evidence that is individual to the student.

The form **must not**:

- contain a simple repeat of the Assessment Criteria.
- contain just a list of skills.
- be completed by anyone other than the teacher observing the activity and the student completing the activity.
- be written by the student for the teacher to sign.
- be used to evidence achievement of a whole unit or task in isolation.

Risk Assessment Template

Title of investigation	
Candidate Name	
Date Completed	

Hazardous chemical, procedure or equipment	Hazard	Risk	Control measures	Emergency measures

NEA Command Words

The table below shows the command words that may be used in the NEA assignments and/or assessment criteria.

Command Word	Meaning
Adapt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to make suitable for a new use or purpose
Analyse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate or break down information into parts and identify their characteristics or elements Explain the different elements of a topic or argument and make reasoned comments Explain the impacts of actions using a logical chain of reasoning
Assess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer a reasoned judgement of the standard or quality of situations or skills. The reasoned judgement is informed by relevant facts
Calculate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work out the numerical value. Show your working unless otherwise stated
Classify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange in categories according to shared qualities or characteristics
Compare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give an account of the similarities and differences between two or more items, situations or actions
Conclude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge or decide something
Describe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give an account that includes the relevant characteristics, qualities or events
Discuss (how/whether/etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present, analyse and evaluate relevant points (for example, for/against an argument) to make a reasoned judgement
Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a reasoned qualitative judgement considering different factors and using available knowledge/experience
Examine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To look at, inspect, or scrutinise carefully, or in detail
Explain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give reasons for and/or causes of something Make something clear by describing and/or giving information
Interpret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate information into recognisable form Convey one's understanding to others, e.g. in a performance
Investigate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquire into (a situation or problem)
Justify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give valid reasons for offering an opinion or reaching a conclusion
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do detailed study in order to discover (new) information or reach a (new) understanding
Summarise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express the most important facts or ideas about something in a short and clear form

We might also use other command words but these will be:

- commonly used words whose meaning will be made clear from the context in which they are used
- subject specific words drawn from the unit content

Teacher/Technician Advice

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National (AAQ) in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

Unit F183: Analytical techniques in chemistry

Sample Assessment Material

Scenario Title: Be Well Pharmacy

Inorganic Compound Y – Magnesium Chloride

- Contaminant to mix – Calcium Carbonate
- Ratio MgCl_2 : CaCO_3 ~3:1, ~10g per student. Label vial COMPOUND Y.
- **DO NOT** indicate identity of compounds in mixture to students in any other way.

NB. Students could extract the magnesium chloride into ethanol but then carry out liquid-liquid extraction in water, followed by recrystallisation to prevent boiling ethanol by Bunsen flame. Precipitation gravimetric analysis may also be indicated by the student in their method – appropriate reagents and equipment (on request) will need to be provided.

Students will likely need access to the following:

- Flame test equipment
- Filtration equipment
- Recrystallisation equipment
- Reagents and equipment for conducting anion and cation precipitation reactions
- Ethanol and distilled water
- Melting point determination equipment
- Digital scales

Organic Compound X– Propanone (acetone)

- Contaminant to mix – a dilute salt (sodium chloride) solution
- Ratio of propanone:salt water ~3:2, ~50 ml sample per student. Label vial **COMPOUND X**.
- DO NOT indicate identity of compounds in mixture to students in any other way.
- A few drops of bromophenol blue could be added to help identify the different fractions (propanone distilling colourless).

Students will likely need access to the following:

- Distillation equipment
- Reagents and equipment for carrying out functional group tests
- Boiling point determination (e.g. thiele tubes or capillary tube + silicone oil beaker technique)

Inorganic Compound Y Eye drop solution – 7% w/v solution

- Use distilled water and magnesium chloride only (10.5 g per 150 ml water)
- Students will need ~150 ml each. Label the containers: Eye drop solution (COMPOUND Y).
- **DO NOT** indicate concentration or identity of solution to students in any other way.

Students may choose to determine the concentration of magnesium. Students should determine that they need to titrate against EDTA, a pH 10 ammonia buffer and use an appropriate indicator. These are **Calmagite** and **Eriochrome BlackT (EBT)**. They will also need to make a standard solution of EDTA with an appropriate concentration, knowing they are aiming at 10% w/v concentration.

Students will likely need access to:

- ~2g EDTA each and ~2ml of pH10 ammonia buffer (on request)
- Equipment and distilled water for standard solution (250cm³)
- Equipment to carry out titration (enough for several repeats)
- Digital scales
- Appropriate indicators

NB. Alternative methods might include the Volhard's or Mohr's method to determine chloride concentration. Schools should decide if these are appropriate for students to perform.

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