

Chemistry Race 2023 — Complete rules

1 General points

- 1.1 Chemistry Race (ChR) is a team competition for Y12-Y13 students.
- 1.2 Teams must consist of three to five students.
- 1.3 All students from a single team have to attend the same school.
- 1.4 There can be only one team from each school.
- 1.5 The competition is intended for schools from the United Kingdom. Teams from other schools may be admitted at the discretion of the organisers given available capacity.
- 1.6 The teams sign up using an online form that is displayed on the ChR website. This is the only accepted way to register a team.
- 1.7 In case of an illness or a different unexpected event beyond control, the team is allowed to replace a team member with a another student from the same school.
- 1.8 The number of teams participating is limited and the places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.
- 1.9 An application is considered accepted only after a confirmation e-mail has been sent by the organisers. If you have not received a confirmation, it is possible that your application has not been processed and it is advised that you contact the organisers.

2 Race

- 2.1 The teams shall compete in solving of theoretical problems related to chemistry during the racing time, which is two hours long. On question sheets provided to them, the participants shall submit only answers to the questions, not their working.
- 2.2 Each team will receive an envelope with the first six questions before the race starts. It is strictly forbidden to open the envelope before instructed to do so by the organisers. Failure to comply may result in disqualification of the whole team.
- 2.3 The racing time begins after the teams have been instructed to open their envelopes. Students are allowed to go to the toilets during the race.
- 2.4 It is strictly forbidden to use any electronic devices during the race except for dedicated calculators. (Calculator programs on phones, tablets or computers are not allowed. If in doubt, check your calculator with the organisers before the race.) Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification of the whole team.
- 2.5 Participants are allowed to use any books, paper literature, notes or printed materials. Electronic book readers are not allowed.

- 2.6 If a team believes that they have found the correct answer to a question, they write the answer on the question sheet. One member of the team brings the sheet to the examiner allocated to the question, which either approves the answer or rejects it (possibly with comments). If rejected, the team can correct its answer and submit it again. Each student can bring only one question sheet for examination at a time. Should there be a queue, students must return to the back to resubmit an answer.
- 2.7 If the answer has been approved (and stamped by the examiners), the question sheet is exchanged for the next question at the exchange post. There, points are awarded to the team, based on the number of unsuccessful attempts.
- 2.8 The final score is determined as the sum of points gained during the race. In the case of equality of points, the team that has solved the most advanced question (i.e. highest in the hierarchy of questions) gets the higher rank. In case of a tie, the number of points awarded for the most advanced question decides. If a conclusion is not reached, the second most advanced question of each team is considered etc.
- 2.9 Students waiting in the queue for question sheet examination at the moment when the race ends are allowed to have their question sheets marked even after the end of the race, provided that no amendments to the question sheets are made after the time limit.

3rd December 2022

Michal Straka
Cambridge Chemistry Race head organiser

supported by

